



Friday 26 May 2023,

Kia ora koutou Muritai whānau,

It's hard to believe we are halfway through Term 2, time is certainly flying by!

It has been a hive of activity around our kura over the past couple of weeks with our ākonga well immersed in the learning programmes. Some of the obvious highlights I've noted as I travel through the classrooms is the rich science experiences the classes are exploring currently. Kororā and Tūi have been enjoying a variety of science experiments - from bouncing eggs, dancing raisins and erupting volcanoes. Kererū have been exploring our local waterways, testing the quality of water. Kāhu are well underway with their personalised science fair projects with each student completing their own scientific investigation.

We've also had students out and about extending their learning. Kororā had a wonderful time at Pataka recently, learning more about what school life was like a long time ago. I also had the pleasure of attending the Young Leaders Day at Te Rauparaha Arena with Jon Mackie and our Kāhu leaders. What an inspirational day listening to great speakers focusing on the theme of 'Leading the Self.' Our leaders were fizzing after the day. Thank you for all being outstanding leaders and sound representatives for Muritai School!

It was great to see everyone in the pink for PINK SHIRT DAY last Friday! *Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora! Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!* This is always a focus for us at Muritai but it is always great to have a day to acknowledge its importance. Thank you to everyone who donated on this day - over \$370 was raised for the PinkShirt Day appeal. A special thanks to our Charity Ambassadors for organising the day.

Well done to our Kererū students who competed against Wellesley College last week in football - 3 wins and 1 loss on the day. It was wonderful to connect with our neighbouring school for a fun day on the pitch.



Thanks to our parents who assisted with transport and support on the day!

Some classes in Kererū and Tūi have also had an additional treat with visits from Saint Basketball players AND the Saint Cheerleaders. Basketball skills and new dance moves were all on offer!

Wow! It has been a busy old time at Muritai!!

Potential Teacher Strike Action

The NZEI Union is currently in discussions with the Government about another offer for the teachers and principals. There is however a possibility that there will be a nationwide strike on Wednesday 31st May 2023.

The earliest I am likely to have confirmation of this will be on Sunday 28th May so I wanted to flag this with you early as we may potentially be closed for instruction next Wednesday.

I'll keep you posted with any updates.

Structured Literacy Parent Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent information evening on Tuesday night. Jill Symonds from Learning Matters led a very informative session on our Structured Literacy initiative at Muritai School. It was great to share our current journey with you, particularly our aspirations of where we plan to get to.

Kapa Haka Rōpu - Preparing for HuttFest

In our last newsletter I asked you to keep a look out for how you can contribute to purchasing new outfits for our ever-increasing kapa haka rōpu. I'm pleased to let you know we have a Give a Little page set up, ready to receive contributions! Our goal is to reach \$10,000 which will fully fund our outfits (including piupiu) for all our tamariki participating in HuttFest at the end of this term - over one third of the school! If you'd like to contribute, check out our Give A Little Page here:



<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/muritai-school-kapa-haka-performance-ropu> We encourage you to share with friends and family around the motu!

Staffing update

Some of you may have heard two of our valuable teachers will be leaving us in the next couple of months. Holli Williams has been successful in securing a teaching position at an International School in Dubai later in the year. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for Holli and her family. It also positions her closer to her family who are based in the UK. Holli has been an asset to our school for over 5 years, teaching in a variety of classes and syndicates. I know she'll be greatly missed by students, staff and families across the school!

Emma Gill will be leaving our kura at the end of Term 2. Emma has decided to take a break from teaching and explore other possibilities. Emma has been at Muritai for close to 18 months and started her teaching with us during tricky Covid times. She has been a great teacher for some of our youngest learners at Muritai and we wish her all the best for the future.



I'm pleased to let you know we have two wonderful teachers to take over the teaching in Rooms 3 and 10. Sally Ingram will be joining the Kororā Team at the start of Term 3. Many of you will know Sally as she is a Muritai parent and previously taught in our Junior School before she had children. Sally is a regular reliever at Muritai and knows our space well. She has also had recent experience working at Wellesley College.

Sarah Bleier is joining Room 10 and the Kererū Team in Term 3, week 3. Sarah may also be a familiar face to many as she is also a Muritai parent and relief teacher. Sarah is an experienced teacher most recently working at Chilton Saint James and also Wellesley.

Both Sarah and Sally are super excited to be joining the Muritai Team. You'll no doubt see them around the place more frequently this term as they will be working alongside Holli and Emma for a smooth transition for their students.



Tracey Quirke, one of our valuable Teacher Aides is also leaving us this week. Tracey has accepted an in-home care position, closer to home in Wainuiomata. Tracey has been with us for close to 5 years, working with many of our students that require additional support with their learning. We thank Tracey for all her hard mahi over her time at Muritai and wish her well for the future.

Parent App is live!

Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who have already set up and logged into our new parent app. All going to plan you will be reading this newsletter via the app! If you haven't logged in yet, please click on the link that was emailed to you last week. As mentioned earlier, this will be a key tool to communicate with you as we progress through the year so we encourage you to get on board. It also provides you with a super easy way to notify us of student absences. If you are having trouble logging in, please feel free to pop into the school office and we can give you a hand with the set up.

eTAP
SCHOOL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Caregiver App
Info for Whānau and Caregivers

Communication between school and home all in one place

- My Child**
See your child's data, e.g. up to date contacts
- Absences**
Submit your child's absence and see absence history
- Newsletters & Notices**
No more paper notices & missing the school news
- Messages**
Group or individual messages from staff
- School website & calendar**
Easy access to school event dates
- Accounts***
Download statements & tax receipt
- eTAP Student Reports***
- School Interviews***
Book your time at your fingertips
- Permission Slips***
Submit permission for trips through the app
- School Docs***
View school policies, etc.
- Sickbay***
- School Facebook Page***
- Kindo***
- Spotlight Evidence***
- Blogging***

To download:
wait for the email from your school to receive your log in details

* You may not see all these icons. Your school will customize the app to suit.



Muritai School Spotlights

Muritai School is a place that is focused on our vision of Being The Best We Can Be. We embrace research and evidence to ensure the best teaching and learning approaches for our learners. Our focus for this week's newsletter is

Digital Technologies [Click here](#) to learn more about our 'Why' 'What' and 'How' of our learning programmes at Muritai.

Spotlight on Muritai School Digital Technology

What is Digital Technology?
Digital technologies are electronic, tools, systems, devices and resources that generate, create, store or process information. Learning about and with digital technologies will contribute to developing an informed digital society. Through the new Digital Technologies Curriculum students will develop:
Computational Thinking for Digital Technologies – Students will develop an understanding of computer science principles that underlie all digital technologies. They'll learn core programming concepts so that they can become creators of digital technology, not just users.
Designing and Developing Digital Outcomes – Students will learn how to design quality, fit-for-purpose digital solutions.

Why is it important?
The integration of digital technologies is about teaching children how to design their own digital solutions and become creators of, not just users of digital technologies, to prepare them for the modern and future workforce.

What does it look like?
Within classes you will see children using a range of digital tools to understand, practice and share learning. This could be using robotics, iPads, Chromebooks or internet tools.
Teachers will be purposefully creating opportunities to transform their programmes using digital technologies and tools.
Teachers, children and parents will be using a range of digital tools to communicate and share learning. These are Google Suite, Seesaw, Apple programmes, Facebook, etc.

Links to Research
SAHIS
Digital Technologies Curriculum
Future Focused Education
Technology Online
Future Focused Education
Future Focused Education

Links to our Learning Dispositions
The curriculum encourages students to look to the future by exploring such significant future-focused issues as sustainability, citizenship, enterprise, and globalisation. We need to teach higher level thinking skills and develop key competencies using technology to prepare students for the 21st century. Developing our learning dispositions enables our children to take effective and appropriate action in new and rapidly changing circumstances.

Explore
Children will explore a range of digital tools that will help them understand concepts, their learning and ways to meet their learning needs.

Connect
Children will make connections with concepts being covered in class and use digital tools to share, explain or understand them.

Contribute
Children will develop digital outcomes for particular purposes and learn to be responsible for ensuring security and privacy.



Muritai School Tea Towels

If you missed out on purchasing a Muritai School Tea Towel, we still have them available to purchase. These are \$15.00 each. Please complete this [google form](#) to place your order.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS - Term 2 Week 5



Congratulations to the following students who received a Principal Award at today's assembly. We are so proud of you all!

Room 1	George Coppell, Juno Calder
Room 2	Jackson Incledon, Finley Quinn
Room 3	Raffie Gould, Annabelle Parker
Room 5	George Troup Paul, Florence Taylor
Room 6	Lula Bates, Holly Jensen
Room 8	Georgia Gellatly, Willoughby Grieve
Room 9	Sovann Stewart, William Cleland
Room 11	Lily Cathie, Kaydince Ngaronga
Room 12	Arlo Mackintosh, Molly Innes
Room 15	Tate Wyatt, Olivia Merten
Room 16	Xavier Adsett Gibson, Willa South
Room 21	Fergus Gloag, Izzy Longson
Room 22	Alfie Clench, Isaac Beckett
Room 23	Chamber Pearce, Margareta Beatson
Room 24	Charlie Lewis, Sienna Chapman

The four lucky children having fish and chips with Stu are: William Cleland, Chamber Pearce, Willa South and Margareta Beaton. Well done everyone!



Congratulations Eva

Eva Te Whata competed in the Capital City Feis over the weekend, a national Irish dancing competition with dance schools from across NZ. She got first place for one of her dances. Well done Eva!



