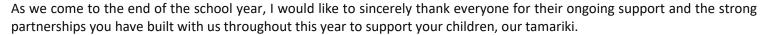
Whenuapai School

14 Airport Road, Auckland New Zealand

Newsletter - 09 December 2025

Kia ora e te whānau,



This year has been full of memorable moments and significant progress. Some of the highlights for me have been the Year 5–8 camp in Term 2, the AIMS Tournament in Term 3, and the exciting start of construction on our 12-classroom, two-storey block on the home campus. I have also loved seeing our students participate in a wide range of sports days and cultural events, showcasing their talents, teamwork, and school spirit.

I am proud of the strong academic progress made by our students and of our school's adoption of the revised New Zealand Curriculum. Looking ahead, I am excited to fully implement the updated English and Mathematics curriculum next year, alongside our continued focus on Science-of-Learning pedagogies, to further strengthen teaching and learning. Our school-wide achievement for students meeting or exceeding expectations for 2025 is:

	Whole School	Māori Learners	Male Learners	Female Learners
Writing	90%	83%	88%	93%
Reading	91%	85%	91%	90%
Mathematics	84%	73%	85%	83%

This week, the Ministry of Education released new assessment and reporting expectations for 2026. I feel we are in a good position to continue supporting our tamariki to achieve their full potential; however, the new English and Mathematics curricula have increased achievement levels and expectations, so we will need to adjust throughout 2026 as we become more familiar with the new curricula.

Staff Update - In a recent Hero post, I acknowledged and celebrated our staff members who will be moving on from our school. I thank them for their dedication and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

Today, I am delighted to introduce the new teachers who will be joining our school community in 2026. We are all looking forward to welcoming them and the skills, experience, and enthusiasm they will bring to our school.



Rosie Shepherd is joining as a Year 5 teacher. She lives in Hobsonville and enjoys sports, reading, and spending time with her whānau. Rosie studied Psychology before completing her Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and has experience teaching Years 4, 5, and 6. She loves supporting ākonga to grow, explore, and share their ideas. Rosie enjoys creating hands-on, creative lessons that encourage thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration. She is passionate about building an inclusive, welcoming classroom where everyone feels valued and confident.

Lorie Salvador is excited to join Whenuapai School in 2026, teaching Year 8 in the Kāhu team. Born in the Philippines and raised in West Auckland, she completed her Bachelor of Education in 2020 and began teaching in Early Childhood before moving to a Year 5/6 class for three years. Recently, she has been relieving across Years 0–8 while travelling, with Japan and the Philippines being her favourite destinations. Lorie enjoys outdoor activities, reading, crocheting, and gaming. She values creating a positive, respectful classroom, establishing high expectations, and supporting students to take risks and reach their full potential, fostering growth and confidence.





Sarah Bush will be teaching a Year 0/1 classroom. Born and raised in Auckland, she lives in Whenuapai with her partner, Rhys, their one-year-old daughter, Cleo, and their Labradoodle, Bindi. Sarah enjoys painting, swimming, upcycling furniture, reading, cooking, and baking. She completed her Bachelor of Education in 2015 and has experience teaching Years 0–4. In her classroom, she focuses on creating a vibrant, safe, and welcoming environment where students feel a sense of belonging. Sarah values setting high expectations and supporting students to grow in confidence, achieve their personal best, and thrive in all areas.

Andreza Salazar will be a part of the Kea Team, teaching Year 0/1. With over 20 years of primary and secondary teaching experience, she is passionate about supporting young learners in their literacy journey. Andreza holds a PhD and Master's in Applied Linguistics, a Teaching Degree, and has completed extensive professional development, including structured literacy training. She creates a calm, inclusive classroom where tamariki feel confident and supported. Originally from Brazil, she lives in New Zealand with her husband, two children, and their Jack Russell, Olive. She enjoys family time, walking Olive, and practising Pilates and yoga.





