



# Muritai Beacon

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

Rāhina 24 o Paenga-whāwhā,

Kia ora Muritai whānau,

Welcome back to what has already been an eventful start to the term! First and foremost, I want to extend a huge thank you to all our parents and caregivers for your patience and understanding during our recent school closure. The wild weather certainly threw us a curveball, but your support in keeping our community safe was greatly appreciated.

## **Celebrating Tupua Horo Nuku**

Despite a rather damp last Saturday, it was wonderful to see the shared pathway, Tupua Horo Nuku, officially opened. It was a proud moment for our school; our students did a magnificent job supporting the speakers through their beautiful waiata.

A special mention must go to our Head Students, who spoke eloquently to a very large crowd. Their leadership and composure were truly impressive - they are fantastic ambassadors for our school values.

Our shared pathway is officially open! We look forward to joining further celebrations and utilising the pathway once the weather improves!

## **Community ANZAC Commemorations**

Looking ahead to tomorrow, we are very much looking forward to our community ANZAC Day commemorations. Our students always play a key role in these services, and it is a great opportunity for our young people to show respect and connect with our local history. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Speaking of ANZAC Day, our Kāhu students had the opportunity once again to enter the Eastbourne RSA Art Competition. The theme this year was 'the Returned' focusing on soldiers returning to their loved ones after the war. This year Matt Gaudie, the renowned Army Artist is judging the pieces from Muritai and Wellesley. He was incredibly moved by all the pieces put forward for judging. We look forward to hearing the results on ANZAC Day tomorrow.



## Property & Building Updates

Our roofing and cladding project continues to move forward! We have some exciting shifts happening:

- **Next Week:** Our Kererū classes are likely moving into their new upstairs spaces.
- **Following Phase:** Tūi classes will then transition into their permanent downstairs classrooms.
- **The Hall:** Further work continues on the school hall. Unfortunately, this means we will be unable to host whole-school assemblies for the time being. We appreciate your flexibility as we upgrade our facilities.

## Learning Overview for Term 2

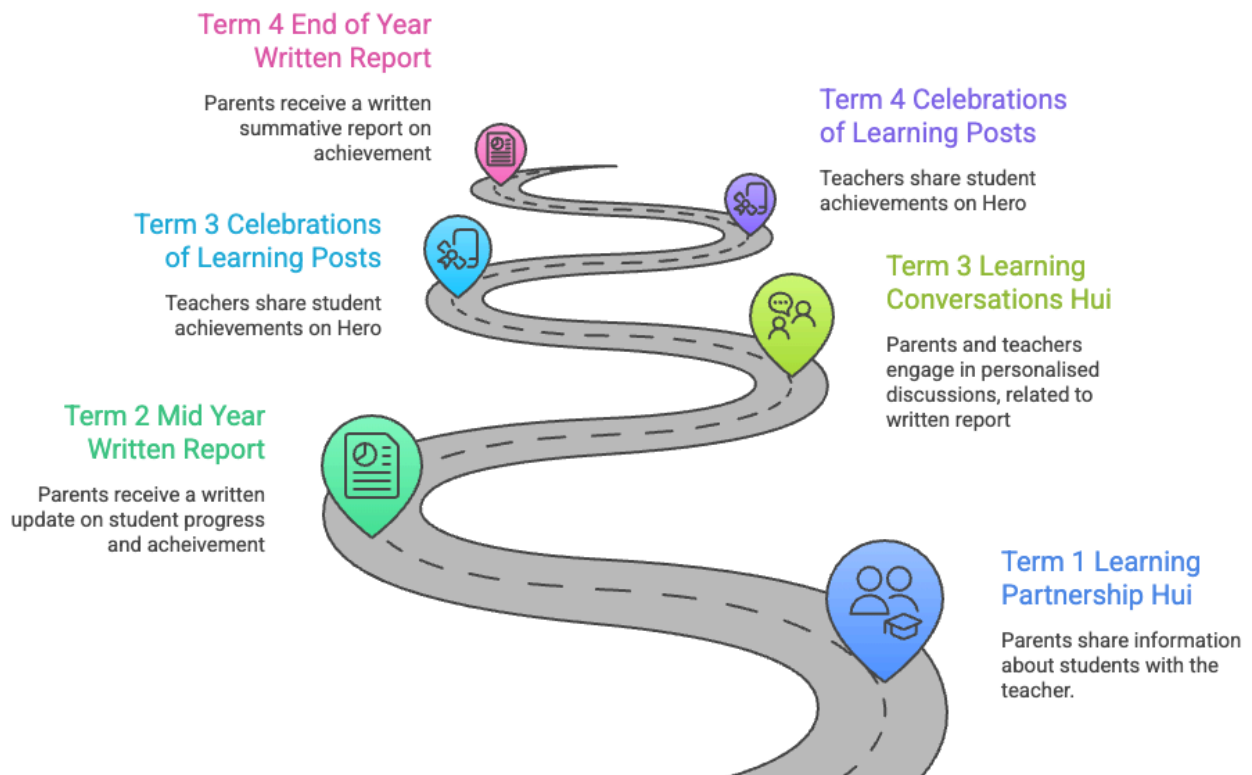
We have a stimulating term of learning ahead! All syndicates are diving into a **Science focus**, specifically exploring "Planet Earth and Beyond." From geology to astronomy, our students will be looking at how our world works and our place in the wider universe. Our core subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths continue to be the main focus. For specifics on the syndicate learning overviews, look out for the syndicate newsletters coming out soon.

