



Muritai Beacon

'Be The **Best** We can be'

Rāhina 3 o Hōngongoi,

Kia ora Muritai whānau,

Happy last day of Term 2! The last two weeks of the term have been a roller coaster with performances, celebrations and excellent evidence of learning on display.

One of the highlights from last week was watching our two kapa haka rōpū perform on the big stage at Walter Nash Stadium. If you went to watch too, no doubt you were blown away with the performance and are as proud as punch with our tamariki - I certainly was!

Of course, the performance was the end point of a long process to prepare the rōpū. Many hours were dedicated to this which involved a strong support crew of parents and teachers. A huge thank you to everyone who helped the rōpū to get them to be performance ready, whether you played the guitar, supported with waiata and movement, co-ordinated costumes or logistics - You are all AMAZING! A special thanks to Whaea Hilary for leading both rōpū throughout the year - the wonderful wairua you bring and promote within the group is infectious!

Our rōpū performed for us again on Wednesday evening for our Matariki evening at school. It was also great to see the classrooms full with parents to view some of the learning that has been happening through the first two terms of the year. Equally, we had a packed hall at the end of the night to feast on the delicious hangi that was prepared by our incredible whānau rōpū - thank you to this team for your logistics and early start in the morning to prepare. There's nothing better than sharing kai together after a big day of celebrations.

Also on display on Wednesday were Kāhu's impressive Personal Passion Projects (PPP) which they have been working on throughout the term. The variety of topics and the depth of research was evident across the room. There were several students that chose the option of completing a Science Fair project for this process and yesterday I had the pleasure of judging these projects with Jon Mackie.



Once again, I was very impressed with the topics that were investigated, many of which were unique and came from the student's own wonderings about the world around them. Congratulations to our winners announced in assembly today:

1st Place: Tessa Hayward

2nd Place: Olivia Dawson

3rd equal: Eben Harris and Ella Peck

All our science fair participants will have the opportunity to enter in the NIWA Science Fair Competition at Victoria University in Term 3.

Bee in the City

Another exciting creation produced by a small group of students from Kererū is our contribution to Bee in the City! This is a fundraising initiative for the Life Flight Trust and will see bees painted by students and artists from across the region on display in Wellington later in the year. Our bee is a Muritai inspired one, reflecting our unique local environment and school. A special thanks to Jolene Miciak who initiated and supported the students through this process. The final product is outstanding!

Regional Cross Country

This week we had 17 Muritai students represent Lower Hutt at the Regional Cross Country at Harcourt Park. Congratulations to Joey Holmes who placed 6th in his race which means he qualifies for the National event in Nelson next term - what an incredible achievement - Ka rawe!

Student Reports & Learning Conversations

As promised, today you'll be receiving your child's mid-year academic report to reflect their progress and achievement over the past two terms of this year. These do look different to previous years and are aligned with the Government expectations on new reporting against the new curriculum. A reminder that information about these changes was shared on the HERO app earlier in the week so if you need anything clarified from the report, it is best to review this information first.

Learning Conversations bookings are also live on the HERO app from today. These are taking place on the 28th and 30th of July, next term. This is a great opportunity for you to connect with your child's classroom teacher again so you can unpack information from the student report and share more learning and assessments that have been completed by your child.

Farewell Rachael Wilson

Today we farewell Rachael Wilson who has been teaching in Room 16 over the past two terms. Rachael joined us to cover Lisa Allen while she is on extended sick leave. Rachael quickly settled into Muritai life and we really appreciated how efficiently she picked up the learning programmes for the Room 16 students. We wish Rachael well as she heads off to teach at Chilton St James School in Term 3. Thank you for all your hard work at Muritai over the last two terms!



Property update

All going to plan, we are hoping the scaffolding and tent on the main block will be coming down over the school holidays as we come to the end of this lengthy building project. This will hopefully add more light to this space and also mean we can operate our heating system again - which will be well appreciated by all!! A huge thanks once again for your patience through this building work... we are nearly there!

Reporting to Student Achievement

A reminder that at the end of Term 2 you will be receiving your child's mid year academic report from their classroom teacher. This will be informing you on the progress and achievements your child has made over the first two terms of 2026. A reminder there are several changes to this reporting format and expectations this year.

Check out the Hero app regularly as we will be having Learning Conversations at the beginning of next term. You will be able to book a time to meet with your child's classroom teacher on either **Tuesday 28th or Thursday 30th July**. This will be a great opportunity to talk more about the information written in the report and how you can help at home.

Raffle thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped promote and/or buy tickets for our amazing travel raffle. We are excited to hear who the winners are later on today! A huge thanks to Gen Packer and Amy Small from Home and School for co-ordinating this initiative for us!

Finally, I wish you all a safe and relaxing break from school over the next two weeks. It's nice to have a change from the usual school routines and an opportunity to recharge for the term ahead. Thanks to all who have made such a positive contribution to our kura over the term.

Ngā mihi nui,

Stu Devenport

Year 7 Vision Screening - Information for parents

Health New Zealand, Te Whatu Ora provides a vision screening programme for all Year 7 students.

- **Vision** – pupils will be advised of results at the time of screening. If further assessment is recommended you will be notified by mail.
- **Children who wear glasses** and/or are under professional care and have regular checks will not require a vision check from our service.

Non-consent – please notify your school if you do not want your child being screened.

This screening is not a full assessment of your child's vision. If you have any concerns, please see an optometrist.

