



# Muritai Beacon

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

Friday 2nd February 2024,

Kia ora koutou, Guten tag, Bula, Nǐ hǎo, Mingalaba, Namaste, Greetings, Sàwātdee, Hallo, As-salām 'alaykum, Min-ga-la-ba, nín hǎo, Néih hóu, Konnichiwa, Chôm rab suôr, Tālofa, Hola!, Kumusta, Vaṇakkam, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana and Welcome to Muritai School in 2024!

Our kura is alive and kicking again with the sound of laughter and the 'hum' of learning across the school. I hope you all had a relaxing summer break, making the most of the wonderful weather. The Muritai tamariki look refreshed and energised for another exciting year ahead! They have all grown a lot over the break and definitely look ready for their new class level.

We officially start the year with a roll of 359. We have 10 new 5 year olds joining us on their learning journey and a couple of other new children that are starting in other age groups. Welcome to Muritai School!

Our Muritai kaimahi (staff) have had a couple of great days together earlier in the week, shaping our plans for the year ahead, including how we want to grow as a team and as a school. We also had a great day with our professional learning partners from IDEAL who continue to support us with our Structured Literacy implementation in 2024.

We have a stable teaching team with only one new addition to the team - Ginny Treadwell is our new Deputy Principal and SENCO. We also have a couple of teachers that have moved into other spaces across the school, which is a wonderful opportunity for them to continue to grow as teachers.

What a great bunch of practitioners we have at Muritai for 2024!



# Muritai School Structure 2024

## Senior Management Team

**Principal:** Stu Devenport

**Deputy Principal & SENCO:** Ginny Treadwell **Associate Principal:** Jamie Power **Associate Principal:** Jon Mackie  
**Team Leader:** Lisa Allen **Team Leader:** Felicity Lovell **Team Leader:** Nadia Henderson

### Korora Team (Y1&2)

Nicolette Fisher  
Felicity Lovell  
Nadia Henderson  
Amy Cardno  
Sheldon Wilson  
Sally Ingram  
Gabrielle Heath



### Tūi Team (Y3&4)

Jamie Power  
Elena Forlong  
Kate McLean  
Carly Stanford  
Jess Davidson



### Kereru Team (Y5&6)

Lisa Allen  
Kristi Field  
Phil Rodley  
Carmen McDonald  
Hilary Bevin



### Kāhu (Y 7&8)

Jon Mackie  
Kea Maritz  
Sarah Bleier  
Eve Owen



**Office:** Carole Lowe & Jo Bentley

**Library:** Sue Fieldes

**Caretaker:** Kevin McRobbie

**Sports Coordinator:** Trish Theobald

**Learning Support:** Brenda Nisbet

**Teacher Aides:** Romy Anderson, Hilary Beadle, Narelle Ferrier, Felicity Maxwell, Karen Tattersall, Jeanne Dear, Carolyn Littlefair, Dan Hewson

## Communication

The best way to get in touch with any of our staff is via email. You can find a full list of contact details on the staff page of our website: <https://www.muritai.school.nz/staff>

Please be mindful that as a general rule, classroom teachers will not reply to emails during teaching time as they are, of course, busy with the children. Our office staff are regularly checking their emails throughout the day so if there is an urgent message during learning time, it is best to ring the office on 562 8409 or send an email to Jo or Carole - [bentley@muritai.school.nz](mailto:bentley@muritai.school.nz) or [lowe@muritai.school.nz](mailto:lowe@muritai.school.nz).

At Muritai we use a variety of platforms to communicate important information between school and home. We believe in keeping you updated with up and coming events along with celebrating our successes. School is a busy place and we also understand the life of the parent is also a busy one so we are continuing to look at ways to streamline our communications. Below is a breakdown of our key ways of communicating between home and school:

- **The Muritai Beacon:** This newsletter will be distributed fortnightly on a Friday afternoon. As we are an Enviro-School we distribute this via the parent app. We are happy to include community messages in the newsletter. We would appreciate it if all messages could be shared with the school office by the Wednesday afternoon before the Beacon is distributed.



- **Weekly Heads-up:** On Friday afternoons every week you'll receive a short email bullet pointing important 'need to knows' from across the school. This is a great way to keep up to date with the next week's activities.

