



Muritai Beacon

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

Rāmere 31 o Whiringa-ā-nuku,

Kia ora Muritai whānau and Happy Halloween!,

This Spring weather is certainly keeping us on our toes, isn't it! The term seems to be flying by - next week we will be in Week 5!

Thanks very much for your support last week when we had to close the school due to industrial action by our staff union members last Thursday. Unfortunately due to the severe weather the large protests and gatherings had to be cancelled. We hope all parties can reach a resolution soon so there is no further disruption.

Last Friday the weather finally came to the party so our Year 3-8 School Athletics Day could go ahead. It was wonderful to see all the students give it their best during the running, throwing and jumping events. Our teachers were very impressed with the great sportsmanship on display throughout the day with students supporting each other with a healthy sense of competition. Congratulations to all the participants who have been selected to represent Muritai at the South East/Central Zone Event on Tuesday 4th November at Hutt Recreation Ground. Well done - we are very proud of you all! If your child was selected, you would have received further information about the organisation for this day. A big thank you to Lisa Allen and the rest of the Kererū team who organised a fantastic day for us all. Thank you also to all the parents who came along to support the students throughout the day. We are also very grateful to the keen parents who joined some of the staff in the Staff/Parent vs Students Relay at the end of the day - what a race!

Students across Kererū and Kāhu have been working incredibly hard over the last couple of weeks, preparing and delivering an oral speech to their peers in class. This can often be a challenging process for students but it is wonderful to hear awesome stories of individuals showing resilience to overcome their fears and ultimately grow in confidence. As this process was also considered a competition, our top performers were selected for semi-finals and finals, with judges selecting winners from both age groups. We look forward to sharing this information in future newsletters!



The Senior Leadership Team has been hard at work over the first half of the term, confirming the teaching structure for 2026. We have made a few changes across the school due to a number of factors.

Our student roll is slightly lower for next year which means our staffing entitlement is also lower. On the flip side, we have also received additional teacher entitlement as part of the Learning Support Co-ordinator scheme. This means we are able to fully release our Associate Principal, Jon Mackie, from the classroom to take on more learning support and leadership responsibilities across the school.

We have also made the decision to change the Tūi syndicate structure from composite classes to straight Year 3 and Year 4 classes. We believe this will be beneficial due to new curriculum changes. In addition to this, we congratulate Penny Orbell who will be leading the Tūi Syndicate from the start of 2026. Below is an outline of how each syndicate is structured:

Senior Leadership Team

Principal: Stu Devenport

Deputy Principal: Ginny Treadwell

Associate Principal: Jon Mackie

Team Leaders: Felicity Lovell, Nadia Henderson, Penny Orbell & Lisa Allen



Kororā

Team Leaders: Felicity Lovell & Nadia Henderson

New Entrants / Year 1: Nicolette Fisher, Felicity Lovell

Year 1 & 2 Composite: Nadia Henderson, Sheldon Wilson

Roll Growth Class: Sally Ingram



Tūi

Team Leader: Penny Orbell

Year 3

Penny Orbell & Kristi Field

Year 4

Elena Forlong, Carmen McDonald



Kererū

Team Leader: Lisa Allen

Year 5 & 6 Composite :

Phil Rodley, Kate McLean, Lisa Allen



Kāhu

Team Leader: Jon Mackie

Year 7 & 8 Composite:

Kea Maritz , Sarah Bleier & ??



Part Time Teachers

Learning Support: Sherril Palmer

Classroom Release Teachers:

Gabrielle Heath, Jess Davidson, Hilary Bevin & Eve Owen

Kapa Haka Teacher

Hilary Bevin



We are still in the process of appointing a new teacher to join the Kāhu syndicate, we will keep you posted with updates.

Class Placements and Intentions for 2026

A reminder that very soon, 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

Ngā mihi nui,
Stu Devenport

Measles is in Wellington (Health New Zealand notice)

You may be aware there have been recent measles exposures in Wellington. Please see the below advice about measles for our school whānau | families.

What is measles

Measles is a very contagious viral illness that spreads easily between people and makes most people feel very unwell. Measles can cause serious health problems and about 1 in 3 people with measles will need hospital level care. Complications are more common for tamariki under five, pregnant people and people with weakened immune systems.

Vaccination and immunity

Measles spreads very easily and can affect anyone who is not immune. Being immune to measles means you are protected from getting infected and spreading the disease to other people. You are considered immune to measles if either of these things apply:

- You had two doses of a measles vaccine after 12 months of age
- You have had measles before.
- Most people born in New Zealand before 1 January 1969 are considered immune because before that time, almost everyone had measles as a child.

