



Muritai Beacon

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

Rāhina 22 o Haratua,

Kia ora Muritai whānau,

Hasn't it been wonderful to see the sun over the past week or so! The still, crisp autumn days are always welcomed in Eastbourne and Muritai.

I'm pleased to report that our school hall is back up and running again after the recent completion of work on the adjoining storage rooms and entrance by the PE shed. This of course means we are able to utilise this large space for Kapa Haka and gather the whole school together for assemblies.

At the beginning of this week we hosted an impromptu assembly on Monday morning. This was a great opportunity to do a little 'reset' with our school culture and a reminder of the importance of demonstrating our Living Values in all areas. This term we are really focusing on the importance of 'Togetherness' so we can all function well as a team of learners. At our school, **Togetherness** is more than just sharing a space—it is the heartbeat of our community. It links nicely to the Māori concept of **whakawhanaungatanga**.

Whakawhanaungatanga is the intentional action of building deep, meaningful connections. It is about recognizing that we aren't just individuals co-existing; we are an extended family (*whānau*).

When we practice whakawhanaungatanga, we make a conscious effort to understand one another, celebrate our diverse backgrounds, and lift each other up. It transforms our school from a place of learning into a place of true belonging.

How do we build this extended family? It starts with the everyday choices we make in how we treat one another. Manners, politeness, and everyday courtesy are the foundation of whakawhanaungatanga.

When we say "please" and "thank you," hold a door open, or greet someone with a warm smile, we are doing much more than just being polite. We are sending a clear message: *I see you, I respect you, and you matter to this family*. Good manners are the acts of kindness that build trust, break down walls, and make our school a safe, welcoming place for everyone.

Our staff will be looking out for this awesome behaviour and attitude throughout the rest of this term so we can celebrate the great things that are happening in our kura!



Zone Cross Country

It was a stellar day in Petone on Tuesday for the Zone Cross Country Event at Sladden Park. This year we had close to 50 Year 3-6 students represent us at this event and we achieved some great results! 20 of these students have qualified for the next round, meaning they will be joining our Year 7 and 8 qualifiers at the Interzone event later in the term. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who represented us on the day!

BLAKE NZ VR Experience

Last week Kahu students had the exciting opportunity to experience the BLAKE NZ-VR programme, inspired by the legacy of Sir Peter Blake. Through immersive virtual reality headsets, students explored important topics including climate change, renewable energy, sustainable transport, agriculture and ways to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. The engaging session brought Aotearoa's marine and coastal environments to life, allowing students to see both the challenges facing our planet and the innovative solutions being developed across New Zealand and the Pacific.

Students learnt about kaitiakitanga and practical actions they can take to help protect our environment, from using sustainable transport and clean energy to caring for our oceans and marine life. The experience was both inspiring and thought-provoking, encouraging students to consider how they can make a positive difference to the future of our planet.

"As humans, we have overcomplicated the world with technology, but nature still gives us the answers to how to live sustainably." – David Attenborough.

Also last week there was a powerful sea of colour, with students and staff celebrating Pink Shirt Day. This global movement is more than just a dress-up day; it is a firm commitment to speaking up and standing together against bullying. By wearing pink, our rangatahi (youth) are promoting a culture of kindness, inclusion, and diversity, reminding us all that Muritai and Eastbourne is a place where everyone should feel safe, valued, and respected. This year we raised approximately \$430 for the Mental Health Foundation - thank you Muritai whānau!