Ella Carter-Mills will be joining us in 2026 as a Year 2 teacher. Born in Whangārei and raised in Auckland, she feels connected to her northern roots and her big whānau. Coming from a long line of teachers, Ella values the role of kaiako and is passionate about nurturing tamariki as they grow. She focuses on building warm, trusting relationships, recognising each child's strengths, and supporting their personal development. Ella loves the junior years for their honesty, curiosity, and joy, and she aims to create a classroom where every student feels seen, valued, and inspired to learn.

Tayla Harold will be a part of the Tūī Team, teaching a Year 2 classroom. Born and raised in Henderson, she recently moved to Kumeu and enjoys the rural lifestyle with her son, Kotoni. Inspired by her work as a teacher aide, Tayla completed her Bachelor of Education (Primary) and will begin her first year as a teacher. She is passionate about creating a classroom where students feel celebrated, empowered, and motivated. Tayla emphasizes high expectations, strong homeschool connections, and ensuring students see themselves reflected in their learning. She looks forward to an exciting year of growth, engagement, and discovery with her tamariki.





Kellie Watkinson will be joining our support staff team in 2026 as the Senior Campus Administration Extraordinaire. A very familiar face to many of you, Kellie is a long-standing Whenuapai local and a dedicated member of our school community. As a parent of a current student who is about to graduate, she has been actively involved in all aspects of Whenuapai life over the years. Kellie has generously contributed her time and expertise through the Friends of Whenuapai team and has also served as a valued member of our Board of Trustees.

Stepping in to fill the shoes of our lovely Rita, Kellie will take on the Administration role at our Senior Campus with her trademark warmth, organisation, and deep understanding of our school. Alongside her admin role, she will also spend a few hours each week supporting learning in the classroom as a teacher aide - another way her passion for our tamariki will shine.

I wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and a safe and relaxing holiday period.

Our final day of school for 2025 will be Monday, 15 December, with school finishing at 3:00 pm. The first day of school for 2026 will be Monday, 9 February.

I hope everyone has a fantastic holiday and enjoys the summer weather. See you at Mistletoe Mania!

Ngā mihi nui, Adam Cels





Dates for your diary

Wednesday - 10 December

3.30pm Year 7-8 Prizegiving 5.30 – 8.00pm Year 8 Dinner

Thursday - 11 December

Meet the Teacher Day Class Placement Packs Sent Year 8 Big Day Out

Friday – 12 December

Team Prizegiving: 9.00-10.00am – Kea (Year 0/1) 10.00-10.45am – Tūī (Year 2) 11.45-12.45pm - Pīwakawaka (Y3&4) 1.30-2.30pm - Kākāpō (Year 5&6)

4.00pm - Mistletoe Mania

Monday – 15 December

Last Day of Term 4

• 3.00pm Finish



Thursday - 5 February 2026

Meet the Teacher Day

 Booking will be available via HERO App Thursday afternoon.

Monday – 9 February 2026 First Day of Term 1 2026





Trouble Accessing Kindo??

If you're having any issues logging in, making payments, or finding what you need, please don't hesitate to contact their amazing helpdesk team for support.

0508 4 KINDO (0508 4 54636)

Compulsory Costs – Payment Reminder

As we enter the final days of the 2025 school year, we kindly ask that all outstanding compulsory costs be settled in full.

This includes Kahu Friday Options, fees for our affiliate sports teams (Netball, Basketball, Touch, Splashpolo), and the Year 8 Graduation Dinner.

All payments can be made via Kindo. We appreciate your prompt attention to these matters.









THIS FRIDAY

12 December 2025 - 4.00-7.00pm

Our much-loved Mistletoe Mania is just 3 sleeps away! This beloved event is one of the absolute highlights of the school year. Led by the amazing Bailee Greer and her team, it promises to be an experience you won't want to miss.



Cheese Platters - Pre-purchase Available

Cheese platters are available to pre-purchase on Kindo until **4pm Thursday 11th December**. These will be available to buy on the night, but numbers will be limited, so we recommend locking your order in now!

- Purchase on Kindo at: https://kindo.co.nz/
- Cheese platter (for 2) \$15 this includes cheese, crackers, dip, pickles, grapes and chocolate.