## Reporting to Parents Changes

In line with recent Ministry of Education requirements, there are some changes to how we report student progress.

- **Mid-Year Reports:** All children will receive a formal academic report at the end of this term.
- **More Info:** Please keep an eye out for detailed information regarding these reporting changes, which will be sent out in the first half of Term 2.

## Reporting to Parents Schedule



Made with Napkin

## Whānau Reading Programme

It is wonderful to have our Whānau reading programme commencing this term. A massive thank you to the family members giving up their time to support this – it is a welcomed addition to the literacy

programme. If others are interested in supporting the programme please contact Sherill Palmer: [spalmer@muritai.school.nz](mailto:spalmer@muritai.school.nz)

## Junior Playground Replacement Project

As you know, our Junior playground is nearing the end of its "use-by date." We are working hard alongside the Home and School Committee to fund the replacement.

- **Progress:** We have already raised an incredible \$50,000 thanks to the 2025 Spellathon and other initiatives!
- **New Raffle:** This term, keep an eye out for an exciting Travel Raffle organised by Home and School.

## Looking Ahead

It is going to be a busy few months! Key highlights include Hutt Fest and our annual Matariki celebration towards the end of the term. To ensure you don't miss a thing, please stay updated via:

1. The School Calendar on our website.
2. The Hero App for real-time notifications.

Keen to get an overview of what's ahead in Term 2 while also hearing some student reflections from Term 1? [Check out Muritai TV's first ever podcast episode here!](#)

