



Muritai Beacon

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

Rāhina 4 o Mahuru,

Kia ora Muritai whānau,

It is wonderful to see the first signs of Spring around the place. The term is certainly flying past, it is hard to believe there are only 3 more weeks left!

It has been another busy couple of weeks across our kura, filled with performance, sport, scientific discovery, and community spirit.

Term 3 Mihi Whakatau

We recently held our Term 3 Mihi Whakatau to formally welcome all new students and their families to the Muritai community. It was a heartwarming ceremony, and we are thrilled to have our new tamariki joining us on their learning journey.

Muritai's Got Talent

Our school hall has been buzzing with excitement during lunchtimes as Muritai's Got Talent gets underway. The talent on display has been incredible, featuring everything from singing and dancing to magic tricks, dramatic performances, and hilarious jokes. We are so proud of all the participants who have demonstrated confidence and courage to perform in front of a large group of their peers!

It was a big day in the gardens last Friday. We called on the big machinery to pull out all the tree roots from the entrance to the school. A big thanks to Willie Davis!

James Marsh and James Innes supported our Enviro Team to replant this space, as well as a couple of other surrounding areas.

We also had several classes in Māra Muritai with Jenny Caughley completing seed planting, plant identification, and making stations to nurture pollination.



Muritai World of Wearable Arts!

Excitement is building across all the classrooms currently as students are busy designing and creating stunning pieces for our upcoming Wearable Arts Show on Wednesday, September 23rd. Students have to think carefully about the design process, what materials to use and how to attach it all for a wearable piece! We cannot wait to show you what our creative tamariki have been making! We encourage you to save the date to come along and view the creations for a one off show!

Sports Exchanges & Swimming

- **Wellesley College Exchange:** This week students from Kererū and Kāhu headed to Wellesley College for our annual sports exchange. It was wonderful to see some healthy competition on display in Hockey, Football and Rugby.
- **Zone Swimming:** Today, over 25 students from Years 5–8 are competing at the Zone Swimming Event at Naenae Pool. We wish our swimmers all the best as they represent our kura in the pool!
- **Netball Success:** A massive congratulations to the Muritai Mako Netball team, who won their grade for the season after winning every single game except one! What a brilliant effort.

Kororā Learning: Our Kororā students have been learning about fire safety through the Firewise program, complete with a visit from a real fire truck! A small group of students have also visited HW Shortt Park to monitor local Kororā nesting boxes, applying their environmental learning in our local community.

Daffodil Day: Thank you to everyone who dressed in yellow last Friday! Your generous donations raised a wonderful amount of money for the Cancer Society. A total of just over \$400 raised for this worthy cause.

NIWA Science Fair: Last week, 14 Kāhu students attended the NIWA Science Fair at Victoria University. Part of the process was to present their Science Fair project from Term 2 to a panel of judges throughout the day. It was an excellent learning experience for them all. For a more detailed insight on the day at Vic, check out the latest Muritai School Podcast which features an interview from Liam Riley:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tHXug0NJ4_86_weVG_U2pTVtXqsdIHec/view?ts=6a960a42

Congratulations to all our award winners for their brilliant scientific inquiries and hard work:



				School
Third in Class 1	1 - 26	Olivia Dawson	The Great Placebo Effect: How it affects Year seven and eight students	Muritai School
Peter Jennings Memorial Prize	1 - 23	Eben Harris	The Great Pumpkin Grow Off!	Muritai School
The School of Mathematics and Statistics at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington	1 - 26	Olivia Dawson	The Great Placebo Effect: How it affects Year seven and eight students	Muritai School
PHF Science	1 - 26	Olivia Dawson	The Great Placebo Effect: How it affects Year seven and eight students	Muritai School
Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington School of Psychology	2 - 55	Tessa Hayward	Words that Matter	Muritai School
Radical Action Grants	2 - 53	Otto Schollum	Weather or Not?	Muritai School
Highly Commended	2 - 53	Otto Schollum	Weather or Not?	Muritai School

Bee in the City

You'll recall last term we had a small group of students from Kererū create an amazing design for the 'Bee in the City' initiative which officially starts on September 14th. We are very excited to hear that our Bee creation will be on display at the Wellington City Library as part of the Art Trail. For more information on this project, check out the link below:

www.beeinthecity.org.nz

BANDQUEST

Our school band - Paranormal had an incredible time at the recent BandQuest competition held at Sacred Heart College. They rocked it out on stage and enjoyed listening to the other school bands throughout the day. Nice job Paranormal!