Food Donation Requests

We kindly ask each family to contribute **one item**, using your **eldest child's year level** as a guide.

Please send your item to your classroom teacher by tomorrow, **Wednesday 10 December**.

Donation Guide:

- Year 0-1 Bag of chocolate or bag of lollies
- Year 2 Packaged dip e.g. hummus, pesto etc
- Year 5 & 6 Cheese suitable for a cheese platter
- Year 7 & 8 Packet of crackers
- Year 3 & 4 Baked goods Please give these to your classroom teacher on Friday 12th December.

Auctions Are Now Live

With a total value of more than \$2,600, this year's auctions offer something for everyone. To bid, simply comment under the photo of the item you're interested in with the dollar amount you'd like to bid.

All auctions close at 8.00pm on Thursday 11th December.
Whoever holds the highest bid at 8pm wins!

You need to be a member of the School Facebook Page to access the auction page.

Join FB here: School Facebook Page

Then click here to view Auctions: Auctions Facebook Page

Supporting Positive Behaviour and Student Wellbeing at Our School

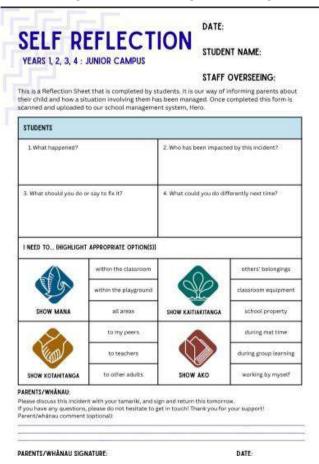
At Whenuapai School, we are committed to fostering a positive, inclusive, and engaging learning environment. Guided by our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) framework, and aligned with our school values, we use a proactive, staged approach to support students in meeting behavioural expectations. Our practices focus on teaching, modelling, and reinforcing positive behaviour, and understanding the underlying factors that may influence how a child responds in different situations.

A highlight this year has been establishing our *Hauora Hub*, situated in Room 10. The Hub has become a cornerstone of our kura's commitment to student wellbeing. Created in response to the increasing social and emotional needs of our learners, the Hub provides a calm, supportive space for students, staff, and whānau. It brings together a multidisciplinary team of specialist teachers, teacher aides, and Ministry of Education therapists to ensure students receive holistic, individualised support.

The Hauora Hub has already had a notable impact, helping reduce PB4L incidents in classrooms and supporting teachers with structured strategies to maintain engagement and focus. Students can also proactively request time in the Hub when they need a quiet break from the busyness of the classroom. Additionally. The Hub is open during Morning Tea and Lunch for students who find unstructured playtimes overwhelming, offering a safe, predictable alternative during these busy parts of the day.

The Hub is led by Mrs Amanda Donnell, an experienced teacher with specialist expertise in learning and behaviour. She has built strong relationships with students, supporting co-regulation and guiding them through restorative reflections when needed. The space also supports learning, with small-group teaching sessions provided to accelerate progress or extend our highest achievers.

The Hauora Hub is a powerful step forward in ensuring every learner has the conditions they need to thrive - honouring both hauora (wellbeing) and ako (teaching and learning), values which sit at the heart of our school.







Well done to our five Year 7/8 athletes that not only represented our school, but the Norwest Zone, at the Auckland Athletics Champs on Thursday 20th November.

They wore our uniform with pride, showed our school values, and brought their best performances on the day! Well done to Fletchie, Iden, Nayten, Ivan, and Xanthe!









A special congratulations to Xanthe, who placed 9th in the Year 7 girls 400m, and 3rd place in the High Jump with an astounding 1.40m jump!



Ka pai, Nayten, for coming 10th place in Year 7 boys Long Jump!



5\6 Northwest Tag



On Wednesday we went to Moire
Park to play in the Year 5/6 Zone
Day. We had so much fun and
really enjoyed hanging out and
cheering each other on. Miss
Dealey was very proud of our
Kotahitanga the whole day.
We can't wait for next year's
tournament already!