- **The @School App - Parent App.** We introduced this app last year and we are intending to add more functionality to this in 2024. We will use the app for most of our communications, sending out notices, our newsletter, distributing student reports on your child and celebrating the learning. There are also useful links to the



school facebook page and calendar. If you have not already logged in, please refer to the email that was shared last week or send an email to the office ([office@muritai.school.nz](mailto:office@muritai.school.nz)) and Carole or Jo will send you through login details. To make this work for you at home, **we recommend allowing notifications on this app so we get alerted when new information is available.**

- **Email:** We regularly utilise email for reminders and other important messages. Please contact the school office if your email address needs updating from last year.



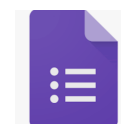
- **School Website & Calendar:** On the 'Noticeboard' tab of our website: <https://www.muritai.school.nz/calendar> there is a Community Calendar, which we will be continuing to utilise in 2024. All important dates for families will be included on this calendar, so it is useful to visit this regularly to keep up to date with the latest events. Events are also shown at the end of the newsletter.



- **Facebook:** Have you 'liked' our School Facebook page? We utilise this page for reminders, but more importantly, to celebrate the wonderful things that happen at Muritai School. Just search Muritai School on Facebook to find our page.



- **Google Forms:** We will continue to use Google Forms for permission and newsletters that require responses from parents. If you ever need assistance with completing these, please contact the office.



## **The term ahead**

In the next couple of weeks, you will receive a syndicate leader newsletter from your child's Team Leader which will give you a run down of specific systems that may be unique to their team along with a breakdown of what the learning focus will look like for the term ahead. Below are a couple of key elements to our Term 1 programme that are important to note:

- The first few weeks of the year is **'Get Set, Go!'** This time is dedicated to reviewing our school's Learning and Living Values and for the classes to establish their ways of working to ensure they are set for success for the year ahead. This is a wonderful opportunity to reinforce expectations and grow relationships between classmates and teachers.
- **SCHOOL PICNIC!** On Friday 9th of February we are all heading to Days Bay for a whole school picnic! We will be exploring the beach, bush and Williams Park. In order to make this happen, we will require plenty of parent volunteers to help with supervision and our activities. Please keep an eye out in your inbox today for additional information on this special day. Everyone is welcome to join us as it will be a wonderful opportunity to connect.
- Our **Swimming** programme commences at Eastbourne Pool from Week 3. Please ensure you are aware of what day your child's class is swimming so they come prepared for their sessions. How lucky are we to have this community resource on our doorstep to utilise!
- Our **Learning Partnership meetings** will be held on February 13th and 15th. This will be an opportunity for you to make a time with your child's classroom teacher and share key information about your child. This is always an incredibly useful process for our teachers. Keep a look out for booking information, using the caregiver app, at the beginning of next week.
- Our Kererū Syndicate will be finishing the term with their annual trip to **Camp Makahika** from 26-28 March. Again, there will be loads of additional communications that will come your way as your child prepares for this experience, including a parent information session held at school.

Phew! It's shaping up to be a pretty action-packed term! How exciting!



## **Sun Smart**

Muritai is a SunSmart school. This term it is compulsory for all children to wear hats when outside at playtimes, lunch or undertaking sport. Please ensure your children have their named sun hats at school every day to enable them to play outside freely. Children without sun hats will be restricted to the shade sail area. You may also like to apply sunblock to your children before school. Children also need to wear shoes at school to protect their feet, and clothes that are suitable for sun protection and sports activities.



## **Property**

2024 will be another big year with property developments. Below is an update on what is currently happening and what we have to look forward to over the next 12 months:

- **Hall Project:** We are reaching the final stages of this project and we are all looking forward to having our new kitchen and bathroom facilities available to us in the next couple of weeks! There will be further work to complete on the external cladding.
- **Painting:** The buildings around the Junior Courtyard received a fresh lick of paint over the summer break. Rooms 4, 5 and 6 and the admin blocks are looking very smart.
- **Heat Pumps for Tūi:** Our classrooms upstairs have welcomed the new additions to their spaces with new heat pumps to keep them cool in the summer and warm in the winter. They were put to good use on day 1 of the term!
- **Weathertightness work for Kāhu site:** We have received confirmation from the Ministry of Education that much needed remedial work for our senior school will be taking place in the first half of 2024. This is a significant project and will require us to relocate our Kāhu classes onto the main site while construction work is carried out. Having this work happen at the beginning of the year works best for us as we will have classroom space available before roll growth classes start later in the school year. It does mean we will be at full capacity though without the luxury of additional 'break-out' spaces to work in. We will keep you posted with developments when we get a clearer idea of potential start dates.

