

Whenuapai School

14 Airport Road, Auckland
New Zealand

Newsletter – 2 September 2025



Kia ora e te whānau,

It's been another busy fortnight at Whenuapai School, with so much happening both inside and outside the classroom. We are continually proud of the way our tamariki, staff, and community come together to embrace every opportunity.

Book Week Success

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Book Week celebrations. From purchasing an item at the Book Fair (raising valuable funds for our school libraries) to joining us at the Book Character Parade, your enthusiasm helped make this a truly special week. The parade was, once again, a highlight of the school year, the creativity and effort from both tamariki and staff were outstanding. Thank you for helping us foster a love of reading across our school.

AIMS Games – Go Whenuapai!

Over the weekend, our AIMS team headed down to Tauranga ready for a big week of competition. We are proud to have 38 students representing our kura in a wide range of sports including netball, football, basketball, badminton, swimming, BMX, and mountain biking. We wish them all the very best for an amazing week, kia kaha, team Whenuapai! Thank you also to the teachers and parent helpers who are making this opportunity possible.

Staffing Update – Looking Ahead to Term 4

We're pleased to share some exciting staffing news for next term:

- **Jess Matiaha** will be returning from maternity leave at the beginning of Term 4. Jess holds the permanent Year 7/8 classroom teacher and team leader position, and she will resume this role as teacher of Iwa.
- **Katie Gemmell** will be moving into the New Entrants role and opening a new classroom at the start of Term 4. With her expertise and passion for working with our youngest learners, she is well placed to provide an excellent start to school for our new tamariki.

Cultural Performance – Save the Date!

We are delighted to announce that our end-of-term Cultural Performance will be held on **Thursday, 18 September**. This will be a vibrant celebration of the diverse cultures that make up our school whānau. Keep an eye out for further details about the format, timings, and any outfit requirements from your child's classroom teacher via HERO.

Board of Trustees Elections

As voting continues, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank our current School Board members for their dedication, hard work, and commitment over the past three years. Their guidance and governance have been invaluable to Whenuapai School. As their term comes to an end, voting is now underway for the next Board. I encourage all parents and caregivers to read the candidate statements sent by Election Pilot and to take this opportunity to have your say. Your vote is your voice in shaping the future of our school. Voting closes on **Wednesday, 10 September**.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We're looking forward to making the most of these final three weeks of term – they're sure to fly past!

Ngā mihi nui,
Adam Cels



Dates for your diary

31 August – 5 September AIMS Week	20 September – 5 October School Holidays
Wednesday – 3 September Whiria Te Tangata Kāhui Ako Music Festival – Choir Performing	Monday – 6 October First Day of Term 4
Wednesday – 10 September School Board – Election Day 6.00pm Board Meeting <i>* NOTE: Change of Date</i>	Thursday – 23 October NW Badminton – Year 7&8
Thursday – 18 September Cultural Festival – Details on HERO	Monday – 27 October Labour Day – School Closed
Friday – 19 September Last day of Term 3	Friday – 12 December Mistletoe Mania

Combined Choir Performance at Whiria Te Tangata Music Festival 2025

This year, our choir has been practising hard to learn ten fantastic songs. We will perform these in a big concert hall in town, alongside nine other choirs from our region. Come and see our singers perform on this wonderful occasion!

Tickets are available to purchase via the QR code below, or this link:

<https://moshtix.co.nz/v2/event/whiria-te-tangata-k%C4%81hui-ako-music-festival-2025/182459>



Auckland Champs - Cross Country!

Iden represented Whenuapai School with pride, finishing an impressive 23rd place out of around 100 finalists from across Auckland. We are especially proud of Iden, as he was one of the youngest competitors in the final!



Mistletoe MANIA



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.

WEDNESDAY SCHOOLS CHALLENGE
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Available Now



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Room 4 and Whitu Tuakana Teina/ Buddy Day!



Last week Room 4 and Whitu have enjoyed continuing to build their special tuakana teina bond, where older and younger learners work together and learn from each other.

Tuakana teina is about sharing knowledge, building relationships, and supporting each other's learning, and we saw many wonderful examples of this in action.

Whitu created beautiful storybooks for Room 4 that were thoroughly enjoyed. Together we also explored our cultures by drawing flags with the support of our big buddies, and the students loved learning more about where their classmates come from. Whitu also supported Room 4 tamariki during the Book Fair by helping them create their wish lists.

We finished the afternoon with a fun outdoor game.

The benefits of tuakana teina are clear – our younger learners gained confidence and new skills, while our older buddies practised leadership, empathy, and responsibility. It was a celebration of learning with and from each other, and we are excited to keep building these special connections.





Kākāpō's Pacific Arts Centre Trip

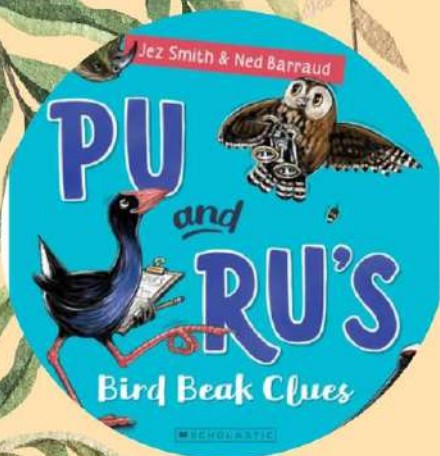


Talofa! Aloha! Bula! Malo!

