

## NEWSLETTER NO. 2 - 22nd February 2024

**Nau mai haere mai, Greetings | Tena Koutou | Konnichiwa | Groete | Namaste | Talofa Lava | Malo e Lelei | Ni sa bula | Fakalofa lahi atu | Kia Orana | Asalam Alykum | Ni Hao |**

It is with great delight to inform parents / caregivers of the calm and settled learning tone that is evident across our kura. Students are settled and engaged. Our learners clearly love being at school! Our staff clearly love being at school. Thank you staff, students and parents / whānua for a great start to 2024!

### **Meet and Greet Picnic**

Thank you to everyone that was able to attend our informal family picnic on Thursday 15th February. It was terrific to see our families, staff and board taking advantage of the fine weather to unite with one another. Lots of lovely conversations with students, ex-students, new families and families that have been part of our school community for a long time were had. The presence of our school community on the school grounds was a breath of fresh air! What a super place to belong!

The school would like to acknowledge our Healthy Active Learning facilitator Sandy. Our involvement with the Healthy Active Learning initiative contributes to improving the wellbeing of our children; our learners. Sandy gave up her time to unite with us to bring out some 'playground games'. This added a new and special element to our meet and greet picnic, and it was a great opportunity to see what our learners gravitated to in regards to play. We definitely saw the potential for future additions to our playground equipment.



### **Parent / Whānau Connect Meetings**

Week 5 (27th & 28th February) hosts our parent / whānau connect meetings. We hope that you can attend one of our whanaungatanga hui (connection meetings) taking place, as these days give you, our school whānua, the opportunity to connect with your child's teacher, discuss your child, ask questions, share with us any potential goals you may have, or simply tell us anything else you may like us to know about your child. The teaching team is very excited!



Online bookings for our 'Whānau Connect' meetings can be made through the Skool Loop app. You can download the app on the App Store or get it on Google Play.

If you have any questions or require assistance in booking your meeting time(s), do not hesitate in contacting Sharon in the office.

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# 'Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving'

## Annual Goals for 2024

In 2023, the Board engaged and consulted to understand what makes our school unique and what should be strengthened to help our tamariki, our children, succeed. The voice of students, teachers, staff, board, parents, whānau, iwi, community members and external agencies was heard.

We used a range of relevant feedback that we gathered as part of a robust internal self review. This feedback was moderated against the following National Legislative requirements and priorities to support us to 'sift and find' what really mattered for us to focus on over the next 2-3 years.

- **Te Mātaiaho: The Refreshed NZ Curriculum**
- **Board Primary Objectives** (these are set out in section 127 of the Education Training Act 2020)
- **Links to Educational Priorities** (This includes National Education Learning Priorities (NELP), education strategies or plans and curriculum statements).

From our 'sift and find' process we landed on three main strategic goals - what we want our kura, our school, to be focused on.

AKO  
Teaching & Learning

TO TATOU WAHI, TO TATOU IWI  
Our Place, Our People

HAUORA  
Well-Being

We will be sharing our 2024 annual actions on ClassDojo or you can find a copy of our strategic plan in the office.

## Bay Conservation Alliance

We are extremely fortunate that our involvement with Bay Alliance Conservation continues into 2024. Our Year 4-8 learners enjoyed their first visit in-class session on Thursday 15th February. This term they are learning about the importance of estuaries and the plants and animals that call the estuary home. Estuaries face many challenges, including sediment and marine pest animals. Fortunately, we can all help to solve these problems so we can continue to enjoy being in and around our estuaries. We will be learning lots more when out on our field trip in a few weeks.



## Garden to Table

Through the 'Garden to Table' programme, Whakamārama School aims to teach our learners the essential skills they need to be food-resilient. We wish to see our learners enthusiastically getting their hands dirty and learning how to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh, seasonal food. Our purpose, along with the 'Garden to Table' programme, is to empower our children with a love of good, fresh food and the skills they need to grow and prepare it; that will have a transformative and lifelong impact on their health and wellbeing.

We are now into the fourth year of Garden to Table 😊 This term - Room 4 learners. Across the last two weeks they have been busy harvesting, weeding, watering, pruning and of course - knife safety skills and cooking! Zucchini slice, roasted cabbage slaw, asian cucumber, plum cakes, zucchini and cauliflower fritters

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with tzatziki dressing are just some of the delights that our learners' taste buds have encountered. Great to see our learners trying foods!



