

Whenuapai School

14 Airport Road, Auckland
New Zealand

Newsletter – 17 June 2025



Kia ora e te whānau,

We're looking forward to celebrating Matariki together tomorrow morning at 7:00am on the Home Campus courts. Matariki marks the Māori New Year and is a time to reflect, prepare, and celebrate the past, present, and future.

Our celebration will begin with a karakia (prayer) and a hautapu (food offering ceremony) to acknowledge four whetū (stars) connected to kai (food). Afterwards, come and enjoy a Matariki breakfast in the hall while our Kapa Haka rōpū performs waiata (songs) to mark the occasion.

Matariki is a time for whānau and community to come together, and we look forward to sharing this time with you.

A reminder that **Friday is a public holiday** in honour of Matariki.

HERO Survey - A big thank you to everyone who completed our recent HERO survey. We asked how you would prefer to give feedback as part of our ongoing community consultation. Here's what you told us:

- Online Survey: 383 responses
- Community Meeting: 16 responses

We appreciate your input—it helps us plan effective ways to hear from our school whānau.

Strategic Plan - Every three years, the School Board is required to develop a new Strategic Plan that sets the direction for our school's future. This plan outlines the key goals and priorities that will guide our decisions, teaching, and learning over the coming years.

To ensure that the Strategic Plan truly reflects the hopes, needs, and expectations of our school community, it's essential that we hear from you - our parents, caregivers, and whānau. Your voice helps shape the vision and direction of our school, and ensures we stay responsive, inclusive, and focused on what matters most to our community.

At the moment, the Board is finalising a set of survey questions that will form the basis of this consultation. These questions are designed to gather your thoughts on what's working well, what could be improved, and what aspirations you have for our tamariki and the school as a whole.

We'll be seeking your feedback early in Term 3, so please keep an eye out for more information on how to participate. Your voice is hugely valued and plays a vital role in shaping a strong, vibrant future for our school.

The following information is from our current Strategic Plan:

Our School Mission - We partner with tamariki to create a future guided by Mana (Respect for Self), Ako (Respect for Learning), Kaitiakitanga (Respect for Environment), and Kotahitanga (Respect for Others).

Our Values - Kaitiakitanga, Ako, Kotahitanga, Mana.

Current Strategic Goals:

- **Kaitiakitanga:** Embracing the importance of caring for our whānau, ourselves, our whenua (land), and te taiao (environment).
- **Ako:** Growing responsive teaching practices and strong educational pathways to empower success for all.
- **Kotahitanga:** Creating a culture in which tamariki and our wider school community feel heard, valued, and connected.
- **Mana:** Continuing to grow a school that is responsive and welcoming to all, embracing and respecting all cultures, ethnicities, and individualities.

We're excited to continue working in partnership with you to shape the future of our school.

Ngā mihi nui,
Adam Cels



Dates for your diary

Tuesday – 17 June Massey High School Open Night • 4.00pm to 5.30pm or 6.00pm to 7.30pm	Wednesday – 25 June Snr Campus House Afternoon
Wednesday – 18 June 7.00am Matariki celebration 6.00 pm – Board Meeting	Friday – 27 June Last day of Term 2
Friday – 20 June Matariki – NO SCHOOL	28 June – 13 July School Holidays
Monday – 23 June Home Campus House Afternoon	Monday – 14 July First day of Term 3
Tuesday – 24 June NW Hockey	Tuesday – 29 July NW Netball

ICAS – Registrations are now Open

A detailed post has gone home on HERO

If you wish for your child to participate in ICAS this year, please:

1. Read about ICAS subjects and prices [click here](#).
2. Read the terms and conditions [click here](#).
3. Go to Parent Portal [click here](#).
4. Enter your child's details, select the tests you would like to purchase, then proceed to payment.



