Muritai Beacon

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









Rāhina 29 o Whiringa-ā-nuku,

Dear parents, caregivers, and whānau,

What a busy and rewarding past fortnight we have had! From high-energy sports fields to the halls of Parliament, our tamariki have been actively engaged in learning, moving, and connecting. Thank you for your continued support across all of our school activities.

Here is a recap of recent highlights and some important reminders for the weeks ahead.

We could not have asked for better weather for our annual Year 3–8 Athletics Day! The sun was shining brightly as students gave their all in running, jumping, and throwing events. It was fantastic to see such great sportsmanship, determination, and house spirit on display throughout the day.

Congratulations to all the Year 4–6 students who have been selected to represent our school at the Zone Athletics event at Hutt Rec next week! We wish you the very best of luck—we know you will represent us with pride.

Special congratulations to **King House** for taking out victory in the student House Relay! However, in the ultimate showdown, even King House wasn't quite fast enough to beat the reigning champs—our Parent/Teacher team! Thank you to the parents and staff who laced up their running shoes to make it such a fun event.

Last week, our Kāhu Syndicate took a trip into Wellington to visit Parliament as part of their ongoing learning unit on democracy and civics. It was a timely visit ahead of the upcoming general election, giving our students a first-hand look at how laws are made, how decision-making works, and how citizens participate in our parliamentary system.



Thank you for supporting our school during the recent Teacher Only Day. Our teaching staff spent the day engaged in a valuable professional development session alongside Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour (RTLB), focusing on **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**.

What is Universal Design for Learning? UDL is an educational framework designed to meet the diverse needs of all learners. Rather than using a "one-size-fits-all" teaching method, UDL focuses on creating flexible learning environments from the outset. It provides students with multiple ways to access information, express what they know , and stay motivated. This ensures every child has equal opportunities to succeed in the classroom.

Thank you also to our wonderful school community for showing your appreciation on National Teacher Appreciation Day yesterday! Our staff felt incredibly valued, and our collective "buckets" were filled to the brim with all your awhi and aroha.

Class Placements and Intentions for 2027

Although we are still in October, the Senior Leadership Team has already commenced their planning for 2027. 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 2027 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 2027. 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, behavioural 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, 2nd November.** You can email your thoughts to principal@muritai.school.nz

🛑 School Safety & Neighbour Courtesy

- **Road Safety on Bikes & Scooters:** With the warmer weather, many students are biking or scooting to school. Please remind your children to remain vigilant about road safety at all times. This includes wearing a correctly fitted helmet, stopping to check for vehicles coming out of driveways, staying alert when crossing roads, and being mindful of pedestrians even when riding on the footpath. Click on the link for more information: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0AIs0nRD9MBcIUk9PVA
- **Consideration for Our Neighbours:** A friendly reminder to all parents and caregivers dropping off or picking up children: please be respectful of our school neighbours. Ensure driveways remain completely clear, avoid parking over yellow lines, and maintain safe speeds around the school gates.

📱 Digital Safety: Managing Social Media & Snapchat

As some tamariki spend more time online, navigating social media safety becomes increasingly important for families. A reminder there are age restrictions in place for many social media platforms and our recommendation would be to not allow primary aged students to use social media. Platforms like Snapchat are popular among young people, but features such as disappearing messages, location sharing, and direct messaging with strangers require active parental guidance.

Tips for Parents

1. **Set Up In-App Parental Controls:** Snapchat offers features like *Family Centre*, allowing parents to see who their teen is communicating with without reading private messages.
2. **Check Location Settings:** Ensure location features (such as "Snap Map") are set to Ghost Mode or shared only with trusted friends.
3. **Keep Communication Open:** Regularly talk with your child about what they encounter online and establish clear household rules regarding app usage, age limits, and screen-free times.

Helpful Resources

For detailed step-by-step guides and advice on keeping your family safe online, please visit:

- Netsafe: Snapchat Family Toolkit
- Netsafe: Digital Guardian Guide for Parents

Ngā mihi nui,
Stu Devenport

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 10 October to Thursday 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.

Join GirlGuiding NZ!

Spaces are available now for girls aged 5-17 years in local Pippins, Brownies, Guides and Rangers units.

Make friends, try new things, earn badges, build confidence and have fun!

👉 Find out more at girlguiding.org.nz

Friendship • Adventure • Fun • Skills

Important Dates	
Date	**Event**
30 Oct	Whole school assembly led by Kererū
3 Nov	Wairua Zone Athletics
5 Nov	Wairua Zone Athletics PP day
17 Nov	InterZone Athletics
19 Nov	Interzone Athletics pp day
20 Nov	Whole school assembly led by Tūī
24-27 Nov	Oxted H&S Sale in STEAM Room
27 Nov	Kororā Fun Swim day
1 Dec	Regional Athletics
1 Dec	Road Patrol Pool party
3 Dec	Regional Athletics PP day
4 Dec	Kapa Haka sharing to Whānau 9.30 am
4 Dec	Whole school assembly led by Kororā
7-11 Dec	Y8 Abel Tasman Week
14 Dec	Y8 Formal
16 Dec 11am - 1pm	Y8 Leaver Assembly
16 Dec	Last day of the year - finishing at 1pm



