



Muritai Beacon

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

Rāmere 17 o Whiringa-ā-nuku,

Kia ora Muritai whānau,

We are well and truly in full swing into Term 4! It has been great to finally see the sun over the last two days and today we grabbed the opportunity to gather together outside for an impromptu assembly. We used the opportunity to give out some much belated Principal Certificates as it has been a long time since our last assembly. Check out all the worthy participants further down the newsletter. This term our Living Value focus is 'Respect' so this will be the key focus of our certificates throughout the term.

It is wonderful to see our new roll growth class open at the beginning of the term, with Gabrielle Heath teaching our latest batch of 5 year olds joining us in Room 1. Welcome to Muritai School! We look forward to officially welcoming new students and whānau at our Mihi Whakatau later in the term.

Work is progressing well on the school hall and surrounding buildings. We are keeping everything crossed that this space will be available for us again for our special celebrations at the end of the school year.

If you are an experienced member of our Muritai whānau you'll know how busy it will be, with many exciting events already loaded in the school calendar. It is so important to keep on top of what is coming up by following our calendar on the app and on our website. Speaking of events, we are really looking forward to our School Athletics Day which is scheduled for Tuesday 22 October. This is for all students in Tūi, Kererū and Kāhu. We welcome and encourage parents to come along to support the students for this exciting day, which concludes with our annual House and Class Relays. We hope the weather will be kind to us to help make the day a real success.

Another important day to remember next week is **Thursday 24th October as the school will be closed for instruction** due to Teacher and Support staff strike action. Unfortunately we will not have sufficient staff numbers to open on this day. Although this may be an inconvenience, we hope the community is in support of our kaimahi in achieving better work conditions for themselves which ultimately means a better learning environment for our tamariki.

Yesterday the school participated in the nationwide 'Shake Out' and tsunami drill which included a hikoi to safer ground up



MacKenzie Road. It took us just over 13 minutes to evacuate to our safe zone which I think is pretty impressive for over 370 students and staff... including our Peryer Construction team!

Class Placements and Intentions for 2026

Although we are still in October, the Senior Leadership Team has already commenced their planning for 2026. One of the key planning components is looking at our student numbers, so we have a good understanding of how many children we will have in each learning team. Thank you to the whānau who have communicated with us already about this. If your circumstances are changing and you know your child/ren will not be returning to Muritai School in 2026 can you please contact Jo Bentley in the school office at bentley@muritai.school.nz

Later in the term, the teaching teams will commence the process of forming classes for 2026. This is often an intricate process where a lot of factors are taken into consideration. We are very fortunate at Muritai to have highly experienced teachers who know their students well. They are able to make informed decisions on classroom placements for their learners, taking into consideration each child's learning, social, behaviour and emotional needs. These are all put into the mix to ensure we make the right decisions for each child. We also ensure we capture ākonga | student voice in the process.

Although at Muritai School we do not take parent requests for teachers, if you have some information you think we would find useful about your child, you are welcome to provide us with this. If you wish to do this, please let me know directly by **Monday, 3rd November**. You can email your thoughts to principal@muritai.school.nz

Beautifying our Shared Spaces

Although the current construction site is dominating our landscape, there are pockets of beauty that have popped up around the place. As part of last term's Art Inquiry, we had a number of new art installations around our kura. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank the awesome members of our parent community who have been working hard in Māra Muritai over the holiday period. Additional planting has been completed and new picnic tables have been constructed. Over in Kāhu, the senior students are thoroughly enjoying the new addition to the playground - an outdoor table tennis table! There has already been some great talent on display... including beating the principal several times! We thank the Home and School for providing funding for the table tennis table and garden additions.

Students in the Spotlight

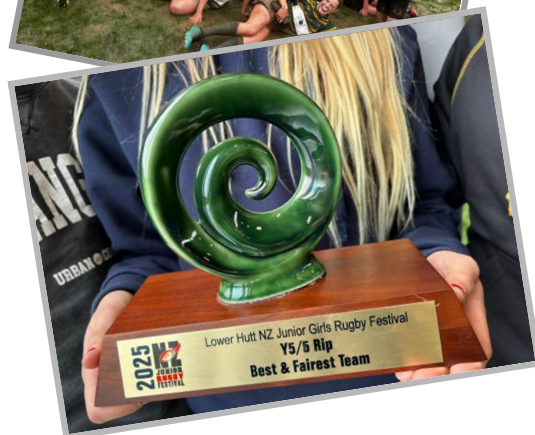
We have received reports of a number of talented Muritai students who have achieved wonderful things over the past month or so, either representing the school, a club or just themselves!

Congratulations to Eva Te Whata who participated in the NZ Irish Dancing Nationals over the holidays. She placed 5th in her age category and has qualified for the CLRG World Irish Dancing Championships in Chicago 2026!

At the end of last term Tiago Meikle in Year 8 headed to Christchurch to represent Muritai School and Lower Hutt in the Cross Country Nationals. Tiago placed 22nd which is a great result at a national level!

