Whenuapai School

14 Airport Road, Auckland New Zealand

Newsletter – 16 September 2025

Kia ora e te whānau,

Earlier in the year, we shared one of the greatest strengths of our school community - our diversity. The wide range of values, experiences, and perspectives that each whānau brings makes our kura a vibrant place to learn and grow. We also reflected on how our school values are the foundation that holds us together, guiding the way we learn, play, and flourish. This remains true, and we are incredibly proud of our tamariki, their learning journeys, and the supportive community that surrounds them.

As the year has unfolded, we've seen a significant increase in our roll, particularly with our youngest learners. At the start of Term 4, we will have over 160 Year 0 and Year 1 students spread across 11 classrooms. This growth is exciting, as it means more whānau joining our community, bringing new perspectives and strengths to our school.

But as our kura has grown (from the mid-400s to over 700 students in just 3.5 years) and as tamariki join us from a wider variety of Early Childhood Centres, different cultural backgrounds, varied whānau expectations around behaviour, and increasingly busy and complex home lives, we are noticing both subtle and not-so-subtle changes in some of the behaviours being presented at school. This isn't unexpected, and it reflects what many schools across Aotearoa are experiencing in the changing landscape of childhood.

Alongside this, we've carefully reviewed your feedback gathered through community surveys and recognised that we need to make some shifts. The Senior Leadership Team has been exploring what changes will best support our learners through professional learning, research, and visits to other schools and education systems. (For example, we were part of a large group of Auckland educators who spent last Saturday at a conference on developing effective school-wide behaviour curriculums led by Tom Bennett.) As a result, we are beginning a journey to reshape our behaviour curriculum so that it better meets the needs of all tamariki.

We will continue to hold restorative practices as a core part of how we support behaviour, but we are also moving towards a more specific, structured behaviour curriculum. This will be gradually rolled out across the school from the beginning of 2026.

The aim is to provide consistency: a clear set of expectations and responses that every kaiako and every classroom will follow. For tamariki, this reduces uncertainty and helps them feel secure in knowing what is expected, wherever they are in the school. For teachers, it ensures everyone is supported in the same way and that consequences are fair and consistent.

We also understand that for some families, this approach may feel different from how you guide your children's behaviour at home. It's important to remember that children often behave differently in a group or shared environment compared with a home setting. When we contact you about your child's behaviour, our intention is not to criticise but to share what we are seeing, explain the steps we've taken, and work alongside you to support your child to learn from the experience and move forward positively. To be a productive member of society, tamariki need to understand that different environments and social settings come with different behaviour expectations.

Modern education is no longer just about learning to read, write, and do maths. We are also expected to teach children how to:

- Regulate their emotions in healthy ways
- Accept and celebrate differences within a diverse community
- Build resilience when things don't go their way
- Understand that actions have both positive & negative consequences, and that mistakes are opportunities to learn
- Contribute to a community where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected

This year, with the support of the Board, we have already taken steps to strengthen support for our tamariki, including:

- Maintaining low teacher-to-student ratios in our junior classes
- Employing additional learning support staff
- Opening the Hauora Hub as a place for wellbeing support
- Preparing to open a sensory room in Term 4 to give tamariki spaces to regulate and reset



You may already have heard about, or spoken with staff about, our new Hauora Hub. This is a dedicated space has been designed to support the wellbeing of our tamariki, whether through small group sessions, one-to-one support, or simply having a safe place to pause and reset during the school day.

At the heart of the Hauora Hub is the belief that hauora (wellbeing) and ako (teaching and learning) go hand-in-hand in supporting our ākonga (learners) and their whānau (families). The Hub provides a calm, supportive environment for both students and staff, while responding proactively to the diverse needs of learners across our kura. The space also brings together a multidisciplinary team, specialist teachers, teacher aides, and Ministry of Education therapists (eg: SLT, OT, Ed Psych) who collaborate to deliver tailored, holistic support.

We know that every family brings different values, expectations, and approaches. Part of our role as a kura is to create a consistent environment where tamariki feel safe, respected, and ready to learn. By continuing to work together, and drawing on the richness of our community, we can ensure every child has the chance to thrive.

School Board Update - As we welcome a new Board of Trustees, we want to extend a huge thank you to our outgoing board members for their dedication, time, and governance over the past three years. Their mahi has guided our kura through a busy and often challenging period that has included the design and implementation of the Senior Campus, the rollout of our new school curriculum, and managing unprecedented growth and change within our school community. We are deeply grateful for their leadership and commitment to Whenuapai School.

We also warmly congratulate and welcome our new board members who will take office tomorrow, 17 September:

- Jane Knobloch, Laura Harvey, Jess Wright, Sam Lee, and Paul Matenga (Parent Representatives)
- Olivia Mead (Staff Representative)

Please see the HERO post for the full declaration of results.