PROPOSED CHANGES TO EASTBOURNE BUSES

This week I attended the community consultation session at Eastbourne Library to share the feedback from our school's perspective of the proposed changes to the bus services. The online survey is still live and you have until September 6th to give your feedback. I encourage you to take the time to complete this survey to share your views:

[https://survey.gravitasopg.co.nz/survey/selfserve/219f/g064/260800#\\$](https://survey.gravitasopg.co.nz/survey/selfserve/219f/g064/260800#$)

For more information on the changes click here:

<https://www.metlink.org.nz/news-and-updates/projects-timeline/future-of-bus-services-in-the-hutt-valley>

INTENTIONS FOR 2027

Thank you to the parents who have notified me of your intentions for 2027. A reminder that our Senior Leadership Team will be starting the process of planning for 2027. A key part of this process is firming up our student numbers for the year. This includes students arriving at school and also students departing. We always appreciate having advanced warning of students moving either in or



out of our school so if you have plans for the year ahead, please let either myself or Jo Bentley know: principal@muritai.school.nz or bentley@muritai.school.nz

Our **Out-of-Zone Enrolment Ballot for 2027** is now officially open!

If you know of any families living outside our school zone who are keen for their children to join the Muritai community in 2027, please pass this news along. Interested parents should contact our school office directly to obtain and complete the ballot application form.

Ngā mihi nui,

Stu Devenport

TEACHER ONLY DAY

We have a Teacher Only Day on Friday 23 October. Please put it in your diaries now. Thank you

Writing samples from Kāhu - Ode Poem to Fish n Chips by Lily Phipps

O fish n chips

Salty not sweet but still my favourite treat
Sunkissed crisp hiding a scrumptious gem,
potato filled delicacies

Begging and pleading all pays off when your
salted juicy skin melts in my mouth
Your lemony scented perfume dances in the
breeze

Tempting my taste buds and rumbling my
stomach

I yearn for your flavor and crunch every
second of every day

Pair you with tomato sauce and that's a
match made in heaven

You turn plain and boring Friday nights into a
memory for life treasured and admired
A meal fit for a hundred kings

But still you choose me to shower your gifts
and riches

My salty friend, my lighthouse in a time of
great darkness

You guide me through the sorrows of broccoli
soup and brussel sprouts

O fish n chips you are a saviour

Why We Need To Go Old School - Marley Reece

Ok, imagine it's 2001, scratch that, 1997.

You're at the dairy and spend a dollar for a
dozen lollies, but nowadays that would get



The poster for Muritai School's 2027 Out-of-Zone Enrolment Ballot features a collage of images: a sunset over a bridge, two children working on a project, and a group of students. The Muritai School logo, featuring a lighthouse and the motto 'Be the BEST we can be', is in the top right. The main heading is 'JOIN OUR SCHOOL FOR 2027'. Below this, it states: 'Muritai School Board now invite applications from parents of out of zone students to enrol at Muritai School for Term 1 and 2 in 2027. Application for enrolment must be made on the official form available from the school office.' A circular seal on the right lists 'LIVING & LEARNING VALUES' including 'Respect', 'Resilience', 'Responsible', 'Respectful', 'Resilient', 'Responsible', 'Respectful', 'Resilient', 'Responsible', 'Respectful'. Text on the left explains that if applications exceed places, a ballot will be held on Monday 21 September 2026. It also notes that the school board has determined there are likely to be some places available for out-of-zone students. The closing date for applications is Friday, 18 September 2026 at 3:00pm, with the ballot date on Monday 21 September 2026. Contact information includes the phone number (04) 562 8409, the email office@muritai.school.nz, and a 'CONTACT US NOW' button.

