

MATARAU SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia ora Whānau,

It has been a very busy and productive start to the term, with many learning opportunities, events, and activities taking place across the school. Our students continue to show great enthusiasm in their learning and involvement in school life, which is wonderful to see.

As we move further into the term and the seasons begin to change, a reminder to please ensure students are coming to school with the appropriate clothing for cooler and sometimes unpredictable weather. Layers such as jerseys and jackets are helpful so students can remain comfortable throughout the day, particularly during outdoor learning and play.

School Policies

A reminder that our school policies are available for you to view and review on our school website. You can access them by following the links through SchoolDocs. We encourage you to take a look and familiarise yourself with our procedures and expectations.

Road Safety

I want to assure you that I am actively working with the council to address the ongoing concerns many of you have shared regarding the safety of our footpaths and roading situation. The council has completed a review, but I have made it very clear that action needs to be taken as soon as possible. I will continue to keep you informed as this situation develops.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thank you in advance for making every effort to attend our upcoming conferences. These meetings are a vital part of forming strong learning partnerships between home and school. We look forward to connecting with you all on the 23rd and 24th of this month. Please use School Bookings on the HERO app to book a time that suits you.

School Assemblies

It's been fantastic to see so many parents and whānau attending our assemblies to celebrate the achievements of our students. A reminder that assemblies are held every second Monday starting at 2.10 pm. Our next assembly will be on Monday 23rd March. Nau mai, haere mai! Everyone is warmly welcome!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and school community.

Ngā mihi nui,
Tom Clarkson
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

16 MARCH

Y7&8 Surfing Trip

23 & 24 MARCH

Parent Conferences

26 MARCH

Y4-8 School Swimming
Sports

27 MARCH

Y1-3 School Swimming
Sports

2 APRIL

Y8 AUT Millennium Trip

IMPACT MAKERS: OUR VIRTUES IN ACTION

TUMUAKI AWARD HONOUREES

A huge well done to this week's Tumuaki recipients! These students have impressed us all with their commitment to our school values and their enthusiastic approach to the term. It is wonderful to see our tamariki stepping up and leading by example. You should be very proud of your achievements!

Rex Phillips, McKenna-Jayne Taituha, Inde Turner, Dawn West, Eli Vincent, Tessa Ferguson, Alyssa Williams, Sena Hankins, Aliyah Inglis, Kaira O'Malley, Lilah Thorne, Gracie Henehan, Mahina Horne, Mrs Alexander, Mrs Marvin.



CHARACTER IN THE CLASSROOM

Our junior mathematicians have been busy linking their hands-on learning to our School Virtues. While mastering place value up to 20, these "Impact Makers" demonstrated:

Perseverance: Showing grit and focus as they methodically matched blocks to numbers.

Kindness & Collaboration: Supporting peers and sharing resources to ensure everyone succeeded.

Integrity: Taking honest pride in their work and ensuring every unit was accurately placed.

It's wonderful to see our students building both their mathematical minds and their hearts!



MENTORS IN THE MAKING: YEAR 7S LEAD THE WAY



With Year 8s away at Hukerenui Tech Centre, our Year 7 students have stepped up as leaders in Rooms 5 and 6. Swapping textbooks for picture books and games, the "big kids" have found that mentoring is a two-way street filled with focus and laughter.



The feedback from our new mentors has been glowing. "It's fun helping them get better at spelling and reading," noted Rocco and Oliver. Marshall agreed, adding, "I think it's cool seeing all the children learning and improving."

As the Year 8s continue their rotations, the Year 7s are proving that sometimes the best way to learn is to teach.



Friday reading has quickly become the highlight of the week for everyone involved!

By Flynn Smith

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ko Kath Corby tōku ingoa. No Rotorua no Australia ōku tupuna. No Thames Hauraki Plains ahau engari kie Whangārei ahau e noho ana.

The "Desert Island" Snack: If you were stranded in your classroom for 24 hours and could only have one specific snack and one playlist, what are we eating and listening to?

- *Definitely Salt and Vinegar chips with classic Kiwi onion dip while I listened to some of the amazing Kiwi musicians we have, like Six60, L.A.B., Hori Shaw, and Fat Freddy's Drop.*

What was your favourite subject when you were in school?

- *I loved PE and reading.*

The Time Travel Choice: If you could guest-teach a class at any point in history (past or future), which era would you visit and what would be the first lesson?