The day at the Pacific Arts Center was amazing! It was full of laughter, fun, and learning. When we arrived at the center it didn't look like what I thought it would. I thought it would look like a museum or smaller. But no, it was like a little house next to a metal workshop. The place that day was being run by two lovely ladies called the Aunties/The A team. When we got off the bus, one of the Aunties was there to bring us to the building. She led us to the building with a little song. Once we got to the gate, she told us a story about the place and the area. The Auntie also told us we should always greet people when they walk into a room and that we should always let our elders enter a room first, then girls, then and only then the boys. When we got inside we said a prayer and then they told us more about how to say hello in the Pacific Island languages. Tahi went to lei making and Wha went to drumming. We made cute colourful leis out of recycled fabric flowers. Did you know when the new Barbie movie first came out the producers ordered 30 thousand leis to give out but they came in too late so they were going to burn them?! The Auckland Council asked the Aunties if they wanted them instead. The lei's turned out colourful. Then we moved over to drumming with two types of drums: log drums and skin drums. They used the log drums in the old days to signal war, deaths, and weather. Then we got to play the drums. It was so loud and we made Miss Jones play the huge skin drum. She was really good! At the end, Theo, Jimmy Tai, Harley and TJ performed a haka to say thank you. What a fun day. Mahalo!

Ruby Sim





On the 29th of August, we had Jez the author and zoo keeper come in and read us Pu and Ru's Bird Book Clues. It was awesome and really interesting learning about all the different birds. Isaac and Ava volunteered to read out parts of the story. We are very excited for his next published book

Leena, Y6



Book Parade 2025





5\6 Northwest Football



On Wednesday we went to Wainoni Park for North West football tournament. Everyone got to play 4 games to decide who would go into the finals to play for the bowl or the plate. We won 2 out of the 4 games and we scored 8 goals throughout the day! Luckily, we won the final and got to have a few little goodies.

Bailey, Y6

On Wednesday the 20th August we went to the North West football tournament. At first we went and cheered on the boys. The girls got in to the plate finals. We were very nervous but excited. All together we scored 10 goals on that day and came third overall!

Molly, Y6



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

Airport Road Crossing



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!**



Kaitiakitanga: Showing Respect for the Environment



**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!)*
- **Compost** 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 Hobsonville

<https://swim.school.nz/>

5 Rawiri Place, Hobsonville.

Ph: 09 666 0240

[EMAIL](#)

skids

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



JUNIOR SURF OPEN DAY

New members

Come along to ask questions and meet the team.

Junior surf apparel

You can purchase lots of apparel for the upcoming season.

Gear swap

Bring along your gear to swap! Wetsuits, fins, goggles etc.



Register and pay now to receive key information on the upcoming season via email and social media.

Mid September

Swimming starts

Sunday 2 November

First Junior Surf starts

Saturday 15 November

First Carnival of the season

11.30AM - 1PM

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

BETHEL'S BEACH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

Enquiries to juniorsurf@bethellsbeach.org.nz



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

Make the most of your holidays with a fun-filled adventure.



BOOK NOW
Sep 22nd - Oct 03rd

- ✓ Creating videos using AI
- ✓ Develop Games with Roblox
- ✓ Let's learn Makey Makey
- ✓ Introduction to Developing Websites
- ✓ Learn to Code in Python
- ✓ Minecraft Modding Junior
- ✓ Let Us Code
- ✓ Introduction to Graphic Design
- ✓ Learn to code using Scratch
- ✓ Let us Learn 3D Printing
- ✓ Minecraft - Develop your own Mods
- ✓ Building Games with Gamedesigner
- ✓ Code that Robot using Edison
- ✓ Code that Robot using Mbot
- ✓ Machine Learning for Kids



(09)615 0825



info.albany@scratchpad.co.nz



www.scratchpad.co.nz



Shore to Shore Success!

A big thank you to everyone who participated in this year's **Shore to Shore event**. Thanks to your entries, Whenuapai School earned a **\$115 sports equipment voucher**, which has been used to purchase new sports balls for our tamariki to enjoy.

This would not have been possible without the efforts of our wonderful Shore to Shore Ambassador, **Sarah Harrison** – ngā mihi for all your mahi!

We're already looking forward to next year's event, which is **tentatively set for Sunday, 29 March 2026**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the Post Event Video



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LEARN

In a safe environment
Horsemanship and handling
Harness gearing up and driving
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RACING FOR ALL FROM NOVICE TO EXPERIENCED

For ages 6yrs up to 17yrs

Ponies and gear supplied by the club

no need to own a pony

Season starts Sunday 7 September 2025

Training days Tuesday 4pm approx

and Sunday 10am

Kumeu Trotting Track

Contacts

kidzkartzkumeu@gmail.com

Andres McKeown 021422974





SEPT/OCT HOLIDAY PROGRAMME



BOOK NOW

**Term 4 Lunch & After School Football
Programmes, Registrations Now OPEN!!
Don't miss out. Secure your spot today!**

LOOKING FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAY MAGIC?

OUR SESSIONS ARE PACKED WITH ACTION, FUN GAMES, AND EXCITING STORYTELLING THAT BRING THE BEAUTIFUL GAME TO LIFE WHILE BUILDING FOOTBALL SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE. WE'VE GOT AMAZING PRIZES, AND EVERY CHILD WILL TAKE HOME UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES!

WEEK ONE: TUESDAY 23RD, WEDNESDAY 24TH, THURSDAY 25TH **SEPTEMBER**
WEEK TWO: TUESDAY 30TH **SEPT**, WEDNESDAY 1ST, THURSDAY 2ND **OCTOBER**
WHERE: HOBSONVILLE SCHOOL (104 HOBSONVILLE RD)

DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS AND HAVE A BALL!!
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO:

www.kiwikickstars.com