AIMS - Congratulations to all our students for an amazing week at AIMS and for representing Whenuapai School and our values so highly – we are incredibly proud of you all! A huge thank you also goes to the parent helpers and coaches who supported our teams throughout the week. Your commitment, time, and energy make such an incredible experience possible for our students, giving them opportunities to learn, grow, and create lasting memories. We are so grateful for everything you do to make weeks like this a success!

Cultural Showcase - Our Cultural Showcase is happening this Thursday, 18 September! We'll be running showcases across both campuses throughout the day, giving parents with children performing at different sites the chance to enjoy each performance. Performance times:



- 9:30am Junior campus performance
- 11:40am Junior campus second performance



- 9:30am Senior campus performance
- 1:45pm Senior campus second performance

This schedule also allows students to experience performances across campuses. If you'd like your child to see their sibling perform, you're welcome to collect them and attend together.

You can look forward to a vibrant celebration of cultures from all over the world, from folk dancing and gumboot dancing to Bollywood! Our Kapa Haka group will also be performing.

It's set to be a day full of energy, talent, and cultural pride. Mark your calendars — we can't wait to see you there!

End of Term - We hope you enjoy the final week of term and have a wonderful holiday break. School will finish at the usual time this Friday, 19 September. Please note that during the holiday period our school grounds will be closed at times for health and safety reasons:

- The school grounds will be closed on Wednesday, 1 October while demolition work takes place on the building at the end of the basketball court.
- In Term 4, Weeks 1–2 (7–17 October), the hall will be closed for painting and installation work.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, 5 October 2025.

Ngā mihi nui,

Adam Cels

Dates for your diary	
Thursday – 18 September	Monday – 27 October
Cultural Festival – Details on HERO	Labour Day – School Closed
Friday – 19 September	Tuesday – 4 November
Last day of Term 3	NW Touch – Year 7&8
20 September – 5 October	Tuesday – 11 November
School Holidays	NW Touch – Year 7&8
Monday – 6 October	Friday – 12 December
First Day of Term 4	Mistletoe Mania
Thursday – 23 October	Wednesday – 17 December
NW Badminton – Year 7&8	Last Day of Term 4

FOW Raffle Winners 💒



Congratulations to our recent FOW Raffle winners!

- Cathy Wildermoth Laser Plumbing & Gas gift hamper
 - Hina Nafe Bunnings car cleaning kit
 - Christina Green Nutrition Warehouse fitness duffle
 - Sarah Harrison Silca System Prezzy card
 - Samneek Kaur Morepork voucher
 - Brandice Bezuidenhout Hunting & Fishing voucher

And a huge thank you to one of our amazing parents, Julie, for her hard work in organising these fabulous prizes and raising funds for our new school playground.

Celebrating Success....



We are delighted to celebrate Sanaya

a Year 4 student, who recently took part in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) for the very first time.

The AMC is a prestigious international problem-solving contest with more than 250,000 students worldwide, including thousands across New Zealand.

Sanaya earned a Credit Award, placing her in the top 55% of Year 4 participants nationally – an excellent result in a challenging competition designed to test logical reasoning and creative

We are so proud of Sanaya's persistence, effort, and success in this highly competitive event – ka pai! 🥎







Save the Date

Friday, 12 December 2025 - 4.00-7.00pm

Mark your calendars – **Thursday 12 December** is our much-loved Mistletoe Mania, one of the absolute highlights of the school year! Led by the incredible Bailey Greer and her team, this event promises to be one you won't want to miss. When the call goes out for helpers, we'd love our school community to get behind the team and support in any way possible.



Term Dates

Meet the Teacher Day: Thursday 5th February

Starts - Monday, 9th Feb Ends – Thursday, 2nd April

Term 2

Starts - Monday, 20th April Ends – Friday, 3rd July

Term 3

Starts – Monday, 20th July Ends – Friday, 25th September

Term 4

Starts - Monday, 12th October Ends – Friday, 18th December



Book Club Issue 6 -**Available Now**



Issue 6 PDF

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OUR CHOIR

AT THE WHIRIA TE TANGATA MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025







Our school choir, a harmonius group of 29 students, performed at the Whiria Te Tangata Music festival last week. It was a magical evening and celebration of music.

After months of lunchtime rehearsals and visits to other schools to work with the expert conductor, Mrs Timmermans, we got to perform ten songs in front of an audience of hundreds. This performance was a collaboration of ten schools across the Northwest, from our Kāhui Ako.

