



Muritai Beacon

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

Rāhina 21 o Here-turi-kōkā,

Kia ora Muritai whānau,

It has been an incredible couple of weeks of learning, creativity, and community connection across our kura. Recently, we had the pleasure of hosting a visiting group of Assistant Principals and Deputy Principals from Upper Hutt. Our Kāhu leaders stepped up to guide them around the school, and our visitors were exceptionally impressed by the quality of learning on display and the confident, welcoming nature of our students. Tau kē, Kāhu leaders!

We were thrilled to celebrate National Book Week (August 15th–21st) across the school. The absolute highlight for our students—and undoubtedly some of our teachers— was our Book Character Dress-Up Day on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see students and whānau put some serious effort into their outfits. There were plenty of iconic literary characters parading around our grounds as we foster a lifelong love for reading and storytelling.

Congratulations to our Year 5–6 and Year 7–8 Mathswell teams competing this week at Victoria University. They have been training hard, and they represented Muritai with pride and sharp problem-solving skills!

On Monday the school gathered to view a special performance - Strike! This was an awesome experience for tamariki to view and participate in a cool percussion presentation with a huge range of musical instruments.

Speaking of performances, excitement is building for Muritai's Got Talent! This is an event initiated by a Kererū student where students from Tūi, Kererū and Kāhu can showcase their talent in the hall during lunchtimes. Singing, dancing, jokes, playing an instrument... The list is endless! We can't wait to see all the talent on display!

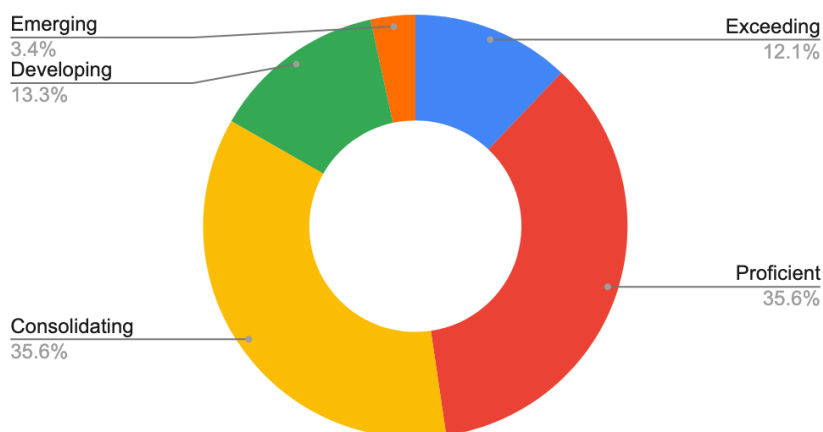


Wellington Lions Visit: We were fortunate to have a special visit from a group of the Wellington Lions Rugby team last week. They took the students through some fun fitness and ball drills. It was great to have Muritai old boy Callum Harkin back at school too!

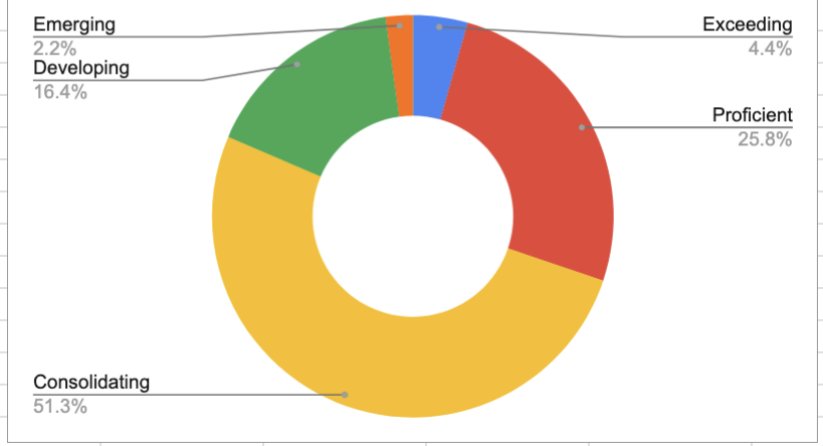
Kāhu Trapping: Last week we had members from MIRO join some of the Kāhu students to install new pest control traps along the back of the Senior School. They learnt how the traps work and how to monitor them.

Student Achievement: At our Board meeting last week we shared our latest student achievement results, based on the new progress descriptors that were used in your child's report. The results are strong for the middle of the year, indicating that over 80% of all students are on track for meeting or exceeding expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths by the end of the year.