C.A.R.E DAY 2025 RAINBOW'S END!

On Friday, 5 December, 58 house captains, librarians, Enviro Heroes, and bus monitors were invited to attend the annual C.A.R.E. Day at Rainbow's End. We arrived excited and ready for some thrill-seeking rides! The roller coaster, Stratosfear, and Invader were the most popular rides of the day, followed closely by the Log Flume and Gold Rush. The Pirate Ship made a comeback after many years, and everyone enjoyed that one too!

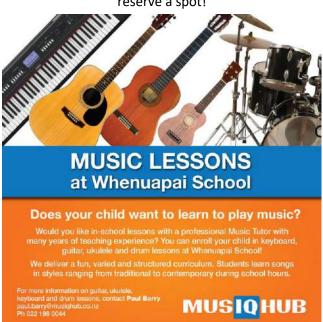
A big thank you to the amazing parents who came with us — without them, we would not have been able to go!





Music Lessons at Whenuapai School!

Our good friends at Musiqhub are happy to announce that they'll have some spaces opening up in Term 1 for new students. They offer Keyboard, Guitar and Drum lessons onsite during school hours. Please get in touch with paul.barry@musiqhub.co.nz for more info or to reserve a spot!







Christmas Crafts

Eve and Brooke from Room 18 have worked hard to turn a dead tree stump into a beautiful floating Christmas tree in the staffroom. They painted the tree white and attached recycled strips of sparkly Lycra and little baubles, with help from other students. Staff are enjoying this festive tree!









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 20TH, WEDNESDAY 21ST, THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY WEEK TWO: TUESDAY 27TH, WEDNESDAY 28TH, THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY 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





sKids Whenuapai

15 Airport Road, Whenuapai

Monday 5 January to Thursday 5 February 2026

C 0800 274 172

Site Ph: 021 174 8493



Scan for pricing and to book online!



HOURS: 7.30AM TO 5.30PM

MON 5 JAN



CAMP KICK OFF

Let the summer camp fun begin!
Celebrate the first day of 2026 with our
exciting camp Olympics, packed with
games and teamwork. Then get creative
and craft your own watercolour paper
tents to kick off an unforgettable summer
at sKids.



SPORTS SHOWDOWN MAKE & TAKE: DIY DECORATIVE WATER BOTTLES

Summer Camp is getting sporty today. Our first Make & Take activity of 2026 is designer drink bottles - design your own decorative water bottles to keep hydrated all summer long! Plus get ready for games, sports and exciting challenges that will keep you moving, laughing and having a blast!

WED 7 JAN



WILDERNESS EXPLORERS

Explore, navigate, and carve your own path using teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity. Craft your very own paper plate compasses, design detailed treasure maps, and tackle fun challenges and games that test your wit's and skills. Adventure awaits around every corner.

THU 8 JAN



TASTE OF SUMMER

Taste, create and celebrate food, fun and friendship under the sun! Step into a delicious outdoor foodie themed day with delicious s'mores from solar power, craft fun pretzel necklaces and enjoy hands on activities that bring the flavours of camp to life!

FRI 9 JAN



CAMPFIRE CELEBRATION

Wrap up an incredible week with salt dough creations to treasure as a keepsake from camp. Show off your skills and creativity in the big sKids Talent Show, take part in exciting games and challenges, and celebrate all the fun, friendships, and adventures you've shared.

MON 12 JAN



OVER THE RAINBOW

Get ready for a week bursting with colour. Today we explore over the rainbow as we create yummy rainbow jelly cups for a tasty treat and then bring the outdoors to life with puffy footpath painting.



SENSORY SPECTACULAR EXCURSION: GOOD PLANET STRAWBERRY PICKING

Pick juicy berries and eat real fruit icecream at Good Planet for today's excursion! Back at sKids, it's a bright hands on day bursting with colour, fun and sensory activities. Enjoy the cool fun of painting with ice and get hands on with squishy dough.