- *There is a movie called Dangerous Minds about a teacher who teaches a class in California in 1995 - I would love to teach this class about the power of believing in yourself and anything being possible.*

The Hobbyist: "When I'm not teaching, you'll usually find me..."

- *At the beach with the dogs or out running/walking in the bush.*

MATARAU TRAIL RIDE – PTA AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

A massive thank you in advance to our amazing PTA and all the wonderful community volunteers who are supporting the Matarau Trail Ride this weekend. Your time, energy, and generosity make events like this possible and provide fantastic opportunities for our students and wider community. We truly appreciate all that you do—from organising, setting up, and coordinating to helping on the day. Your efforts help bring our community together and support our school in so many ways. Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and school community.

MATARAU
★ S C H O O L ★



TRAIL RIDE

Mark your calendars for Sunday, 15 March, and get ready for a "gear-ific" day of adventure! Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, we have tracks suited for every skill level. Come along for the thrill of the ride and a great day out with our school community.

Event Details

- When: Sunday, 15 March 2026
- Where: Aponga Road, Aponga, Whangarei
- Tracks: Main, Intermediate, and Mini Tracks available.

Schedule

- 8:00 am: Carpark & Cash Registrations open.
- 9:00 am: Tracks open—let the riding begin!
- 2:30 pm: Last riders out.

To stay in the loop with updates and sneak peeks of the course, make sure to follow us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/MatarauTrailRide>

SPORTS NEWS

BASKETBALL



COACH OF THE WEEK

Bevin Gibbs is our Coach of the Week! "Gibbsy" is a familiar face to parents on the hockey and basketball sidelines, and a favourite among the kids he coaches. Known for his calm, positive demeanour, Bevin focuses on constructive feedback, sharp skills, and smart strategies. After planning to take the year off from basketball to give the kids a fresh perspective, Bevin didn't hesitate to step back in the moment he was needed.

Thank you for your years of dedicated service, Bevin. Our tamariki are incredibly lucky to have you!

WINNING STREAKS AND RISING STARS!

Our basketball teams had a massive week on the court, highlighted by our Year 3 and 4 squad securing a fantastic 10–5 victory through some great teamwork.

Our Year 5 and 6 team is officially on a roll with three wins out of their last four games, and while they narrowly went down by a single basket in a heart-pounding finish this week, their momentum is undeniable. We would love to see more of our school community head down to McKay Stadium on Wednesday evenings to pack the stands and cheer them on throughout the season!

Meanwhile, our Year 7 and 8 squad faced some very tough opposition, but they continue to impress us with their incredible resilience, staying composed under pressure and taking valuable lessons from every match.

SERVING UP SUCCESS: SENIOR STUDENTS SHINE AT KAMO TENNIS COURTS

Wednesday, 4 March 2025 | Week 5



This past Wednesday, our senior school hit the courts for an exciting competitive event at the Kamo tennis courts. With high spirits and rackets in hand, numerous pairs from our school faced off against tough competition from Kamo Intermediate School.

The day was defined by great effort and even better sportsmanship. We are thrilled to announce that one of our girls' teams, Kiedis and Pippa, clinched a top-three finish, finishing in an impressive second place overall.

"It was really fun, and everyone had really good sportsmanship," Kiedis shared. "The people working there were really helpful, and it was also really cool to place second."

For many, the day was about more than just the scoreboard—it was about trying something new and connecting with the community. Ruby, who competed alongside her partner Neve, enjoyed the social atmosphere and the thrill of a new challenge.

"I liked that I got to play tennis with my friends and see people I knew, like Brooklyn and Willow," Ruby said. "It was a fun new experience for me because I've never played tennis before. It was also surprising for Neve and me because we made it all the way into the semi-finals!"

Whether it was a first-time match or a podium finish, everyone involved enjoyed the fresh air and the friendly competition.

A huge congratulations to all our seniors who went out and gave it their best!



By Imogen Harold

SPORTS NEWS



Netball Registration: Final Call for Forms

The countdown to the new season is on! To ensure our teams are finalised by next week, please return all outstanding registration forms to the School Office or hand them directly to Stacey as a matter of priority. Your promptness ensures that every player is ready to take to the court for a fantastic season ahead.

Cricket Fever Hits the Playground

Lunchtimes were a hit last week thanks to Northland Cricket! Our students loved the opportunity to learn some new cricket skills, and it was wonderful to see so many children getting active and involved. The kids absolutely loved the sessions and are already excited to have Northland Cricket back in the future.