Congratulations to all of our choir members for representing our school so beautifully. Special mentions to Xanthe and Uriah for singing some lead parts in *Tōku Reo Tōku Ohooho*, and Seleen for her solo in *When I Grow Up*.

Thanks to Kelly, Karen, and Chelsea for supporting us on rehearsal days.

You can see our choir in action one last time at Thursday's Cultural Showcase at the Senior Campus.







DREAM WORK

Mercury



ZESPRI AIMS GAMES 2025

Tino pai mahi/great job to all our Yr8 AIMS Netball team who demonstrated

AWESOME

respect, teamwork and grit at the recent AIMS Netball Tournament in Tauranga.

After winning the A grade at our local Wider West Netball competition this year, our Yr 8 Poseidons made a goal of coming in the top 100 teams (122 in total) at AIMS. They rallied against some really challenging opposition, winning 5 games (losing 4) and demonstrated awesome mahi tahi (teamwork) to finish in 85th place. Well done girls!!

We are so incredibly proud of you all:)













AIMS FOOTBALL

When we first arrived at the AIMS Games, excitement filled the air. We checked into our Airbnb, right by the football fields After settling in, we made our way to the Opening Ceremony. The atmosphere was electric a powerful haka was performed, and the night was capped off with a live performance by New Zealand rapper Kings. It was the perfect way to begin our journey.

The next morning, nerves and excitement collided as we prepared for our first match against Raroa Intermediate. From the opening whistle, they came at us hard, scoring goal after goal until the final whistle left us with a crushing 9-0 defeat. It was disappointing, but we reminded ourselves it was only the beginning. Our second game against Havelock North Intermediate gave us hope, especially when Jett came close to scoring, but their keeper denied him and we fell 4-0.

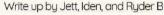
With the basketball team cheering us on during our next match against ACG Strathallan College, the energy lifted. They scored first, but then Iden sliced through their defense and smashed the ball into the net. The roar from the sidelines was unforgettable — the players, the basketball team, and even the coaches erupted. The game ended 1-1, and though it wasn't a win, it felt like one. Our spirits soared, but reality hit again when Somerville dominated us 6-0 in the following game.

Determined to keep pushing, we faced Papamoa College. Early in the match, Mark's shot was nearly saved, but Jett ran onto the rebound and struck it home. The game ended 1-1, another tie to add to our record. Against Kerikeri High School, things got messy with fouling and shouting at the referee. It wasn't a game we were proud of, and we lost 3-0. Our clash with Pompallier Catholic College, however, became one of the most dramatic games of our tournament. Down 1-0 at halftime, spirits were low until Iden delivered a perfect cross to Etoni, who blasted it into the top corner to equalize. The game went to penalties. Johnny scored, then they scored. Jett scored, they answered back. Iden scored, they matched again. It all came down to Ryder N, but heartbreak struck as his shot missed. The other team screamed with joy, while we walked off devastated, many of us in tears.

Redemption came against Waihi College. With the netball team cheering us on, we finally clicked. Goal after goal poured in, and by the final whistle, we had thrashed them 9-0. It was our biggest win, and it felt incredible to celebrate together after so many setbacks.

Our final game was against Tuakau College, and it turned into a thriller. They scored first, but Iden responded with a low strike. They scored again, only for Ryder to smash one into the top corner to level it once more. Ryder B pulled off a heroic save, but Tuakau found the net again. Just when it seemed over, Iden struck a shot that the keeper spilled, and Jett back-heeled it into the goal to make it 3–3. The whistle blew, and it came down to yet another penalty shootout. Fletcher, Etoni, Jett, Johnny, Iden, and Mark all stepped up bravely, but in the end, Tuakau scored the decisive goal. They tore off their shirts in celebration while we were left heartbroken. Still, we came together at the end to wish Etoni a happy 13th birthday before packing up and heading home.

In the end, we placed 62nd out of 70 teams. The results may not have been what we dreamed of, but the memories we made — from devastating defeats to electrifying draws, from a thrilling victory to unforgettable celebrations — made the journey worth every second. Our AIMS Games 2025 adventure will stay with us forever.







AIMS BASKETBALL

Playing in the AIMS basketball team was an exciting and memorable experience. We trained hard and competed against strong schools, but we also had plenty of fun off the court. One of the highlights was heading to the beach to play NFL—everyone got involved, and it was a great way to relax and bond as a team. The funniest moments came from Iwa stuttering and Cooper making hilarious videos, which kept everyone laughing and made the trip even more enjoyable.

Our best game was against Waikirikiri, where we fought hard and narrowly lost 22–21. Even though Whenuapai didn't win, it was our strongest performance because our defence worked so well, and everyone played their hearts out. The whole experience showed how much fun AIMS can be, both on and off the court. I'd definitely recommend that other students take the chance to go to AIMS next year—it's a fantastic opportunity to compete, improve your skills, and create amazing memories with friends.