A reminder that:

- There have been measles cases confirmed in Wellington
- Check the published Locations of Interest in case they may have come into contact with the measles case.
- Watch out for measles symptoms - fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes, and a blotchy rash.
- Keep students home from school if they have any measles symptoms and ring a doctor or Healthline for advice on 0800-611-116.
- Check if your whānau are immune to measles and find medical records, such as immunisation records or test results, to confirm this. For more information on checking your immunity visit info.health.nz/measles-immunity. It is safe

to have additional doses if they don't have proof. For more information: info.health.nz/MeaslesVaccine

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.

Year 5/6 Speech Finals

The annual Kererū Speech Competition showcased an incredible display of talent, confidence, and thoughtful engagement from our Year 5 and 6 students! The standard of speeches this year was exceptional, making for a very tough decision for the judges.

Our Year 5 students delivered powerful speeches, with Georgie Davis securing 1st place for her fascinating and well-researched speech on "Evolution". Closely following in 2nd place was Sophie Bleier, who charmed the audience with "Friendship lessons from her dog Scout".

The Year 6 contestants continued the high-calibre performances. We extend a huge congratulations to Poppy Bonnifant, who spoke with conviction and earned 1st place for her inspiring speech on "Confidence". The 2nd place spot goes to Ondine Lidgard, the speaker who took us on a journey through history with their insightful presentation on "The Evolution of the Toothbrush".

A massive well done to all our participants for their effort, preparation, and courage. We are very proud of you all.

Year 5

- 1st place- Georgie Davis with her speech on Evolution
- 2nd Sophie Bleier- with her speech on Friendship lessons from her dog Scout

Year 6

- 1st place- Poppy Bonnifant- with her speech on Confidence
- 2nd Place- Ondine Lidgard - The Evolution of the toothbrush

Overall winner- Georgie Davis



Athletics

What a wonderful day for our Year 3-8 Athletics and great to see our tamariki doing so well.

Below are the best all rounders:

Year 3 Boys	Jack Davidson
Year 3 Girls	Annabelle Parker
Year 4 Boys	Joey Holmes/Leo Maritz
Year 4 Girls	Skylar Filemu
Year 5 Boys	Paddy Keenan
Year 5 Girls	Eva Te Whata
Year 6 Boys	Denver Gilbert
Year 6 Girls	Poppy Bonifant
Year 7 Boys	Fraser Halman
Year 7 Girls	Mahina Barker
Year 8 Boys	Tiago Meikle
Year 8 Girls	Georgie Gellatly

House Results:

Charters	919
Cooke	756
King	748
Sanson	677

Important Dates	
Date	Event
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

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

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>

St Alban's Friends of Earthquake New Zealand
get tickets

Celebrate your connection to the Bays and come and see some hidden gems. The garden tour is a fundraising event for earthquake strengthening of the St Albans church and hall. There are a number of ticket options – or free entry to potted plants and raffle sales. See web site..

The Eastbourne community is invited to celebrate the launch of "Start Here: A Guide For The Overwhelmed" by Eastbourne local Dr Kerry Makin-Byrd. Published by Little, Brown UK, START HERE is an illustrated self-help guide for dealing with burnout featuring science-based solutions that will last a lifetime. START HERE was designed and illustrated by New Zealanders Katharine Hall and Catherine Adam of Wonderbird Design.

Friday 21 Nov 6 PM - 7:30 PM
Eastbourne Library & Neighbourhood Hub

(Including a reading, Q&A, and cookies)



JOIN US
FOR THE LAUNCH OF

START HERE
A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE OVERWHELMED
BY KERRY MAKIN-BYRD

FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 6PM - 7:30PM
EASTBOURNE LIBRARY & NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB
(INCLUDING A READING, Q&A, AND COOKIES)

Science Fiction Publishing | hachette | PURSITY@HACHETTE.CO.NZ

Pre Xmas STEM Holiday Programme

MAKEROOM
Wellington



4 Projects Across 4 Days Just Before Xmas

Scuttie Bug Robot | Portable Sound FX Board | LED Matrix Clock | Code Crack Safe

Run From Our Kilbirnie Space | One Day, Take Home Builds For Young Makers Aged 10-14 | Small Group Sizes With Friendly Experienced Instructors

\$135 For The Day 16th-19th December

To Learn More and Book Your Place visit:
www.makeroomwellington.nz