A HUGE THANK YOU FROM MATARAU SCHOOL!



Thank you to all the parents and whānau who nominated our kura to win the tennis prize pack, courtesy of Property Brokers Whangārei. This competition was held in conjunction with the Davis Cup hosted in Whangārei, for which they were proud sponsors.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to former student and school parent Sarah O'Donnell, who kindly visited us to drop off the prize pack.

A Look at Table Tennis

I interviewed our table tennis coach, Ricky, and discovered some fascinating facts: he has played the sport exclusively for 20 years and has been dedicated to teaching children for the past decade. Our students are equally enthusiastic about the game; Carter enjoys the fun, competitive nature of the sport, while Emily has discovered a new passion after playing for the very first time. Janelle describes it as a 'really good sport', and Ava-Leigh has been a fantastic help by collecting balls for her fellow players.

Even our principal, Mr. Clarkson, joined in for a friendly match with Ricky during the last session. He enjoys the high level of concentration required, noting that the game is 'good for your brain'. Table tennis is truly for everyone, so if you are interested in joining the fun, come along to the sessions held every Thursday lunchtime.

By Lila Karlin



We are absolutely thrilled to share the results of our "Yummy" Sticker collection from last year. Thanks to your incredible efforts, we collected hundreds of stickers, which translated into a fantastic \$984 for our school!

Because of your dedication to munching through those apples and nectarines, our students have a brand-new haul of sports equipment to enjoy.



Room 10's Summer Spotlight

Tuesday writing sessions with Mr J have been a hive of creativity lately! Our Room 10 students have been working diligently to hone their descriptive writing skills, focusing on how to transport a reader through rich sensory details. From the stinging scent of salt spray to the nostalgic taste of a melting ice block, these young authors have truly brought their memories to life.

We are delighted to share these first few published pieces from our 'That Was Summer' collection. Whether it is mastering a front handspring on the grass or navigating the crashing whitewash at the beach, these writers have found a unique and expressive voice.

Enjoy these first few published pieces. They are just the beginning of the great writing emerging from Room 10!

That was summer

Remember that time when the sand embedded your feet in the depths of the ground and covered them with a soft blanket of amber fairy dust?
Remember how the taste of saltwater overpowered your mouth like a sweet after dinner? That was summer.

Remember that time you climbed the trees around the outside of the beach as your feet dug into the rough bark?
Remember how the seaweed wrapped around your legs like a thick cloth and you shouted, "eeeew."
That was summer.



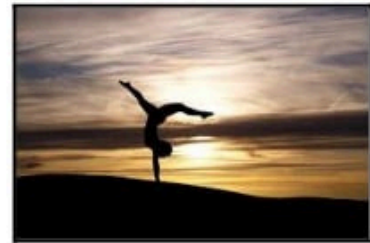
Remember that time when you heard the waves crashing against people's bodies and screaming emerged into the air with unbearable agony?
Remember how the emerald sandy water filled your eyes with disgust? That was summer.

If you try very hard, can you remember that time when you tried to dig a colossal hole big enough to fit yourself inside? It took you a long time, but it was all worth it.
Do you remember the smell of sunshine?
That was summer.

By Desmond Bryan

That was summer

*Remember that time
When your feet landed on the smooth
gymnastics mat as you landed your
front handspring. You hear yourself
yelling. "I did it, I did it."
Remember how good you felt and how
you ran inside to tell your family.
That was summer.*



*Remember that time
When the aroma of creamy chicken pasta filled the room.
Remember how it tasted between your lips and how everyone loved it.
That was summer*

*Remember that time
When you went snorkeling and saw fish of all shapes and sizes.
Remember how you used your flippers as fins and looked around
nervously, hoping there were no sharks.
That was summer*

*If you try very hard, can you remember that time?
When you waited at the pub for the rumble of the motorbike engines.
And as you went to take a sip of your Coke, they zoomed past with
your cousins on the front.
That was summer.*

By Livvy Grimmer



That was summer!

Remember that time with the feel of the hot sand between your toes and your mum yelling at you as you run into the crashing waves! Remember how you were in the water at night, and the sound of the waves rippling softly, quietly hoping crabs didn't nip your toes.

That was summer!

Remember the time you begged your poppa to take you sea biscuiting, and when he would fling you off you'd hope there wasn't a shark? Remember how the wind whistled in your face and the smell of old dust from the biscuit filled your nose.