## **Speak Again and Drum lessons at Muritai**

As you are aware, our Muritai tamariki are fortunate to have the opportunity to tap into private music and drama lessons during class time. Due to the upcoming construction work happening in Kāhu our additional teaching spaces are going to be very limited which means we need to prioritise spaces for teachers and classes. As a consequence, we are unable to host drum lessons and Speak Again lessons during class time. We really value these opportunities so we hope to be able to provide these again once construction work concludes. In the meantime for Speak Again lessons, there is always the opportunity to take part in after school lessons. Contact Emily at [emily@speakagain.co.nz](mailto:emily@speakagain.co.nz) for more information. Thanks for your understanding on this matter.

Ngā mihi nui  
Stu Devenport, Principal

## **Creatives in Schools Project**

Kia ora. My name is Prue Langbein and I'm excited to be at Muritai School this first term as part of a Creatives in Schools project Taringa Talk, a sound based project to encourage, develop and extend the listening and oral communication skills of our tamariki.

I worked at Radio NZ for many years as a producer for drama, story and book readings and children's programmes and since then have focussed on working with children and young people, something I really enjoy.

Children today are bombarded with visual stimuli and screen culture. Taringa Talk provides a break from this and enables tamariki to discover the imaginative freedom and fun the world of sound provides. Listening also helps us develop empathy and understanding.

As well as listening, children will be encouraged to explore their own voices and share their stories and sounds. This can build confidence, relationships and language skills. We'll do some audio recording so children can enjoy hearing themselves and their classmates.

At the end of the project we'll have a celebration which families will be welcome to attend. Throughout the project we encourage whānau to engage in listening and conversations with their children. There'll be opportunities for recording at home which you can help with, and we plan to share some of the classroom mahi with you as the term progresses.

I'll be working with Nicolette Fisher and her class as well as Sheldon Wilson and Carmen McDonald. I'll also involve the senior classes towards the end of the project to share ideas about audio. I'm very much looking forward to being with your children at Muritai School.

Please feel free to get in touch if you've any questions - pruelangbeinaudio@gmail.com

## HOME AND SCHOOL

### Pizza Mondays

Home and School will be doing six pizza Mondays this term, in two lots of three Mondays. Order for all 6, or for either / both sets of three at a time.

1 February: 12 February, 19 February, 26 February  
Orders are open now for the three February Mondays alone AND both February and March Mondays.

Orders close 9:00am Friday 9 February.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgz7K5Ukw60AxDni52xiNrpMXwVZ0lpS-zdAoqw0FKJUmRgQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgz7K5Ukw60AxDni52xiNrpMXwVZ0lpS-zdAoqw0FKJUmRgQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

2 March: 4 March, 11 March, 18 March

Orders will open for the three March Mondays on Monday 26 February and close 9:00am Friday 1 March.

As we pre-order the pizzas for the entire three week block, we cannot accept late orders or offer refunds if your child is away.

**If you would like to help on a pizza Monday** (for 1.5 hours) please contact us on: [muritaihomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:muritaihomeandschool@gmail.com). It is an awesome way to contribute to our fundraising efforts and allows other over-subscribed volunteers to sub out. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Plus it's fun, easy and a good way to meet other parents / caregivers.

**THIS YEAR WE ARE RAISING MONEY FOR THE FOLLOWING FOR MURITAI SCHOOL:** teacher discretionary classroom fund top-up | maths classroom equipment | literacy decodable readers | hall sound system | junior basketball hoops | hall curtain track repairs | house / school teardrop flags | basketball singlets | senior school climbing equipment / slack-lines.

## Car Boot Sale

We are super excited to bring you a car boot sale at the school on Sunday 25 February 10:00am - 1:00pm. See poster below for more info:

**A MURITAI SCHOOL HOME & SCHOOL FUNDRAISER**



**SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2024\***  
**10:00AM - 1:00PM**  
**MURITAI SCHOOL, EASTBOURNE**

The perfect opportunity to declutter and turn your unwanted stuff into someone else's good scores and earn some extra cash, all from the convenience of your car!