Muritai School
'Be the **BEST** we can be'

JOIN OUR SCHOOL FOR 2027

Muritai School Board now invite applications from parents of out of zone students to enrol at Muritai School for Term 1 and 2 in 2027. Application for enrolment must be made on the official form available from the school office.

If the number of out of zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot, to be held on **Monday 21 September 2026**.

The Muritai School Board has determined that Muritai School is likely to have some places available for out of zone students.

Closing date for applications is:
Friday, 18 September 2026 at 3:00pm
Ballot Date is Monday 21 September 2026.

CONTACT US NOW

(04) 562 8409
office@muritai.school.nz

you basically nothing. Back then, things were simple and you didn't need a loan just to buy a bag of those Russian fudge things. We've traded real value for "convenience" and shiny things that don't actually make us any happier. It's time we look back at how things used to be because our era is getting way too complicated and expensive for no reason. Old school allowed for less screen time, your money went further, and kids had more independence.

One of the biggest reasons we need to go old school is to get our faces out of our screens and back into the real world. Nowadays, if you go to a park, most of the people at the park are either old people or dog walkers instead of kids actually running around or talking to each other. Most kids are inside playing Roblox. The biggest problem right now is that we've forgotten how to just exist without our phones. Back in the day, if you were bored, you had to use your imagination or go find your friends in person. We need to bring back the era where "hanging out" meant actually talking, not just sending videos to each other from the same room and chuckling every so often.

Another great thing was that back then your money could get you so many things that are considered expensive now. It was cheaper than a regular BK chicken deal from Burger King (\$19.75). Seriously, money used to

actually mean something. My parents talk about how, back in the day, a five-dollar note could get you a whole bag of treats or even pay for a couple of scoops of chips and a drink, which sounds literally insane compared to now. You didn't have to save up for months just to buy something cool. It felt like you could actually afford to be a kid without needing a part-time job just to buy a basic lunch or a couple of games. Everything just wasn't so overpriced, and you didn't feel like you were constantly being ripped off just to exist.

And don't even get me started on the independence thing. Back then, kids could just bike to their friends' houses or hang out at the shops without needing their parents to track their location on an app every five seconds. You were trusted to look after yourself, explore the neighbourhood, and just have fun without a million rules. It felt like you were actually growing up instead of being constantly supervised, which honestly made you way more confident. We need that kind of freedom back because being treated like you're capable of doing things on your own actually matters.

There you go, that's my persuasive essay, and that's why we need to go **OLD SCHOOL**

Enrolments for 2027 at Hutt Valley High School are open for in-zone applications in Years 9-13, and out-of-zone applications in Years 10-13. All enrolments are completed online.

We encourage Year 8 families to enrol early. This helps Hutt Valley High School to plan for your student's learning needs and ensures they will be in the first group to receive the email for subject selections (many subjects have limited spaces).

Click the link below for full details on how to enrol and key deadlines:

<https://hvhs.school.nz/how-to-enrol/>

2026 Dates:

Term 3 Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

Term 4 Monday 12 October to Wednesday 16 December

2027 Dates:

Term 1 Tuesday 2 February to Friday 9 April

Term 2 Tuesday 27 April to Friday 2 July

Term 3 Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September

Term 4 Monday 10 October to Thursday 16 December

SCHOLASTIC LUCKY BOOK CLUB

Issue Six of the Scholastic Lucky Book Club, for 2026, is now available. Orders will be closing at Noon on Friday 4th September. Your order can be done on the following website <https://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz/Parent/Login.aspx>. The whole school order is processed on the closing date.

We greatly appreciate your support as the school is able to gain rewards through purchases which enables us to add books to our school collection. Enrolments for 2027 at Hutt Valley High School are open for in-zone applications in Years 9-13, and out-of-zone applications in Years 10-13. All enrolments are completed online.

HUTT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

We encourage Year 8 families to enrol early. This helps Hutt Valley High School to plan for your student's learning needs and ensures they will be in the first group to receive the email for subject selections (many subjects have limited spaces).