Reporting to Parents

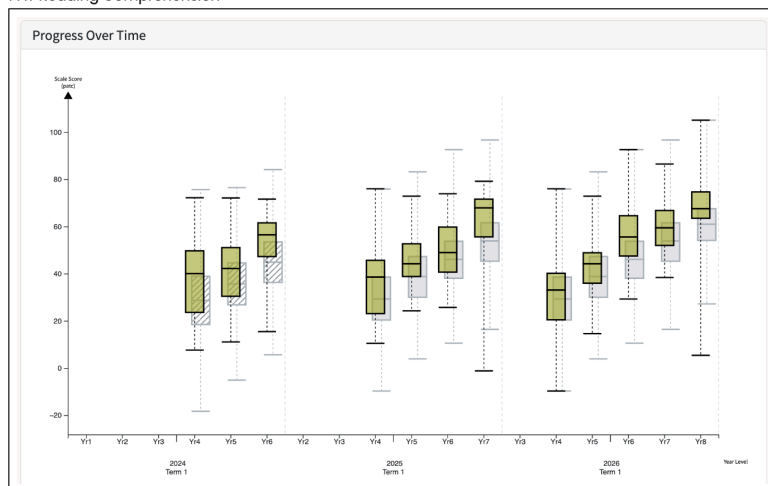
Our classroom teachers have commenced the process of drafting your child's mid year achievement report which will be shared with you at the end of Term 2. You may be aware there have been a raft of changes that have been implemented in this space, along with the changes to the English and Maths Curriculum. It has meant that our teaching and leadership teams have had to adapt swiftly to these changes. Keep a look out for more information on these changes very soon!

A reminder that our first Teacher Only Day for the year will take place on Friday 29th May. We have tagged this onto the long weekend so families may like to make the most of an extended break. Of course, our teachers will still be on-site with our focus on the mid year reports and new curriculum changes. Thanks for your support with this.

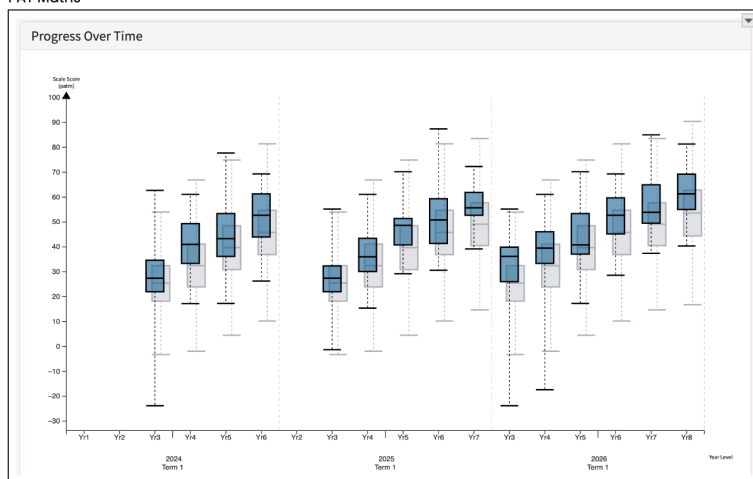
Student Achievement

At our last Board of Trustees meeting, Ginny Treadwell attended and presented our first student achievement report for 2026. This report was focused on the achievement scores from recent PAT testing for Year 3-8 students. Our Board was thrilled with the results that were shared, showing all year groups are achieving above national norms. Below is a snapshot of some of the results:

PAT Reading Comprehension



PAT Maths



Muritai Stanines over the past 3 years:

Maths PAT - 2024 average stanine 6.0 - 2025 average stanine 5.7 - 2026 average stanine 6.0

Reading PAT - 2024 average Stanine 5.9 - 2025 average stanine 5.3 - 2026 average stanine 5.9

Listening PAT - 2024 Average Stanine 5.9 - 2025 average stanine 5.6 - 2026 average stanine 5.9

Year 7 and 8 at Muritai: Kahu Information Evening

This year, we are inviting Year 6 families to an evening meeting as a way to make initial contact for your child's Year 7 and 8 experience at Muritai School.

At our Open evening, we will be sharing how we run our Senior School site, what is the same between the sites and what makes them just that little bit different from the rest of the school. We are very proud of what we offer our Year 7 and 8 children and really want to share this with you so that you can understand the experience your child will have.

This meeting is especially important if you have not had a child through the Senior Site before, however, as we are always evolving and continually trying to improve how we deliver curriculum, school wide activities and responsibilities, it is also relevant to those of you who have had children through before. We will also be covering how our Year 8's exit the school as graduates and where most of our students go to from here, including their transition process.