If you would like to register for a spot and for more information, follow the link attached: <https://forms.gle/BdkTHefgQvjTX2CF6> or email [muritaihomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:muritaihomeandschool@gmail.com) for the link online.

Like our Facebook event for updates: <https://fb.me/e/1091f18na> or search 'muritai car boot sale' on Facebook.

**JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED MORNING OF BUYING AND SELLING!**

\*Postponement day Sunday 3 March

## School Hoodie

With the launch of the new school logo, we are excited to offer a school hoodie towards the end of the term. More details to come...

## Useful Information

Home & School Bank Dets: 02-0544-0051332-00  
Email Contact: [muritaihomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:muritaihomeandschool@gmail.com)  
Follow us on Facebook for fundraising updates and helpful reminders: Search *Muritai Home & School* or click here

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094690887305>

## School Dates for 2024:

Term 1 Thursday 1 February to Friday 12 April  
Term 2 Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July  
Term 3 Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September  
Term 4 Monday 14 October to Tuesday 17 December

## Public Holidays & Teacher Only Days 2024:

Tuesday, 6 February: Waitangi Day  
Friday 29 March: Good Friday  
Monday 1 April: Easter Monday  
Tuesday 2 April: Easter Tuesday (School holiday)  
Friday 31 May: Teacher Only Day  
Monday, 3 June: King's Birthday  
Friday, 28 June: Matariki  
Friday 25 October: Teacher Only Day  
Monday, 28 October: Labour Day

Important Dates	
Date	Event
6 Feb	Waitangi Day
9 Feb	Whole School day at Days Bay
12 Feb	Pizza Monday
13 Feb	Learning Partnerships 2pm to 6.15pm
15 Feb	Learning Partnerships 2pm to 6.15pm
15 Feb	Year 7/8 Touch Rugby starts
16 Feb	Year 1/6 Touch Rugby starts
16 Feb	Whole School Assembly led by Kererū
19 Feb	Pizza Monday
20 Feb	Wellington Rugby Event years 3-6
21 Feb	BOT meeting 6.30pm
22 Feb	PP Rugby Event years 3-6
26 Feb	Pizza Monday
27 Feb	Wellington Rugby Event Y7-8
28 Feb	Starting School at 5 - 7pm in staffroom
29 Feb	PP Wellington Rugby Event Y7-8
1 March	Whole School Assembly - Kororā led
4 March	Pizza Monday
11 March	Pizza Monday
11 - 14 Mar	Sue Allman School Photos
12 March	Road Patrol training
12 March	Cricket Festival Years 5-8
14 March	PP Cricket Festival Years 5-8
18 March	Pizza Monday
25 March	H&S Car Boot Sale
26 - 28 Mar	Kererū Camp
26 March	Move and Grow Years 1-2
29 March	Good Friday
1 April	Easter Monday
2 April	Easter Tuesday (School holiday)
12 April	Whole School Assembly - Tuī led

**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.**



### **Guitar Lessons at Muritai School**

Do you want to learn to play guitar?

I am now accepting enrolments for Term 1 for pupils in years 3 to 8. The lessons are taken by Charles Hazlewood on Monday or Friday during school time. The tuition is held in small groups according to ability and age. It is educational, and normally a lot of fun!

The school has guitars to use at lesson time, but you will need a guitar to play at home.

I am a very experienced music teacher currently teaching at several schools in Lower Hutt. The cost is \$12 per 30 minute lesson, payable per term. Usually there would be 8 lessons, so the term fees would be \$96. Please call Charles on 04-934-2759 or 029-9392759 or [charleshazlewood1@gmail.com](mailto:charleshazlewood1@gmail.com)

**Has your child ever wanted to learn another language?**

**Fun French lessons starting again at  
Muritai school!**

At lunch time  
Free taster lessons and good for beginners



For more information go to  
[Classes - Lowerhuttandeastbourne.lcclubs.co.nz](http://Lowerhuttandeastbourne.lcclubs.co.nz))  
or message me Stefi on 021 178 2099 or email me  
[stefi@funlanguages.co.nz](mailto:stefi@funlanguages.co.nz)