That was summer!

Remember that time you dropped hints to get ice cream, and when you were walking back, you wanted to save it, so you were running, hoping it wouldn't melt? Remember how you forgot to ask your sister if she wanted one and then ate yours in front of her?

That was summer!

If you try very hard can you remember, that time you laid in the sun for hours and you would say you put sunblock on? And the next second you had to take a bath and it would be hard to put the shirt over your head? Do you remember the smell of fresh salt as your boat took on the lapping waves?

That was summer!

Lily Donaldson 2026

That was summer

Remember that time when the warm sand was burning under your feet, and when the rippling waves were lapping up, getting closer and closer to your towels.

Remember how Mum ran to get the towels before the crashing waves came down on them.

That was summer.

Remember that time when you just came back from swimming in the ocean, and you smelt the freshly baked cookies that had just come out of the oven.

Remember how you were trying to race the ice block before it melted in your hands.

That was summer.

Remember that time you said, "Go slow," but then you got flung off the sea biscuit at 100 miles per hour.

Remember how you fell off and did a front flip, then had a big gush of salty water in your mouth.

That was summer.

If you try very hard, can you remember that time you felt so good that you just wanted to burst with excitement? Do you remember when you swam with the waves and said, "best summer ever."

That was summer.

By Emily Pearson

That was summer

Remember that time when the wave is about to crash and you use all your energy to get there before it breaks, just to see another one behind it. Remember how the smell of dead seaweed filled the air and you got swept onto the beach by the white wash.

That was summer.

Remember that time when you were trying to stand up on your surfboard but fell off in the process and got salt in your eyes. Remember how the white wash enclosed you in suffocation and you sprinted to your board like a fish in the water.

That was Summer.

Remember that time when the waves kept getting bigger and you ran to get away. Remember how you watched the sunset on the softness of nature's yellow blanket.

That was Summer.

If you try very hard, can you remember that time when you played on the sand and you waited until the waves got big enough to reach your wall. Do you remember the smell of the salty water?

That was summer.

By Eli Gibbs

THIS WEEK IN STEAM



Space Engineers in Room 5!

This week, Room 5 launched into a hands-on construction project, using ChompSaws to cut out intricate rocketship templates. The students showed impressive focus as they navigated tricky curves and sharp points, all while strictly adhering to our 'Safety First' workshop rules.

By mastering the 'Safe Hold' and maintaining their 'Tool Bubbles', our budding builders proved they could use equipment responsibly and accurately. It was fantastic to see such careful manoeuvring as the cardboard fleet began to take shape. Well done to our future engineers!

Lunchonline is now ezlunch!

Lunchonline has been acquired by ezlunch, meaning all our school lunch orders will now be handled through the ezlunch (Kindo) platform. What does this mean for you? While the delivery day stays the same, the way you order has evolved. Here is everything you need to know:

You can now place your orders at ezlunch.co.nz or via the Kindo app. If you already use Kindo, you're all set! Just log in and add your child's lunch order to your cart. Any existing credit you had on Lunchonline should be transferable.

Cut-off Time: Remember to get those orders in by 8:00 AM on Thursday morning.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: BUILDING STRONG HABITS TOGETHER

Regular attendance is about more than just showing up; it's about giving your child the best possible start. We want to work with you to ensure every student feels supported and ready to learn.

Why Attendance Matters

- Children who attend regularly are significantly more likely to succeed.
- Good attendance builds a foundation of reliability that lasts a lifetime.
- Frequent absences can cause students to fall behind in reading, maths, and vital social skills.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

- Set a consistent bedtime and morning routine.
- Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Avoid taking holidays during the school term.
- Talk to your child about why showing up matters, and stay in touch with the school if they are struggling.

Did You Know?

Missing just two days a month equals 18+ days a year. That is nearly 10% of the school year lost!

Let's work together to build strong habits and brighter futures. Your child's potential starts with showing up.



READY, SET, SIGN IN!

Stay in the loop by following these steps



If you encounter problems logging in, please check with your school to make sure they have the correct details for you.





FUTUREFERNS

GIVE IT A GO DAY

Calling all Year 1-4 players – come and join the fun! Try skill-based netball activities, play mini games, build confidence, and enjoy a morning full of action. No experience needed!

Junior coaches – we need you! Whether you're new or already coaching, join our practical FutureFERNS coaching workshop. You'll get hands-on guidance, support, and ideas to help our young players enjoy and grow in netball. Come be part of the team and make a difference!