Ngā mihi nui,

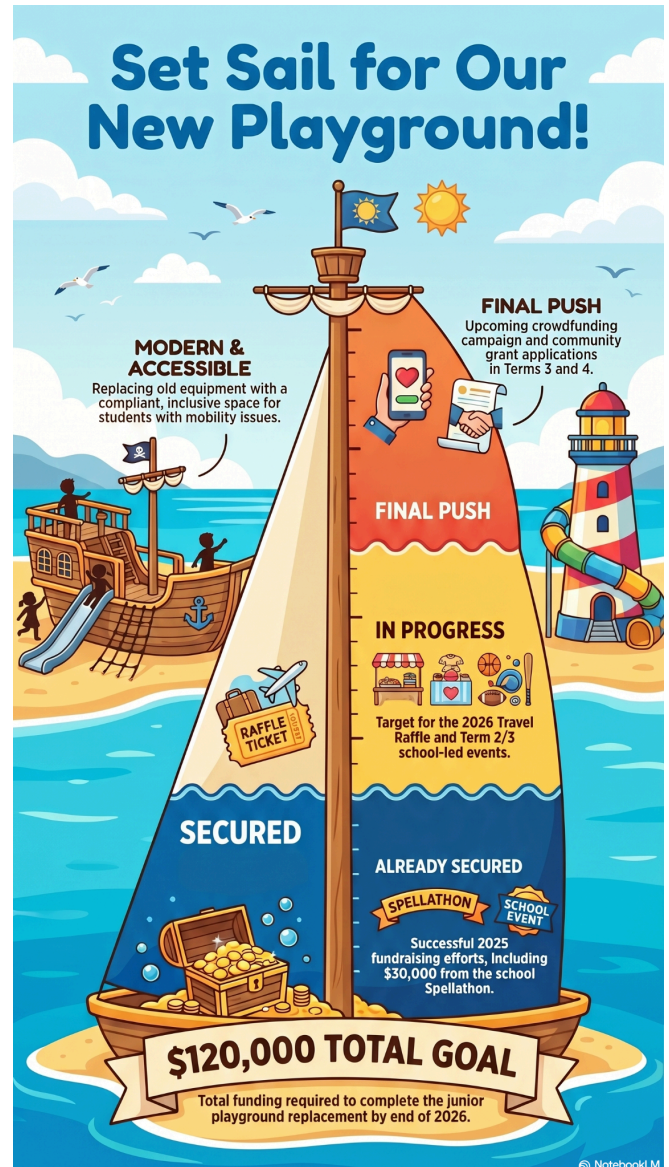
Stu Devenport

## INTRODUCING OUR CHARITY

### AMBASSADORS 2026



*Amelie Freer & Sadie Wilkins (Co-Captains), Anthea Jameson, Kea Ellwood, Lea Wester, Ella Peck, Lilibeth Tomescu*



At Te Kura o Muritai, not only do we support our ākonga, we support our community and local charities. We are keen to see everyone connecting and contributing and being the best they can be by getting involved in our charity events; dressing up, raising money and being upstanding kaitiaki in our community. Keep an eye out for some cool competitions that we will be running this year, too!

Message from our Charity Ambassadors (by Lea Wester)

Kia ora Muritai whānau!

We just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who entered and sent a picture of themselves doing a good deed! It's awesome to see everyone being such charitable people. There were so many amazing entries, rather than having just 1 or 2 winners, we have decided that everyone who entered will

receive 5 GOTCHAs for being an amazing person and embracing our Muritai values!

Please see the links below to see our Muritai ākonga in action! Again, a big thanks to everyone helping out in the community. Remember to always follow our school values and be the best you can be!

Charitable Acts Holiday Challenge

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OvS1PcuzWiSwHbgGhZBIa4v9d4oyYqIK/view?usp=sharing>

Holiday Challenge Slideshow:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OvS1PcuzWiSwHbgGhZBIa4v9d4oyYqIK/view?usp=sharing>

Hugi Li's Amazing, Self-coded App!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fWQtT5YmAWRaHKOdNSQKH43BrmCJz31z/view?usp=sharing>

Annika & Rohan's Informative Report:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DWspGeDgEEc/>

### SCHOLASTIC LUCKY BOOK CLUB

Issue Three of the Scholastic Lucky Book Club, for 2026, is now available. Orders will be closing at Noon on Monday **the 4th May**. 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.

### MURITAI SCHOOL HOODIES ARE BACK!

Dark grey with white graphics // \$55 or \$65 with surname // kids & adult sizes available

For all sizing and ordering information, visit:

<https://forms.gle/HsrWM3wqEEeguauE9>

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Orders close: 5:00pm Friday 8 May

Hoodies delivered: Monday 25 May

Samples in the office from Wednesday 29 April

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This year, your support is helping to fund the replacement of the junior playground.

Any questions or problems, please email:

[muritaihomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:muritaihomeandschool@gmail.com)



### Garden News:

Thanks to Frankie and Lucia Lovell for making this awesome blackboard for the garden!

If you ever pop down to the garden over the weekends and have time to garden - check out the chalk

board for things you can do to help!!



Students and families are invited to Hutt Valley High School's annual Open Evening on Wednesday, 27 May, from 6-8pm.

The event will begin at 6pm with a welcome and introduction from Principal Denise Johnson, followed by student-led tours departing from the School Hall.

This is a great opportunity for parents, caregivers, and Year 8 students considering starting in 2027 to explore the school and see the learning areas in action. No registration is required; everyone is welcome to attend.