Raising Responsible and Respectful Tamariki - Parenting Workshop

We are thrilled to be working in partnership to host a parenting workshop with Eastbourne local, Dr. Sola Freeman. This session focuses on practical strategies for "Raising Responsible and Respectful Tamariki." Over the two evening sessions the content covers:

- Learn practical strategies and every-day actions that develop independence in your tamariki.
- Learn to set and keep expectations and routines that foster their self-responsibility.
- Choose from parenting styles and ideas that encourage self-discipline and guide tamariki to be respectful and contributing members of the family and community.
- Create clear parenting principles that will guide your own decisions as new situations and challenges arise.
- Gain tips for negotiating the teen years.
- Have the opportunity to discuss and resolve your own specific parenting challenges.

Tickets are available now. We highly encourage parents and caregivers to attend this insightful evening. Click [this link](#)



**OPEN EVENING
MURITAI
SENIOR SCHOOL**

Come and join us for an informative evening, celebrating the senior years at Muritai School.

- **WHEN:** Tuesday 26th May, 6-7pm
- **WHO:** Year 6 Muritai parents
- **WHERE:** Room 21 in the Senior School
- **WHAT:** An opportunity to learn more about how Kāhu works, what we offer and a chance to ask questions to staff and students.
- **WHY:** A time to support the transition from Year 6 to our Senior School.

COMPLETE FORM TO REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE.
GOOGLE FORM LINK [HERE](#) OR SCAN THE QR CODE



RAISING RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTFUL TAMARIKI

Muritai School invites you to parenting workshops facilitated by Eastbourne-based educator Dr Sola Freeman.

LEARN

- Every-day actions to foster your child's independence
- How to set and keep expectations and routines
- Create your own principles to use as challenges arise



Code to join!

DETAILS

Where: Muritai School Library

When: Two Tuesday evenings on the 2nd and 9th June 2026. From 7-9pm.

Price: \$50 (\$80 for a couple - recommended)

Only 30 tickets.

Course description and details available from Muritai School office

Dr Sola Freeman



Background

Dr Sola Freeman is an educational consultant. She has raised four children – two sons and two daughters, with her husband Mark, in Eastbourne. She has been a mother, teacher, University lecturer, playgroup coordinator, and policy advisor.

FANCY A BURGER?

O'Malley's Bar in Days Bay has a new menu and they have collaborated with Luxe Reality on a mouth-watering Cheeseburger Luxe Burger. When you buy a burger, Luxe Reality will donate \$5 to Muritai School - how cool is that! Nice one Mike!

MURITAI TV

Finally, check out the link on the right to listen to the latest podcast episode by Muritai TV. This includes a recap on the week's events, what's coming up and also an insightful interview with one of our Art Ambassadors - Kea Ellwood. What a great new initiative that is coming out of Kāhu!



Ngā mihi nui,

Stu Devenport



Zone Cross Country Results:

Alda McKelvey	Year 4 Girls	Liam Riley	Year 7 Boys
Annabella Parker	Year 4 Girls	Schuyler Dear	Year 7 Boys
Sissy Martin	Year 4 Girls	Eben Harris	Year 7 Boys
Taj Morwood - 2nd	Year 4 Boys	Sam Delaney	Year 7 Boys
Theo Thomsen	Year 4 Boys	Cash Cross	Year 7 Girls
Rohan Bailey Rotman	Year 4 Boys	Emma Gellatly	Year 7 Girls
Abe Shaughnessy	Year 4 Boys	Freya Davidson	Year 7 Girls
Jack Davidson	Year 4 Boys	Ondine Lidgard	Year 7 Girls
Arlo Andrews	Year 4 Boys	Olivia Dawson	Year 7 Girls
Juliet Bennet - 2nd	Year 5 Girls	Lily Phipps	Year 7 Girls
Skylar Filemu - 3rd	Year 5 Girls	Fraser Halman	Year 8 Boys
Emily Peterson	Year 5 Girls	Will Christensen	Year 8 Boys
Joey Holmes - 2nd	Year 5 Boys	Ben Neilson	Year 8 Boys
Teddy Innes - 3rd	Year 5 Boys	Hudson Bodden	Year 8 Boys
Lachie Blair	Year 5 Boys	Cooper Ellwood	Year 8 Boys
Sadie Scott - 2nd	Year 6 Girls	Mahinarangi Barker	Year 8 Girls
Blake McCorkindale - 3rd	Year 6 Girls	Tessa Hayward	Year 8 Girls
Annika Bailey Rotman	Year 6 Girls	Lilibeth Tomescu	Year 8 Girls
Zoe Comforth McGregor	Year 6 Girls	Lucia Lovell	Year 8 Girls
Ted Fahey	Year 6 Boys	Betty McDonald	Year 8 Girls