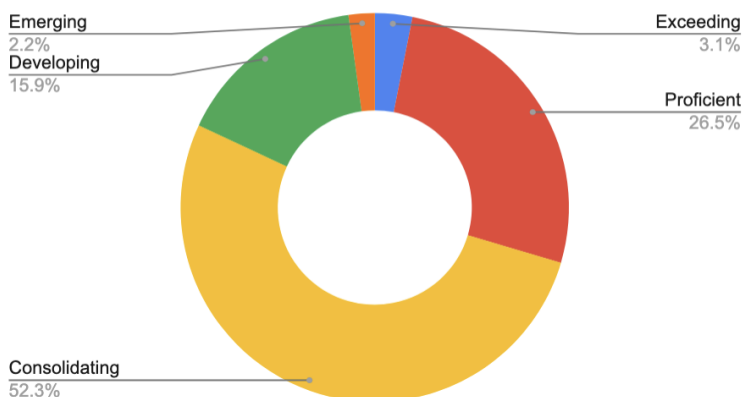
Reading Whole School



Maths Whole School



Writing Whole School



Attendance Term 2: We have also received our attendance report from the Ministry of Education on our attendance stats for Term 2. We are sitting a bit below the target of 80% of students for regular attendance with the key contributing factors being illness and holidays during term time.

Term 2 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?

 **Regular Attendance**

73%

Compared to 75% in Term 2, 2025

 **Irregular Absence 19%**

Compared to 19% in Term 2, 2025

 **Moderate Absence 5%**

Compared to 4% in Term 2, 2025

 **Chronic Absence 2%**

Compared to 1% in Term 2, 2025

What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

1.  (M) Illness / Medical Absence 56%
2.  (G) Holiday 33%
3.  (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 5%
4.  (J) Explained and Approved 3%
5.  (?) Unknown (Temporary) 3%

How many students were on time to class?

97% of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO EASTBOURNE

Metlink are proposing a range of changes to Hutt Valley bus services, including axing the 886 School bus service. I know this is a well patronized service for our Muritai students in the afternoons. Axing this service would mean over 30 students would need to use the 83 public service instead. They would also need to utilise the bus stops on Muritai Road which presents challenges for such a large group of students in the afternoon. For more information on the changes you can click on the link below.

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



Your Interest in the Proposed Changes

To provide feedback on the changes, you can complete the survey below:
<https://survey.gravitasopg.co.nz/survey/selfserve/219f/g064/260800#>

There is also a drop in session at the Eastbourne Library on **September 3rd from 10-11am.**

I encourage you to provide your feedback if these changes will be impacting on your whānau.

INTENTIONS FOR 2027

Although it may be hard to believe, in Term 3 our Senior Leadership Team will start 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.

New Zealand Principal's Federation - Curriculum and Assessment Council Proposal

You may have seen in the media early this week that the NZPF have launched a proposal for a permanent and apolitical council to lead curriculum and assessment stability in New Zealand. Driven by experienced educators and with children at its heart, the proposal has been evolving since the annual meeting of regional association leaders at our Moot in March. NZPF has since been strategically getting feedback on the evolving proposal from sector leaders, peak bodies, and education spokespeople from political parties. We are excited to be making an official public announcement and believe this is something that could really make a difference for our children.

Every child deserves an education system built to last, one where good ideas are given the time, support, and resourcing to actually work in classrooms, rather than being replaced before they've had a chance to succeed. This proposal would help reduce unnecessary disruption and short-term upheaval. Regardless of where you sit on current reform debates, this is a proposal worth understanding. To read more about this proposal [click here](#).

'Triple P' Parenting Courses are now free!

A positive environment helps your tamariki develop emotionally, socially and academically. The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® has helped thousands of families in Aotearoa build strong relationships, guide children's behaviour and enjoy family life more. And now it's available online to all whānau in NZ for FREE! These online course offerings are funded by Health NZ and the Ministry of Social Development.

Choose the Triple P programme that's right for you:

- [Triple P Online](#) – evidence-based strategies proven to work for parents and carers of tamariki aged up to 12 years
- [Triple P Online for Baby](#) – helping new or expecting parents and carers build a positive foundation right from the start
- [Family Transitions Triple P Online](#) – helping parents going through separation or divorce create a stable, reassuring environment for their tamariki

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

LIVING & LEARNING VALUES
Positive
Respectful
Responsible
Active
Connected
Be the BEST we can be

Time flies.
Make every parenting moment count.

Proven, positive strategies to help every family

Now free in New Zealand

triplep-parenting.net.nz

Triple P
Positive Parenting Program

- [Stepping Stones Triple P Online](#) – helping parents and carers of tamariki with disability or neurodivergence with key life skills

Get simple, practical tips and tools for parents and carers anywhere, anytime. Find out more at www.triplep-parenting.net.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Stu Devenport



Enrol now for 2027

Apply online at hvhs.school.nz

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

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 1 October to Thursday 16 December

Important Dates	
Date	Event
21 Aug	School Disco 3-9pm
25 Aug	ICAS Maths
26 Aug	Mihi Whakatau
27 Aug	NIWA Science Fair
28 Aug	Daffodil Day - Dress in yellow
28 Aug	Whole school assembly - Kororā
3 Sept	Dance Curriculum day
3 Sept	Wellesley Exchange Year 7/8
4 Sept	Interschool Swimming
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
25 Sept	Last day of Term 3 (normal finishing time).
12 Oct	First day of Term 4

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.



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