Click the link below for full details on how to enrol and key deadlines:

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The poster has a black background. At the top right is a white line-art icon of a laptop. The main text 'ENROL NOW FOR 2027 APPLY ONLINE' is in large, bold, sans-serif font. 'ENROL NOW' and 'FOR 2027' are in light blue, while 'APPLY ONLINE' is in yellow. Below this, on the left, is a small white bell icon. To its right, white text reads: 'Subject selections for enrolled Year 8 students and bookings for enrolment conversations are now open. We strongly recommend that families enrol early!'. At the bottom center is the Hutt Valley High School crest, a stylized bird with spread wings. To its right, the school's name 'Hutt Valley High School' is written in white, with the Māori name 'Te Kura Tuarua o Te Awakaitangi' in a smaller font below it.

**ENROL NOW
FOR 2027
APPLY ONLINE**

 Subject selections for enrolled Year 8 students and bookings for enrolment conversations are now open. We strongly recommend that families enrol early!

 **Hutt Valley High School**
Te Kura Tuarua o Te Awakaitangi

Important Dates	
Date	Event
7 Sept	Pizza Monday
11 Sept	Boostrix 2nd Dose Y7
11 Sept	Whole school assembly - Kāhu
14-18 Sept	Māori Language Week
14 Sept	Pizza Monday
16 Sept	WOW dress rehearsal - Kāhu
17 Sept	Interzone Swimming
17 Sept	Tui going to Musical Stars
18 Sept	Enrolment ballet closes
21 Sept	Pizza Monday
23 Sept	WOW Performance
23 Sept	BOT meeting at 6.30pm
24 Sept	Dance Curriculum
25 Sept	Last day of Term 3 (normal finishing time).
12 Oct	First day of Term 4
23 Oct	Teacher Only Day

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.

Te Reo Tākaro

Māori Language Learning playgroup

Come & try day Saturday 12 September

From 9am @ Te Mako Community Centre, Hillary Court, Naenae.

Mā te pā, te tamaiti reo-rua e whakatipu
It takes a village to raise a bilingual child.

Are you a caregiver of tamariki aged 0-7 and:
-Want to use te reo Māori with them,
-Wish you had a community to practice reo with?

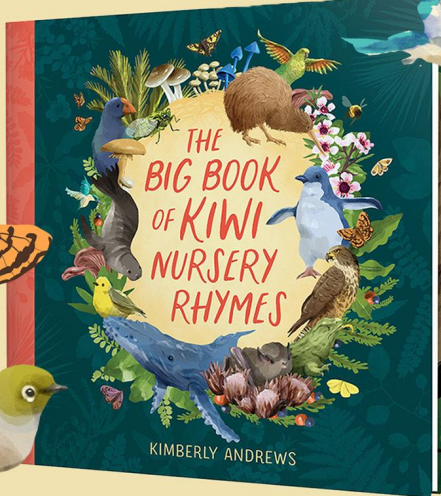
From 9am - Guided language play
9:30- Porowhita puoro/music circle
10am- Kai & Kōrero
10.30- Pakiwaitara adventure/
Interactive story lesson

Free entry
Please Register using QR code



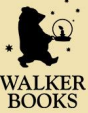

About Michaela:
(Ngāti Tama, Te Āti-Haunui-a-Pāpārangi)
I learned Māori as an adult and have a real passion to empower more whānau to use te reo in their daily lives, at home and out in the real world.

Walker Books warmly invites you to the launch of



SUNDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 3-5 PM

UNITY BOOKS
57 Willis Street, Wellington








Hutt Valley Fencing Club Holiday Programme



8 - 9 October 2026
Chilton Saint James School Gymnasium
Lower Hutt 9am - 12 noon
Register now for a 2 day introduction to fencing.
\$90 book before October 1 or \$100 after.
Best suits ages 7+
Electric fencing mini competition at the end of the session. Give it a go!
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.huttvalleyfencingclub.com
huttvalleyfencing@gmail.com