Important Dates

Date	Event
25 May	Pizza Monday

26 May	Kāhu Year 6 Parent Evening
29 May	TEACHER ONLY DAY
1 June	Kings Birthday Holiday
2 May to 1 June	Dental Van visiting
4 June	National Young Leaders Day Y8
8 June	Pizza Monday
10 June	Mihi Whakatau
12 June	Korokoro Exchange
15 June	Pizza Monday
16 June	Interzone Cross Country
17 June	BOT meeting at 6.30pm
18 June	Interzone Cross Country postponement day
19 June	Whole School Assembly
30 June	Regional Cross Country
2 July	Regional Cross Country postponement day
2 July	Matariki Evening
3 July	Last day of Term 2
3 July	Whole School Assembly
20 July	First day of Term 3

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

Bowling Club - Truck movements

The Bowling Club is replacing their bowling green and will have very large trucks accessing the Club grounds down the right of way from Tuesday 2 June for approximately 5 weeks.

Please take extra care when walking down Muritai Road opposite the school office. The contractor will avoid school peak traffic times wherever possible and will have traffic management in place for all truck movements entering and exiting the right of way.

Māra Muritai - Garden News:

Our wonderful, beautiful garden is looking fantastic thanks to a



dedicated group of people who have put this all together. To keep it looking at its best we need some help for our community.

We have a couple of working bees:
 Kāhu Garden Spruce Up - Sunday 7 June 10-3pm and possibly a finishing off session on Sunday 21 June
 Oroua Street Entrance - Saturday 14 June 9-2pm

We are also celebrating with an official opening on Friday 5 June - everyone welcome!

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.

HVHS Prospectus for 2027

The 2027 Prospectus for HVHS is available for families to read by [clicking here](#). The Prospectus includes information on enrolment dates, school zone, student profiles, subjects offered, uniforms options, and student activities including sports, music, clubs and groups, and more.

HVHS Open Evening, Wed 27 May, 6-8pm

Hutt Valley High School has asked us to remind families about their Open Evening on Wednesday, 27 May from 6-8pm. The evening begins with an introduction from Principal Denise Johnson, at 6pm (repeated at 6:45pm) in the school hall. Student-led tours will depart from the hall throughout the Open Evening, giving parents, caregivers, and students interested in attending in 2027 the opportunity to walk around our school (including the new C Block) and see learning areas in action. No registration required - everyone is welcome.

HVHS Enrolments for 2027

Enrolments for 2027 open on Monday, 25 May for in-zone and out-of-zone applications. All applications are completed online. Please visit the Hutt Valley High School website for more information by [clicking here](#).



KELLY CLUB

A FUN PROGRAMME
THAT KIDS LOVE!

Friday 29th May 2026
**TEACHER ONLY DAY
PROGRAMME**

MURITAI SCHOOL

Come and compete against the other warriors in our Ultimate Kelly Club Warrior contest! We will test your strength, speed and bravery! Book online now for our fun-filled one day holiday programme. See you there!

Full Day: \$59
7:30am-6pm

School Day: \$48
8:30am-3pm

Half Day: \$37
7:30am-12:30pm or 1pm-6pm

Contact: Programme Coordinator
Phone: 027 218 4489

Email: muritai@kellyclub.co.nz
Facebook: @KellyClubMuritai

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz

**OSCAR
PROGRAMME
SUBSIDIES
AVAILABLE!**

*Conditions apply

**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



Library Se