## Board Investment Updates

Some of you may have noticed the upgrades that took place at the end of 2023 or across the summer break 😊

Through the fundraising efforts of parents / whānau from cross country and show day 2023, the board was able to invest in forum group tables for Room 4 (\$4,400). Room 4 is loving their new furniture. The board also invested in the supply and install of a hot water heater in the tech room (\$2,000), Chromebook device upgrade for our Year 2 students (\$3,500) and forum high tables for the tech room / garden to table room (\$3,800).

## Playground Loose Parts

Our tamariki love putting their creativity into play. They love loose parts (materials to to build, create, construct and deconstruct) and they love using PE equipment for any purpose other than what it is meant for 😊

Our learners quickly eyed up a delivery of some new pallets, moving them to their place of outdoor play. What creations will we encounter during break time today? 😊 Thank you Sharlene, Helen and Mark for organising these loose parts.



We are always on the hunt for 'loose parts / creative play equipment'. Please think of us if you happen to have access to, or know a source for, untreated wooden planks, PVC pipes, wooden or plastic cable reels and wooden pallets.

## REQUIREMENTS FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT

- **Phones away for the day**

All state schools / kura are required to implement a phone rule that has student phones 'away for the day' as soon as possible in Term 1 2024 and no later than the start of Term 2 2024. This is not applicable to us, as we don't have any children bringing phones to school 😊 Our policy will be updated inline with the new legislation and shared with you as soon as it is released.

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- **'One hour a day' teaching requirement**

From the beginning of Term 1 2024, schools / kura with students in years 0-8 will spend an average of one hour a day teaching each reading, writing, and maths. This could be in dedicated lessons, and in other learning areas as students read and write and engage with a variety of purposes and contexts. In our school, there is little change. So much of our learning is integrated, and cross-curricular learning opportunities will remain important.

## **Rippa Rugby - Ōmokoroa Modules**

Monday 19th February hosted a great start to the Term 1 rippa rugby modules at Ōmokoroa Sports Grounds. Thank you parents and coaches for making this all possible.

## **Camp Raglan - 11th - 13th November (Year 4-8)**

Thank you parents / whānau that returned the quick survey in regards to making a donation. Knowing about camp now provides you with sufficient warning to start setting some money aside for this donation. If you choose to set up a direct debit payment towards camp - please use 'camp' as reference.



## **Reading Together Programme**

Starting Monday 26th February, we will be running the Reading Together Programme. There are two more 'spots' available. Please contact Brenda, Mrs Williams, if you would like to participate in the programme or have any questions around what the programme entails.

## **School Bank Account Details - Whakamārama School Board of Trustees**

38-9012-00776579-00

Please remember it is important that you use a reference for your deposit i.e. Rippa, Stationery, Lunches, Uniform.

**School T-Shirts** We will be placing an order for school t-shirts on Monday 26th of February, if you would like to place an order, please send Sharon an email and she will send home an order form for you.

## **Police Vetting**

Volunteers who have unsupervised access to students e.g. camp helpers, sports coaches and parent helpers are required to be police vetted. To support future attendance at school camps or involvement in activities that may require parents / caregivers to work with students unsupervised, police vetting forms are available from the office for your consideration to complete.

**IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING EXPRESSING INTEREST IN ATTENDING CAMP RAGLAN WHEN THE TIME COMES, IT IS VITAL THAT YOU COMPLETE A VETTING CONSENT FORM AND BRING IN TWO FORMS OF IDENTITY THAT CAN BE SIGHTED.**

**THIS INCLUDES PARENTS THAT MAY HAVE A CURRENT POLICE VET WITH ANOTHER ORGANISATION  
IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR ORGANISATION TO POLICE VET ALL NEW CHILD VOLUNTEERS /  
WORKERS**

## **Policies and Procedures**

All school policies and procedures can be viewed at our SchoolDocs Site using the username and password below. The SchoolDocs Site contains a search tool allowing you to search for a topic or theme.