2026 Dates:

Term 1 Wednesday 4 February - Thursday 3 April

Term 2 Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July

Term 3 Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

Term 4 Monday 12 October to Wednesday 16 December

Important Dates	
Date	Event
20 July	First day of Term 3
28 July	Learning Conversations 2-6pm
30 July	Learning Conversations 2-6pm
27 August	NIWA Science Fair
28 August	Daffodil Day - Dress in yellow
3 Sept	Dance Curriculum day
11 Sept	Boostrix 2nd Dose Y7
14-18 Sept	Māori Language Week
16 Sept	BOT meeting at 6.30 to 9
16 Sept	WOW Dress Rehearsal Kāhu
23 Sept	WOW Performance
25 Sept	Last day of Term 3
12 Oct	First day of Term 4

COMMUNITY NOTICES - Please Note - the following notices have been requested to be published and are not necessarily endorsed by us as a school. In the spirit of community we include these digitally for you to peruse.



JACKSON STREET PROGRAMME.

We have developed an exciting **FREE** activity for our younger citizens or those young at heart all based around Matariki. Everyone goes into a draw to win some brilliant prizes!

Find the Matariki Star Scavenger Hunt starts on 4 to 26 July. Children must find Matariki stars in business windows along Jackson Street.

Find all the starts and the two specially marked Matariki Stars in the different windows along Jackson Street. Fill in the booklet and return to the black competition box outside the Historic Police Station.

Winners will receive a bag of goodies, including Matariki-themed items, from the Jackson Street Programme

SCHOOL HOLIDAY STEAM
12TH JULY 2026

Steam & Diesel Hauled **RETURN** Train Rides starting at either Paekakariki & Porirua!

SCAN FOR A TICKET!

Steam & Diesel Hauled **RETURN** Train Rides starting at either Paekakariki & Porirua!
Book online at www.steaminc.org.nz or call 0800 783 264!

A FAMILY EXPERIENCE! \$29 GA TICKETS | \$99 FAMILY OF 4!

STEAM Incorporated
REDEFINING HERITAGE RAIL
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JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Jewellery Workshops for Kids

Looking for fun, hands-on workshops to keep your kids inspired over the holidays?

Greenwood Studio in Eastbourne is offering two holiday sessions, run by jeweller Rachel Stichbury, where kids can get creative and make something really special to take home.

GREENWOOD STUDIO EASTBOURNE

Email rachel@rachelstichbury.com
or book online www.rachelstichbury.com




LIONS BOOK SALE

Eastbourne Lions are running their very popular 'Recycled Reading' book sale again from 1-16 August at San Antonio School. The theme for this year is 'Books for Kids', with profits being distributed to a range of youth literacy and reading groups around the Hutt Valley. So if you and/or your tamariki are having a bit of a tidy up and would like to donate any books that are still in good condition:

- there will be a collection box in the Muritai School foyer,
- collection box in Eastbourne Library foyer, or
- contact Eastbourne Lions on EastbourneLionsNZ@gmail.com if you have larger quantities to drop off or would like to arrange a pickup. The sale in August will be open 10am-4pm each day allowing plenty of scope for after school buying trips to re-stock your books.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A FUNDRAISER SCREENING ON THE OPENING NIGHT OF



**LIGHT HOUSE PETONE
52 BEACH STREET**

THURSDAY 30TH JULY 5.45PM
ARRIVE FROM 5.15PM | TICKETS \$25
 TICKET INCLUDES A LOLLY BAG AND A SOFT DRINK

Fundraising for Eastbourne Scouts to attend the National Scout Jamboree Dec 2026

Payment to Eastbourne Scout Group
 BNZ 02 0544 0191132 00 include particulars MOVIE reference YOUR NAME

LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

Library Se



ARA TUAKANA
SCHOOL HOLIDAY NETBALL PROGRAMME
 WHANAUNGATANGA | HOLISTIC APPROACH | YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES
 Year 6, Year 7 & Year 8

TUE 14TH, WED 15TH & THU 16TH JULY 2026
10AM - 2PM

MAIDSTONE INTERMEDIATE HALL / COURTS
BRING WATERBOTTLES & RECOVERY SNACKS

COST: \$45 A DAY / \$120 ALL 3 DAYS

Please scan and sign up here:



The school holiday netball programme will run during the school holidays. All funds will go towards MIS Tuakana's preparations for AIMS games.




Staglands GrabOne Deal!

Kia ora koutou!

With the current economic climate biting hard, we've teamed up with [GrabOne](#) to bring

you a winter deal that genuinely helps.

[Enjoy 40% off adult admission](#) and make the most of the season without stretching the budget.

Whether you're planning a cosy mid-winter outing or looking for something fun to do with visiting friends and whānau, this is the perfect chance to experience more for less. Hurry, offer ends on the 30th of this month, and tickets are valid right through until 31 August. Lock in your winter visit now and enjoy it when it suits you.



Let's restore our Sand Dune!

Maire St Reserve is much-loved community space between the RSA and the Promenade.

Scan the code for updates on family-friendly Sunday native planting sessions throughout Term 3.




School holiday PROGRAMME

Positive Vibes only

YEAR 3 TO 8

Fun, netball skills & game play. Meet new people, connect with old buddies.

Indoors, delivered by junior coordinators & centre level coaches.

- Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8, Thursday 9 July
- Year 3 & 4: 9am - 12pm
- Year 5 to 8: 9am - 2pm
- Indoors: Walter Nash Centre
- For cost & registration check our website