Congratulations to Finn Anderson-Budd who recently won the first ever MEGA's Eastbourne Unplugged 2025. Participants were tasked with creating a song with a powerful theme. Finn won \$500 for taking out the competition, \$200 of which Finn chose to donate to Kids Can. Ka rawe Finn! You can check out Finn's song here: <https://youtu.be/Cb-X4fTb1i8?feature=shared>

Finally, several Muritai girls in the Y5/6 Eastbourne Rippa Rugby Team, 'The Dinosaurs', took part in a NZ Junior Girls Rugby Festival at Fraser Park over the weekend with teams arriving from Kapiti, Auckland, Hamilton and Waiheke Island. The weather conditions



were pretty appalling but the girls had an absolute blast, showing the most awesome team spirit and taking home an award for Best and Fairest Team. Well done girls!

Ngā mihi nui,
Stu Devenport

Sports Uniforms

You are probably aware that we have had a new sports uniform available for a little while now, featuring our new updated logo. We have been phasing out the old uniforms over the past 18 months and appreciate everyone who has already made the switch. As a friendly reminder, the new uniform will become mandatory for all sports teams and events from January 2026. You can purchase the new uniforms from Carole and Jo in the office.

Important Dates	
Date	Event
21 Oct	School Athletic Sports Day
23 Oct	TEACHER STRIKE - SCHOOL CLOSED.
24 Oct	School Athletics Sports Day PP
24 Oct	Photos for NE and Y8 funny photo
27 Oct	Labour Day holiday
29 Oct	BOT meeting
3 Nov	Pizza Monday
3 Nov	Kererū Cupcake Market
4 Nov	Zone Athletics
10 Nov	Pizza Monday
11 Nov	Interzone Athletics
17 Nov	Pizza Monday
17 Nov	Swimming Programme starts
21 Nov	Muritai Markets
24 Nov	Pizza Monday
25 Nov	Regional Athletics
27 Nov	Muritai Market PP day
28 Nov	Colour Run
1-5 Dec	Abel Tasman Camp Y8's
1-5 Dec	Tui Camp
1 Dec	Y7 Capital E EOTC day

2 Dec	Y7 Pencarrow Bike Ride
2 Dec	Road Patrol Pool Party
3 Dec	Days Bay Y7 EOTC day
3 Dec	BOT meeting at 6.30pm
4 Dec	Y7 Adrenalin Forst
4-5 Dec	Tui Camp
5 Dec	Y7 EOTC Butterfly Creek walk
8 Dec	Kererū Leavers Assembly
9 Dec	Kereru Youth Town & Mr Whippy
9 Dec	Kororā Library Christmas singing
10 Dec	Kororā Wheels Day and Mr Whippy
11 Dec	Graduation evening Y8's
12 Dec	Kororā R4L dress up day
17 Dec	Leavers Assembly 11am
17 Dec	Last day of Term 4 - School closes at 1pm

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

Principal Awards

Congratulations to the students below who received a Principal Award in assembly today. Well done to you all!



Cormac Livingston, Ari Ramsey	Room 1
Marnie Te Whata, Leo Cornforth McGregor	Room 2
Beau Incledon, Ollie Naylor	Room 3
Mia Mason, Kai Dean	Room 4
Evie Eglinton, Nikau Anderson-Budd	Room 5
Stella Scott, Max Hawkins Beck	Room 6
Ondine Lidgard, Levi McLeod	Room 8
Byron Pleijte, Evie Richard	Room 9
Lennox Carroll, Albie Sellars	Room 10
Seb Pickering, Soraya Farndale	Room 11
Peta George, Nikau Anderson Budd	Room 12
Josh Fanning, Ramon Travaglini Medina	Room 13
Lachie Blair, Quinn Burrows	Room 15
Matai Webby, Abe Shaughnessy	Room 16
Tui Jensen, Amandine Oliver	Room 21
Adorna Paulik, Ivy Jurgens	Room 22

The following children will be having a Fish & Chips lunch with Mr Devenport shortly:
Adorna Paulik, Levi McLeod, Albie Sellars and Soraya Farndale

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.

Eastbourne Garden Tour

Saturday 29 November 1-6pm

Explore 6 stunning private gardens | Tickets \$100 | Packages available including lunch, hors d'oeuvre, wine and live music | Support St Alban's earthquake strengthening
Tickets from <https://events.humanitix.com/eastbourne-garden-show>

Celebrate your connection to the Bays and come and see some hidden gardens. Step into

a world of six acclaimed local gardens, each a canvas of colour, design and inspiration from lush natives to sculpted landscapes. Each garden provides a visual image of wonderful creations. The garden tour is a fundraising event for earthquake strengthening of the St Albans church and hall.

HUTT VALLEY INLINE HOCKEY

JOIN US FOR FUN AND SKILL!

EVERY TUESDAY TERM TIME
4:00 - 5:30 PM

WALTER NASH STADIUM

First session is Free
50% off the next 4 sessions
\$10 Reg. Per Person

Postal Address: 1197 Taita Drive, Lower Hutt, 5011, NZ
Email: sanimmo@xtra.co.nz **Phone:** 027 663 4344

Kids Yoga

After School Program

Care With Calm

Tuesdays and Thursdays
78 Oroua Street, Eastbourne
Healthy snacks, yoga, and fun!

Accompanied Walk from Muritai School, Light Snack and Yoga Session - pickup 4:15 - \$19
All the above plus care until 5:00 - \$25
Later pickups available on request

REGISTER NOW

yogagenerationnz@gmail.com