How to login:

1. Go to [schooldocs.co.nz](http://schooldocs.co.nz)

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2. Click Search for your school (top, right)
3. Start typing our school's name and select it from the dropdown list.
4. Enter our community username (whakamarama) and password (unity)

**CONGRATULATIONS to students who received a class award at our whole school assembly on Friday 16th of February. Mīharo!**

ROOM 3 RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES		
<b>Week 3 16th February</b>		Room 3 celebrated all our students for being super stars and settling in so well to Room 3 and their learning., A great start to 2024 in Room 3!
ROOM 2 RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES		
<b>Week 3 16th February</b>	Ruby	For a super start to the year and being a role model to those around you!
	Arjun	For demonstrating Manawa-nui by being kind, caring and helpful to the new children in Room 2
	Wolf	A super start to your year - you listen carefully and give new things a go!
ROOM 4 RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES		
<b>Week 3 16th February</b>	Kingston	For beginning the year with a 'can do' attitude and focused work habits. I look forward to seeing you soar this year, Kingston!
	Brayden	For your dedicated attitude towards your learning - listening, sharing ideas and completing tasks to a high standard. Ka rawe, Brayden!
	Eva	For displaying Manawa-nui by being a respectful member of the class with impeccable manners. Tino pai, Eva!
ROOM 1 RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES		
<b>Week 3 16th February</b>	Isla	He whetū koe You're a star! For being a confident contributor in her maths group. Keep it up!
	Ethan L	Ka rawe Showing excellent perseverance during maths. Keep it up!
	Tristan	Ka pai tō mahi For being a deep thinker and sharing his ideas in his maths group.
	Jake	Tau kē tō mahi! Awesome work! For being an engaged and motivated learner - a great role model in Room 1!

## SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD

Please keep yourself up-to-date with the school newsboard that comes out fortnightly in the newsletter or on the the school website

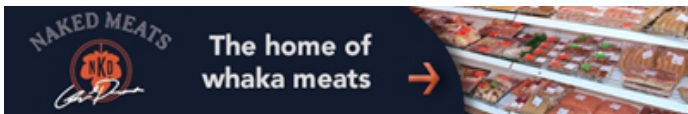
HUI-TANGURU / FEBRUARY 2024	
Monday 26th	Reading Together Programme 6pm
Tuesday/Wednesday 27th/28th	Whānau Connect Meetings
Thursday 29th	Top Schools Comp Omokoroa Year 7 / 8 (selected students)
Poutū-te-rangi / March	
Friday 1st	Top Schools Comp Omokoroa Year 5 / 6 (selected students)
Friday 1st	Assembly - Come join us! 2.15pm
Friday 1st	Hearing and Vision testing 11.30am
Monday 4th	Reading Together Programme 6pm
Wednesday 6th	Rooms 2 & 3 Swimming Showcase
Thursday 7th	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Friday 8th	Room 1 & 4 Estuary Field Trip PP Friday 22nd
Monday 11th	Reading Together Programme 6pm
Thursday 14th	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Friday 15th	Assembly - Come join us! 2.15pm
Tuesday 19th	Small School Swimming Sports Yrs 5 & 6 PP Thursday 21st
Thursday 21st	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Saturday 23rd	Have A Go Tryathlon - Pahoia School
Monday 25th	Reading Together Programme 6pm
Tuesday 26th	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Tuesday 26th	North Cluster Swim Sports PP Thursday 28th

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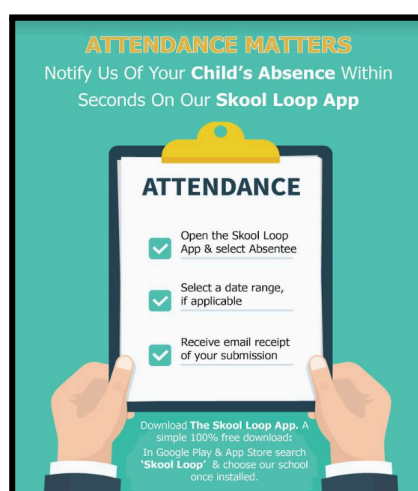
# 'Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving'

Thursday 28th	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Thursday 28th	Assembly - Come join us! 2.15pm
Friday 29th	GOOD FRIDAY - School closed
<b>Paenga-whāwhā / April</b>	
Monday / Tuesday 1st & 2nd	EASTER HOLIDAY - School closed
Thursday 4th	Technology - Years 7 & 8 - wear covered in shoes
Friday 5th	ARGOS Gymnastics Years 5 & 6
Friday 12th	ARGOS Gymnastics Years 3 & 4
Friday 12th	Assembly - Come join us! 2.15pm
Friday 12th	END OF TERM 1
Monday 29th April	Term 2 starts
<b>Haratua / May</b>	

Thanks the below businesses for sponsoring our school app Skool Loop:



If you would like to advertise on the Whakamārama School Skool Loop App please email [Content@skoolloop.com](mailto:Content@skoolloop.com) download the app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose Whakamarama School once installed.



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