Key application dates for 2027 enrolments have also been published on the HVHS website. Enrolments for students in Year 9 in 2027 open on Monday, 25 May. [Click here](#) for more information.

Important Dates	
Date	Event
27 Apr	ANZAC day observed
1 May	Community Kapa Haka 9am
5 May	Muritai School Cross Country
6 May	Kererū at Space Place
8 May	Cross Country postponement day
11 May	Blake VR sessions for Kererū and Kāhu
15 May	Pink Shirt Day
19 May	Zone Cross Country
21 May	Zone Cross Country postponement day
29 May	<b>TEACHER ONLY DAY</b>
2 May to 1 June	Dental Van visiting
4 June	National Young Leaders Day Y8
16 June	Interzone Cross Country
18 June	Interzone Cross Country postponement day
30 June	Regional Cross Country
2 July	Regional Cross Country postponement day
3 July	Last day of Term 2
20 July	First day of Term 3

**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.**

## ATTENTION PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS!

*Do you care for a child aged 10-18 years?  
Do you and your child permanently live in New Zealand?*



### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Our research explores how parents and caregivers feel about youth legal rights and how well they understand them.

Complete our 20min online survey and go in the draw for **one of four \$50 vouchers.**

Scan the QR code to participate in the confidential survey.



Email [amelia.romijn@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:amelia.romijn@vuw.ac.nz) for any queries.  
Ethical approval has been granted by the Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee (No. 2025/HE040044)



### 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

# Build a great family team and have fun along the way!



## Feel confident to tackle parenting at any stage!

Toolbox parenting courses are bursting with practical strategies and ideas to inspire and equip you on your parenting journey – wherever you're up to.

Toolbox courses are held in-person or online over six weeks, led by a trained facilitator within a relaxed and conversational small group.

### Three great courses

- Preschool Years (2-4)
- Primary Years (5-11)
- Teenage Years (12-18)

### Topics include

- The importance of love and connection
- Different parenting styles
- Understanding your child's big emotions
- Working through common challenges
- Unpacking discipline and creating boundaries
- Family rituals and fun
- And plenty more tools and insights!

Parent Help is running a Primary Years Toolbox parenting course - in-person & online, starting May 4th.

Register your spot today! Call 04 802 5767 or email [info@parenthelp.org.nz](mailto:info@parenthelp.org.nz)

To learn more about how Parenting Place can support your parenting journey, visit [parentingplace.nz](http://parentingplace.nz)

Toolbox by  
Parenting Place

# THE CIRCUS HUB

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Looking for something fun for your kids to do during the school holidays?

Our school holiday programme is for children aged 5+, whether they have circus experience or not.

The programme always includes a variety of circus lessons, lots of games and activities to get creative.

### HOW TO BOOK

- Contact us on [info@circus.org.nz](mailto:info@circus.org.nz)
- Book online at [www.circus.org.nz](http://www.circus.org.nz)

Bookings are essential - please book a spot before 5pm the previous day



- ✓ Learn exciting circus skills like aerials, tumbling, juggling & more...
- ✓ Build confidence and coordination
- ✓ Make new friends and have a blast!
- ✓ Expert instruction from experienced circus trainers
- ✓ A fun, inclusive environment for all skill levels

### What parents need to know

**Next Available Date**

- April (Easter) School Holidays

**Times**

- running time - 9am-3pm
- drop off from - 8:30am
- pick up by - 3:30pm

**Cost**

- Daily cost \$76 per child

**What to Wear**

- Comfortable stretchy clothes
- No zips, buttons, buckles or loose/hanging jewellery

**What to Bring**

- packed lunch
- a snack
- water bottle (plastic or metal with sealable top)
- sun hat and sunblock
- warm layer (for a Wellington summer!)

**Where to find us:**

- Te Whaea complex
- 11 Hutchison Road
- Newtown, Wellington 6021

Drive past the Te Whaea main entrance on Hutchison Rd or from the lower entrance which is off Hall Street.



## GREENWOOD STUDIO EASTBOURNE PARTIES & WORKSHOPS


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

Greenwood Studio in Eastbourne is offering three holiday sessions where kids can get creative and make something really special to take home.