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

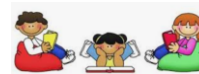
"Run It Straight" Game Not Permitted at School

We would like to make you aware that the game known as "Run It Straight" is **not permitted** at school. Although this game has never been allowed, we have noticed it emerging in our school environment recently due to an online trend circulating on social media. The game involves high-impact physical contact and poses a significant risk of injury, which is not aligned with the safe and respectful play we expect during break times. Our staff will be speaking with students to explain the risks and to make it clear that this game is not appropriate. We ask for your support in reinforcing this message at home and encouraging your child to choose safe and inclusive ways to play with others. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and positive environment for all our students.

Book Club Issue 4 - Available Now

Issue 4 PDF

[Click Here](#) - to
view and order
online



2025 School Board Elections - Online



Every three years, all public schools in Aotearoa hold elections for their School Boards, and this will happen again in 2025.

The School Board is a key part of our kura (school) because it does a lot of important work behind the scenes. While these efforts may not always be visible, they are essential to keeping our kura running smoothly. Our School Board writes our strategic plan, consults with our community about matters that are important to us, ensures our finances are spent wisely, and works to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within our kura.

Our board is made up of five parent representatives, the Principal, and one staff representative elected by the staff.

The board is required to appoint a Returning Officer to manage the election process. We have appointed **Election Pilot** as the Returning Officer for our election, which will be conducted **online**. Election Pilot has been assisting schools with elections for over 20 years and is currently the only election provider accredited by the Ministry of Education to deliver online election services since these began in 2022.

Important documents such as nomination and voting forms will be sent to you directly by Election Pilot via email. If we don't have an email address for you, don't stress—Election Pilot will send these to you by post so you won't miss out.

There are a number of legal requirements surrounding School Board elections. The main ones are set out in the Education and Training Act 2020 and the Education (Board Elections) Regulations 2022. Your name and contact details have been provided to Election Pilot so they can deliver election services for our kura, as required by law. They will only use your information for Whenuapai School's election and will delete all contact details 60 days after the election, in line with legislative requirements.

If you have any questions about the election process, the best people to talk to are the team at **Election Pilot**. You can contact the Returning Officer directly on **0800 VOTENZ (0800 868 369)** or by emailing election@electionpilot.nz.

We'll continue to keep you updated as we move through the election process. **Our election date is Wednesday, 10 September 2025.**



Whenuapai School
TE IWA O
MATARIKI

Whenuapai School

14 Airport Road

Wednesday 18th June

7am

Matariki is the Māori New Year, marked by the rising of the Matariki star cluster, symbolising reflection, preparation, and celebration of the past, present, and future.



Join us on the courts for karakia, and hautapu to acknowledge four whetū connected to kai. Then enjoy a Matariki breakfast as our Kapa Haka rōpū perform waiata in the hall.

Piwakawaka Zoo Trips



Recently, our Yr 3 & 4 Students have had some wonderful adventures at Auckland Zoo. After learning more about what animals need to survive from the Zoo Educators, we were tasked with creating the right kind of habitat for a (pretend) zoo animal. Our students were amazing kaitiaki and designed some grassland enclosures for the zebra, some high ropes fun for the orangutans and some deep water fun for the seals.



We loved touring the Zoo after our Educator Sessions. The new Dinosaur area was a favourite and seeing the Kiwi foraging for food was AmaZing!



**Thank you to all
our Awesome
Parent Helpers!!
Ngā mihi nui ki a
koutou xx**



Kiwi Valley Farm

Feeding animals

Trip With Tūi Team



Tractor rides



Horse rides





Whenuapai Community Event

Kapa Haka



Pasifika



It's that time again!

NorthWest Rewards Schools runs until Sunday, 13th July.

Shop at NorthWest Shopping Centre and vote for Whenuapai School.

Every vote you place also puts you in the draw to win a \$250 NorthWest gift voucher!

Happy shopping and thanks for your support!



**SHOP & VOTE
FOR YOUR
LOCAL SCHOOL**

Total school prize pool of
\$6,000*
Cash to be won!