Muritai will be joining many other kuras across the country by participating in 'Jumping June'. This is a school wide fundraiser for the Heart Foundation whilst the children learn some fun skipping skills. More information will be sent home next week.

National Young Leaders Day

On Tuesday a group of senior students attended an awesome event being held in the Rauparaha Arena, Porirua. It was national young leaders day, or NYLD, an event where inspiring speakers talk to the leaders of the next generation. There were two very amusing hosts, Nate and Liz, and some fun games, one involving two gigantic inflatable volleyballs!



Now I'll tell you a bit about the speakers. First up we had quadriplegic Brad Smeele, who had been a wakeboarder, until he had a catastrophic injury causing him to be stuck in a wheelchair with no movement below his shoulders. Next we had Julia Grace, who encouraged us to be kind to our minds. She spoke about anxiety and having a jelly buddy, someone you can talk to when you feel, as she put it, wobbly.

After morning tea we heard Graci Kim, an author who had tried every ice cream flavour (or had a go at every sort of job available to humankind) and told us that if you make space for yourself, impossible is just "I'm possible". Then we heard actor Shane Rangī, who acted in Narnia, Avatar 2, and Lord of the Rings, among others. Then we had lunch, and to finish it off, a singer named Georgia Lines spoke and performed for us.

Overall it was a great day out, with a lot of important messages that got us thinking.

Issy Longson



Wellesley Football exchange

Last Wednesday we had a late invitation to play football against Wellesley College. Under the coaching expertise of Jeremy Field, Dan Bonifant and Stef Evans we managed to win three games out of four!! The teams were of mixed ability and contained quite a few boys that do not even play football.



After the games the teams were invited into the Wellesley gym and had pizza!!

Thanks to all the parents that helped with transport. We're looking forward to the traditional match day against Wellelsey on August 8th - mark it in your diaries.



Gardeners needed!
 Are you a keen gardener and have time to volunteer to support and guide our super keen Kahu Senior student gardeners in their Kahu garden on a regular basis - perhaps once a week or once every two weeks? It doesn't have to be for longer than 20 mins and can work around you. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please email Carmen McDonald at cmcdonald@muritai.school.nz

Important Dates	
Date	Event
26 May	Whole School Assembly at 1.30
2 June	Mihi Whakatau at 10am
9 June	Whole School Assembly at 1.30
12 June	Pizza Monday
13 June	Inter Zone Cross Country
14 June	BOT meeting at 6.30
15 June	PP for Inter Zone Cross Country
19 June	Pizza Monday
23 June	Whole School Assembly at 1.30
27 June	TBC Regional Cross Country
29 June	TBC PP Regional Cross Country
30 June	Last day of Term 2

School Dates for 2023:

- Term 1 Wednesday 1 February to Thursday 6 April
- Term 2 Monday 26 April to Friday 30 June
Teacher Only Day: Monday 24 April
ANZAC Day: Tuesday 25 April
- Term 3 Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September
- Term 4 Monday 9 October to Friday 15 December

Public Holidays 2023:

- Monday, 6 February: Waitangi Day
- Friday, 7 April: Good Friday
- Tuesday, 25 April: ANZAC Day
- Monday, 5 June: King's Birthday
- Friday, 14 July: Matariki
- Monday, 23 October: Labour Day

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.



Bluebridge is inviting your kids to practice with the Pulse!

Following on from a successful training session with the Hurricanes, we're now hosting a practice session with the Pulse. So attention, young Pulse fans! If your kids are aged 5 to 12, we're inviting them to join us and the **entire Pulse team** for 90 minutes of fun skills and activities, followed by a signing and photo session.

When: Tuesday, 30 May from 4 - 6 pm
Where: Akau Tangi Sports Centre, 72 Kemp Street, Kilbirnie, Wellington

To register your child, simply [click here](#) to complete the form. If you have more than one child wishing to attend, please fill out one form for each child.
We only have 100 spots available, so register your child now!

Registrations will close at 5 pm on Wednesday, 24 May, and if we have more than 100 registrations, a random ballot will be held to select participants. Those who've registered will receive an email the following day confirming whether they have secured a spot.

A vertical poster for the Big Bang DIRT DUATHLON SERIES. The top left features a logo with a blue dragonfly and the text 'BIG BANG SERIES DIRT DUATHLON NAVIGATE ON FOOT AND BIKE, DAY & NIGHT'. The main text reads: 'Join us for the Dirt Duathlon adventure race series 2023. Race 1: June 18th - Horowhenua. Race 2: July 23rd - Greater Wellington. Race 3 (in the dark!): - August 19th - Kapiti. Grab your team and enter now!'. The website 'www.dirtduathlon.co.nz' is at the bottom. On the right side, there are three photos of young participants: the top photo shows three boys in helmets and gear; the middle photo shows two boys holding a 'FINISH' banner; the bottom photo shows two boys on bicycles.