Email [rachel@rachelstichbury.com](mailto:rachel@rachelstichbury.com) or book online [www.rachelstichbury.com](http://www.rachelstichbury.com)




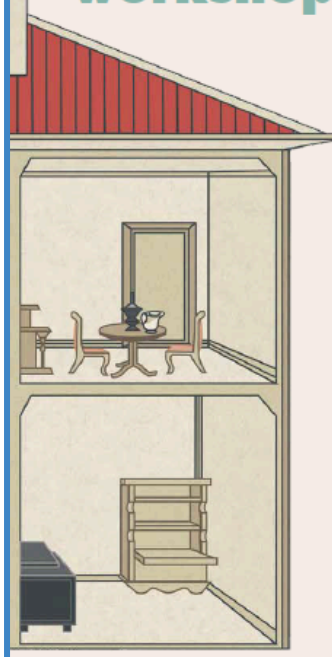
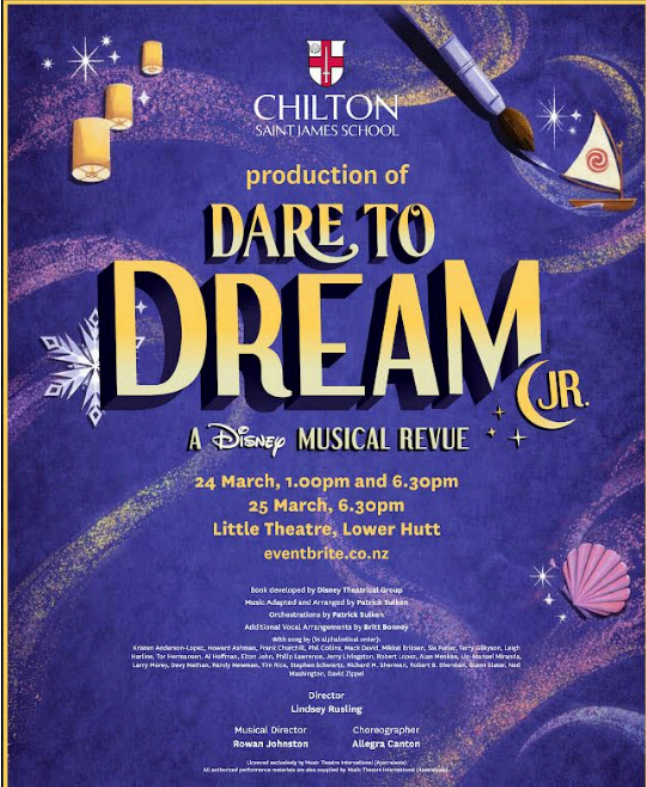
# School holiday creative writing workshops



Katherine Mansfield House & Garden's creative writing workshops for young people aged 10-14 are a fun way for keen young writers to get inspired and develop their skills.

Monday 13 April, 9.30am & 1.30pm, \$25 per session – writing materials and snack included.

Details and registration at [www.katherinemansfield.com](http://www.katherinemansfield.com)

CHILTON SAINT JAMES SCHOOL

production of

# DARE TO DREAM JR.

A DISNEY MUSICAL REVUE

24 March, 1.00pm and 6.30pm  
25 March, 6.30pm  
Little Theatre, Lower Hutt  
[eventbrite.co.nz](http://eventbrite.co.nz)

Book developed by Disney Theatrical Group  
Music Adapted and Arranged by Patrick Kubacki  
Orchestrations by Patrick Kubacki  
Additional Vocal Arrangements by Brett Bonney  
With song by Disney (Additional lyrics)  
Kirsten Anderson-Lopez, Howard Ashman, David Zippel, Eric Clapton, Mick Jagger, Willie Nelson, Don Peake, Terry Gilmer, Leigh Harline, Tom Hutterman, Al Hoffman, Elton John, Philip Lawrence, Jerry Maguire, Robert Lopez, Alan Menken, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Larry Murphy, Gary Nardino, Randy Newman, Tim Rice, Stephen Schwartz, Richard M. Sherman, Robert & Sherman, Jason Slater, Neil Tennant, David Zippel

Director  
Lindsay Rustling

Musical Director  
Rowan Johnston

Choreographer  
Allegra Canton

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