WED 14 JAN



COLOUR SPLASH PLEASE BRING OLD CLOTHES FOR THE

PLEASE BRING OLD CLOT COLOUR RUN!

It's a bright, messy and fun filled day of colour today. Take part in a vibrant colour run (don't forget to wear old clothes you don't mind getting colourful possibly permanently). Dive into creative process art activities and more!

THU 15 JAN

COLOUR CREW

MAKE & TAKE: DECORATE YOUR OWN KITE

Join our colour crew for a rainbow filled adventure! Team up for exciting challenges, creative games and colourful fun. Enjoy a special make and take activity as we decorate our own fabric kites to take home and soar into the

FRI 16 JAN



COLOUR CARNIVAL

We're wrapping up colour week with an extra splash of fun! Join us to dive into a whole lot of arts & crafts, games and team challenges. Exploring creativity and working together in exciting activities. From colourful creations to playful competitions it's a day full of imagination, vibrant energy and laughter.

If applying for OSCAR subsidy, eligibility criteria will apply. Visit www.skids.co.nz/oscar-subsidy for eligibility and entitlement. Please ensure all food complies with allergy guidelines. Contact your programme for detailed information. Programmes, surcharges, and activities may change; check our website for updates. Special Experiences incur extra costs for all attending children, regardless of participation.



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COASTAL DISCOVERIES **MAKE & TAKE: TREASURE CHESTS & SEA CREATURE BAG** CHARMS

Kicking off Water Week with us as you construct your own wooden treasure chests to fill with secret treasure and decorate your own ocean themed bag tags or key chains to take home. It's a day filled with imagination, seaside vibes and hands on fun with your friends!

TUE 20 JAN



SPLASHY SCIENCE

Get ready to make a splash with our STEM focussed Splashy Science! Featuring unpoppable bubbles, powder shield experiments and plenty of wild water powered experiments. Tamariki will explore how science and fun flow together through hands on challenges, teamwork and creative discoveries.

WED 21 JAN



WATER DETECTIVES

Dive into the world of watery mysteries as we design our own Secret Agent ID Badges, crack top secret codes and tackle mind bending summer themed STEM missions. Sharpen your detective skills through thrilling spy games. puzzles and challenges. Agent are you ready for action?



SPLASH & DASH **EXCURSION: SKIDS SUMMER** PARTY

BRING TOGS & TOWEL FOR AN EPIC WATERFIGHT!

Get ready for an epic day of water play, laughter and summer fun with our friends from other sKids sites! Exciting splash games to cool challenges, it's all about being active, keeping cool and making awesome summer memories. Please remember to bring your togs and towels!

FRI 23 JAN



AQUATIC WILDLIFE SAFARI

Explore the magic of the sea, rivers and ponds with an aquatic themed wildlife adventure today. Enjoy crab themed crafts, ocean inspired painting and splashy games. Dive deeper with STEM experiments and show your creativity in

MON 26 JAN

Service Closed for **Auckland**

TUE 27 JAN



BUSH CRAFT BASICS

Learn essential survival skills like building shelters using a range of materials, trying strong knots and making bush cordage from natural materials. It's a hands on day of creativity, problem solving and outdoor fun!



PICNIC PARTY EXCURSION: AUCKLAND ZOO

Enjoy the wildlife up close in the spectacular lush grounds of Auckland Zoo! Pack your sunny smiles and get ready for a fun filled picnic party with the animals! Back at sKids there is more fun to be had with our arts and crafts, games and team challenge activities.



OUTDOOR EXPLORERS MAKE & TAKE: DIY BIRD HOUSES

Construct your very own birdhouse to take home! Make Morse code bracelets. craft mini bows & arrows, and show us your archery skills. It's a fun nature day full of outdoor adventures, exploring, and laughs with friends!



SURVIVOR DAY

Test your survival skills today for the last day of Outdoor Adventures Week! Take on our Water Distiller experiment. play survivor themed games, and work together to problem solve and adapt just like real explorers. It's a day of discovery, teamwork and outdoor fun!

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