Hurupaki School
Saturday 21st March
9.30am – 12.00pm

Email operations@whangareinetball.co.nz to register.



The Rotary Club of Whangarei South
Youth Projects Proudly Present the



2026 RURAL SCHOOLS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Group 1 (Yrs 1-6):
BUBBLES

Group 2 (Yrs 7-10)
BOLTS

Group 3: (Yrs 11-13):
STRING

The entries will be judged by an independent panel of photographers in Whangarei.

The photographs will be judged on:

- ORIGINALITY
- COMPOSITION
- ARTISTIC MERIT
- TECHNICAL MERIT
- OVERALL IMPACT

One photo per student, and one student per photo (i.e. 2 or more students cannot submit a combined entry).
Photos can be taken on any camera.
They can be colour or black and white.
The students are expected to take the photos themselves.

Each photo needs to be accompanied by a brief description appropriate to the age of the contestant.

The named (with year level, and the name of the school) photos and brief description need to be emailed in PDF format to Mr Kirk (alansuekirk@gmail.com) before 3pm, Fri 8 May 2026.

Prizegiving on Thursday 18 June 2026 - early evening, Forum North.

While all photos remain the property of the photographers, the Rotary Club of Whangarei South reserves the right to use images for promotional purposes.

Prizes: \$50 for each category winner, PLUS \$50 and engraved trophy (miniature) for the Supreme winner. Trophy will be kept by the Club.

2nd & 3rd in each group to receive certificates



Have-A-Go-Session

SERVE, RALLY AND SMASH YOUR WAY TO FUN.

EVENT INFO

From beginners to pros, all women and girls are welcome. Meet new people and have a blast with friends.

Hosted by:
Table Tennis Northland
Women & Girls Have-A-Go Session (Free)
7 MARCH 2026
10:00am - 1:00pm
Table Tennis Northland Stadium, 97 Western Hills Drive, Kensington, Whangarei 0112
Contact: Rishabh Kumar
coach@tabletennisnorthland.co.nz

SCAN HERE



Eat Yummy apples and get a share of \$200,000 free sports gear. Collect the 'Yummy Stickers' and 'cut-out labels' from Yummy 1.5kg apple bags.

Yummy apples are available at New World, Pak'n Save and participating Four Square stores.

The more stickers you collect, the more sports gear we get for our school!

Send all stickers and cut-outs to room 5 (Mrs Easterbrook).





TIBHAR SMASH 28 R




8 Weeks of FUN!

TT Kidz (NZ) gives children aged 6-11 a great first experience in table tennis.

REGISTER NOW!



Equipment pack included!
T-shirt, Bag, Bat and balls.

Venue: Table Tennis Northland, 97 Western Hills Drive, Kensington, Whangarei.
Start Date: Saturday, starting 14th February 2026.
Time: 03:00 pm to 04:00 pm
Cost: \$100 (new participant) or \$60 (returning participant (Already have equipment pack))

www.tabletennis.org.nz/play/tt-kidz



Join us for our free COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday 14th March
1:30PM - 4:30PM

Whangarei Academy of Gymnastics
Trigg Sports Arena, 25 Park Ave

- Visit our facility
- Meet coaches & committee
- Watch skill demonstrations
- 5-13 year olds can sample:
 - Tumbling & Trampoline
 - Men's & Women's Gymnastics
 - Cheerleading

Family & friends welcome!

Sessions will start **every 10 min** (last session 3:30 pm). Participants please wear athletic clothes & bring a water bottle.

Proudly Sponsored By





Love our community? Enjoy driving? Thinking of what to do in 2026?



SCHOOL BUS

We Need You!

Ritchies Whangārei is looking for School Bus Drivers to help get our Tamariki and mokopuna to school safely every day.

<p>This is the perfect role if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoy being out and about in the community. Want work that fits around school hours. Like the idea of FREE school holidays (except the odd training day)! Take pride in keeping our kids safe on their journey to and from Kura. 	<p>What you'll need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 2 license (minimum). P Endorsement. A calm, friendly attitude. Reliability — our kids are counting on you! 	<p>What you'll get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive team. Uniform. Fortnightly pay. Chance to drive extra charter trips if you want them.
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Join us — the community will thank you, and so will the next generation!
Apply online today - www.careers.ritchies.co.nz