**NorthWest Rewards Schools is back.
Shop and vote for your local school
to win a share of \$6,000!***

Plus, for every vote, you'll go in the draw to WIN*
a \$250 NorthWest gift voucher for yourself!

9 June — 13 July 2025

*T&Cs apply.
See website for full details.

Love, NorthWest

NOR
+ HW
ES +



Help your local school win cash!*

VOTE & BE IN TO WIN* A
\$250
NORTHWEST GIFT VOUCHER

9 June to 13 July 2025, 1 receipt = 1 vote for your local school when you shop at NorthWest Shopping Centre.

We're rewarding schools - but it's up to you to tell us who! It's easy as 1, 2, 3:

- 1 Shop at NorthWest Shopping Centre
- 2 Take your receipt to the Customer Service Kiosk and submit your vote
- 3 Track your school's progress in-centre or online at northwestshoppingcentre.co.nz

Participating schools include:

- Colwill School
- Hobsonville Point Primary
- Hobsonville School
- Huapai District School
- Marina View School
- Matua Ngaru School
- Parakai School
- Riverhead School
- Scott Point School
- Tirimoana School
- Waitakere Primary School
- Whenuapai School
- Woodhill School

How it works:

At the end of the promotion, the school with the highest average spend per student will WIN \$3,000 CASH for their school. The school with the second highest points will receive \$2,000 CASH and the school with the third highest points will receive \$1,000 CASH.

Plus! Every vote you place puts you in the draw to WIN* a \$250 NorthWest gift voucher.

Thank you for your support!

*T&Cs apply.
See website for full details.

Love, NorthWest

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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (🧑) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥🍺 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around	🥰 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
😎 (Cool face) Cool, stylish or ruthless	👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
😂 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement	🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
😐 (Meh) Stone-faced, unbothered	👉 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great	🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

🍷 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)	🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
☁️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine	🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use	🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis	⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse	🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



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School Notices:



For our Policies and Procedures please visit SchoolDocs at:

www.schooldocs.co.nz/

User – whenuapai
Password – airport

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Concerns or Complaints

Managing complaints appropriately, using fair and consistent practice, is an important part of how we support our school community.

If you have a concern, we encourage you to follow the process outlined in our school's policies.

You can find the full procedure on our **SchoolDocs website**:



[Click Here](#)



MUSIC LESSONS at Whenuapai School

Would you like in-school lessons with a professional Music Tutor with many years of teaching experience? You can enrol your child in drum, trumpet, sax, clarinet, keyboard, guitar or ukulele lessons at Whenuapai School!

We deliver a fun, varied and structured curriculum. Students learn songs in styles ranging from traditional to contemporary during school hours.

For more information on Trumpet, Sax, Clarinet, Keyboard, Ukulele and Guitar lessons, contact **Gloria Arboleda Martinez**
gloria.arboleda@musiqhub.co.nz
Ph 0274 422 654

For more information on drum lessons, contact **Paul Barry**
paul.barry@musiqhub.co.nz
Ph 022 198 0044

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Ph: 09 666 0240

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search for Whenuapai



Onsite: 021 174 8473
(Only checked during opening hours)
www.skids.co.nz/whenuapai

AIMS Netball - Fundraiser

Last Week to Order Frozen Pies & Savouries

Orders close 5.00pm this Sunday, 22 June -**don't miss out!**

These tasty pies and savouries are the perfect freezer filler.

Every purchase helps the Year 8 Netball Team on their journey to the AIMS Games 2025.

Starting from just \$14.

Click here to order:

<https://whenuapaischoolpies.raiseit.co.nz/lwmcywml5>



Thanks for the support!



Meet the Principal
Strategic Plan & Data
Q & A

you are invited!

6pm - 7pm

Wednesday 18 June

**at Whenuapai School
Senior Campus**

Everyone welcome!