AIMS BMX/MOUNTAIN BIKING

Hi, my name is Jago. I'm 13 years old and I've been riding BMX since I was 7. Last year, I broke my hand just before AIMS and wasn't able to compete. Then, this year, I broke my elbow six weeks before the event. It wasn't exactly fun—but luckily, it healed just in time, with two weeks to spare before AIMS. I was going to AIMS for mountain biking and bmx. My arm was still weak but I managed to gain some of that strength back.

After school, I pushed myself harder and harder to prepare myself for AIMS. The day had finally come when I was going to AIMS. When I arrived in Tauranga at my motel, I watched Top Gear and rested up for the hard racing days ahead of me. The first race and second races I won. In the third race, I came 2nd and in the fourth race I came 3rd. In the semi-final, I came 2nd. Sadly, in the finals, I came 4th.

With Mountain Biking, it was tough, but so was I. I pedalled and rode my bike and in the end I ended up coming 36th out of 135 people.

AIMS BADMINTON

Our Badminton team had always shared a common goal—winning. This badminton team consisted of five extraordinary players. Prapthi Kappatralla, Emma Song, Joanna Zhu, Dev Jayraj, and Yi Li. It was an immersing experience for all of us, making history for Whenuapai school as the first Badminton team to attend the aims games. Everyday felt like a challenge, pushing through the wins and losses through each game. Each cheer was a reflection of our hard work and dedication towards this sport.

Our only doubles group—Emma and Yi—brought home first place in their division.

"I felt absolutely shocked the moment we won, it seemed almost impossible for us to win" - Yi

"I had faith in every single match, that courage took us to finals" - Emma

AIMS SWIMMING

Whenuapai School was proudly represented in the pool this year by Xanthe, who competed in the swimming events at AIMS. Taking on such a highly competitive field was no small feat, and she showed determination and resilience throughout her races. We are really proud of the way she represented our school and gave her best in every event.





We are looking for more adult volunteers at the Airport Road pedestrian crossing from 3:00pm to 3:15pm to help students cross the road safely after school. Can you fill our Tuesday or Friday slot?

if you can help, please email jennyc@whenuapai.school.nz

Tuesday and Friday especially

3-3.15pm

Thank you for supporting our school!

Whenuapai School is working towards being a Green/Gold EnviroSchool!



Please help us look after our School property!

We need your support with:



- Nood Food (pack rubbish free lunchboxes)
- Label School Uniform Items (esp. jumpers)
- Walk, bike, scooter, bus or carpool to school on Wednesdays (and as often as you can!)
- <u>Compost</u> food scraps to help our gardens grow
- Recycle paper, cardboard, glass & plastics (1,2 &5)
- Be a tidy Kiwi (don't litter!)







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

New spaces are now available:



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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Hilton Brown SWIMMING

Lessons for life

Hilton Brown Hobsonville

https://swim.school.nz/

5 Rawiri Place, Hobsonville. Ph: 09 666 0240

EMAIL



After School - we'll feed them a nutritious afternoon tea, run a fun activity, and make sure homework is done so you don't have to worry about it! Whether you need care for full weeks or just a few days, your child will be safe, supported, and having fun.

School Holidays - Our programmes are packed with crafts, science, sports, games, and challenges—plus exciting trip days to explore the community!

Contact: whenuapai@skids.co.nz or 021 174 8473



BOOK HERE





BEGINS 12/10/2025 CIRCLE OF SECURITY 8 WEEK PROGRAM

Parenting Program

At times all parents feel lost or without a clue about what our child might need from u. Imagine what it might feel like if you were able to make sense of what your child was really asking from you. The Circle of Security Parenting^{me} program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

Go to securebeginnings.co.nz for more information

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

T: 021 680 615 | E: annemarie.hicks.027@gmail.com

Learning Objective:
Understand your child's
emotional world by learning to
read the emotional seeds
Support your child's ability to
assays emotions.
Understand
what might get in the way of
moeting a need. Learn what to
do when it all goes pear-shaped!

Venue: Herald Island Fire Station

Sunday 6.30-8.30pm

COST: \$600

Limited to 6 parents Easy parking

American Cold
Psychodropies with 25+ yrs
experience and lives in the local
area. The is equalified Circle of
Security - Parenting (COS-P)
facilitator as well as a certified
Circle of Security - Interarve
(COS-D) inclinator, American
is also an approved Circle of
Security Supervisor and his hose
machine with COS for one How
machine with COS for one How







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.





School Uniform

You can now purchase our school uniform not only online via the <u>Argyle Online website</u> 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