We are happy to meet all whānau
with children in any year level as
well as those enrolling for 2026!





INNOVATE ENGAGE INSPIRE

We create a stimulating, inclusive learning environment that empowers learners to contribute confidently, knowledgeably, and responsibly in our changing world.
Whāia te iti kahurangi!




You are invited to our
**HOBSONVILLE POINT SECONDARY SCHOOL
OPEN EVENING**
Presentations and Tours will run on
Monday 21 July 2025
from 5:30pm to 7:30 pm

**NAU MAI HAERE MAI
JOIN US IN 2026**

SEE US IN ACTION!
WE ALSO HAVE **OPEN DAY TOURS** RUNNING ON
THURSDAY 24 & FRIDAY 25 JULY
BOOK ONLINE AT

 www.hpss.school.nz



HOBSONVILLE POINT SECONDARY SCHOOL

TRANSITION & INDUCTION

Key transition and induction dates for 2026 new students

Date	Event
Term 2 Week 4 to Week 8	Transition/Q&A twilight sessions at primary schools
Term 3 Week 1 & 2	Transition visits to Year 8s at Primary Schools
Term 2 Week 6	Enrolments Open hpss.school.nz
Monday 21 July 2025	Open Evening 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Thursday 24 and Friday 25 July	Open Day Tours - bookings via the website at end of Term 2
Monday 11 August - Saturday 16 August	Enrolment Week: Enrolment Hui with SLT
Monday 13 October - Saturday 18 October	Enrolment Week: Enrolment Hui with SLT
Thursday 13 November 9.30am - 11.30am	Pre-Orientation workshop & tour for students who are not from one of our feeder primary schools
Tuesday 25 November	Orientation Day for all Year 8s and new students joining us in 2026 (parents/Y8 teachers welcome and invited to Morning Tea with SLT and optional tour of school)
Friday 30 January 2026	Individual Education Meetings (IEMs) meet the hub coach
Monday 2 February 2026 9am	Pōwhiri & Induction Day - start for all Year 9s and new students to HPSS
Tuesday 3 February 2026	All students start

Help us reduce waste at school by packing a **waste-free lunchbox!**



Waste Free Lunchboxes



Whenuapai School is an EnviroSchool and we ask that students come to school with waste free lunches (**Nood Food**) to show Kaitiakitanga/Respect to our school environment.



A waste free lunch means only packing items that can be composted or recycled. That means, **no plastic wrap, no foil, no zip lock bags and no packaged foods**. We have compost bins for food scraps which we feed to our worm farm which then fertilises our vegetable māra/gardens and fruit trees. Through this process we are teaching the students to be responsible for the waste they create and how they can make a difference to our planet. **If students bring waste to school, we ask them to please take this home.** Thank you for supporting our school value of Kaitiakitanga/Respect for the Environment.



NUDE FOOD: HEALTHY, FRESH & WASTE-FREE!

What is Nude Food?

Nude Food is simply food that is not wrapped in foil, plastic, or commercial packaging. It's all about fresh, healthy, and environmentally friendly choices!

Why Choose Nude Food?

- Encourages healthy eating habits
- Reduces waste and helps protect the environment
- Empowers students to make conscious food choices

Tips on How to Pack a Nude Food Lunch

- Use reusable containers for food and drinks
- Bring cutlery from home instead of using plastic utensils
- Choose a lunchbox with separate sections to keep food fresh

Try to Avoid These Items:

- ✗ Zip lock or plastic bags.
- ✗ Plastic wrap or aluminum foil

Tips for Packing a Nude Food Lunch

- ★ Get the kids involved in choosing their lunches to reduce food waste
- ★ Buy larger portions of yogurt or snacks and portion them into reusable containers
- Choose in-season fruits and vegetables—they are fresher, more affordable, & better for the environment!



Parent Portal

Linewize is a FREE online safety tool available to all our families and here's how it can help:

- **See What Your Child Sees:** Linewize allows you to see a filtered report of your child's browsing activity, including websites and search terms. This gives you a springboard for discussions about online content.
- **Spark Conversations:** Use Linewize reports to talk to your child about what they find interesting online. This is a great opportunity to teach critical thinking skills and discuss online dangers.
- **Set Boundaries Together:** Linewize allows you to set website filters and time limits for your child's internet use. Work with your child to create a safe and responsible online routine.

For more information, please visit <https://whenuapai.onlinesafetyhub.nz/>

Our school is proud of the work we do to foster and promote positive relationships and social skills through our restorative PB4L approach. We place great emphasis on our core values and provide engaging behaviour lessons to empower students to make positive choices.

With your help and support, we can continue to guide our tamariki on their journey towards responsible online behaviour and overall well-being.

Thank you for being an important part of our community.



Schoolwear

School Uniform

You can now purchase our school uniform not only online via the [Argyle Online website](#) but also in person at Argyle's retail shop, giving you the option of a full in-store shopping experience.

Retail Store Location:

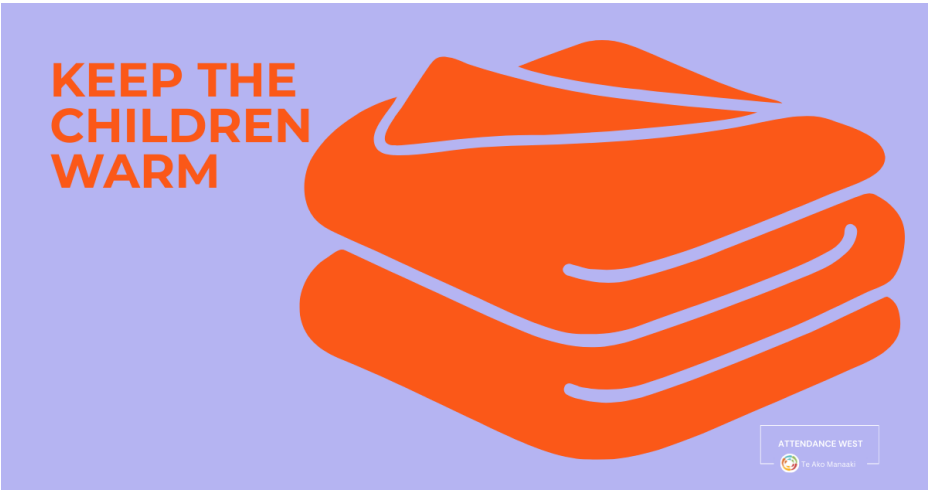
- Unit 4, 91 Central Park Drive, Henderson
- Retail Store Term Hours: 3.00-6.00pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For the best service, we recommend booking a fitting appointment. Simply visit our school's page on Argyle Online and click on 'Book a Fitting'.

Please note: Limited parking is available in front of the store.

[Click Here to Book a Fitting](#)





Keep Children Warm This Winter

As winter sets in, some of the children and families supported by *Attendance West* are facing the cold without the basics — warm bedding, duvets, or even a heater at home.

To help, Attendance West has launched a series of **blanket drives**, collecting clean, warm bedding and blankets to pass directly to families in need. The response so far has been heart-warming, thanks to the generosity of local communities — and now, we’re joining in!

Whenuapai School is proud to support this initiative and is now a drop-off location for donations.

How you can help?

If you have any clean, warm blankets or bedding you no longer need, please drop them off at the School Office.

Every donation makes a difference.

Thank you for your support!



**HUAPAI-KUMEU
LIONS CLUB**

BOOK FAIR

KUMEU COMMUNITY CENTRE

35 ACCESS ROAD KUMEU

**SATURDAY 28TH
& SUNDAY 29TH
JUNE
9AM TO 3PM**

CHILDRENS BOOKS \$1.⁰⁰

ALL OTHER BOOKS \$2.⁰⁰

