

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday the 27th of October 2023

Important Upcoming Events 2023

3 November	Gumboot Friday - See write up and flyer below
6 November	Year 4 - 6 athletic sports (postponement 9th Nov) TKW and TKP participate in the Firewise programme
10 November	9am School assembly - TKW sharing their learning
22 November	Teacher Only Day - school CLOSED. Teachers undertaking professional development around the refreshed curriculum
24 November	9am School assembly - TKT sharing their learning
30 November	Year 1-3 fundamental athletic skills display
8 December	School reports and 2024 learning areas home
12 December	1.45 Transition in 2024 classrooms 5pm Christmas Carnival 6pm Whole school prizegiving (followed by the Year 6 graduation)
15 December	12.45 Classes finish for 2023

Please also look out for kete newsletters - these include specific dates/events for that kete.

SAVE THIS DATE
SCHOOL CENTENARY - 5TH AND 6TH APRIL 2024

Hokowhitu School celebrates its 100th anniversary next year.
Spread the word to any ex-pupils/colleagues who you think may be interested in attending.

Registrations are now 'live'. Please find the link for registration on the school website:

www.hokowhitu.school.nz



Update from the Principal

Kia ora koutou
Ngā mihi kia koutou

Welcome to our last full week of October. How is it that time flies by so quickly? Please help your tamariki stay sun safe as we approach warmer weather (we hope) - along with their bucket hat, we recommend that you have them apply sunscreen before coming to school in the morning. Staff will also be reminding them to reapply during the day. If you are sending your child to school with sunscreen in their bag, we find that 'roll on' sunscreen is the easiest for them to apply independently.

PREPARATION FOR 2024

Preliminary work is now being done in placing children for next year. It is really helpful for you to let us know if you are not planning to be at Hokowhitu School next year, or if there are any other considerations that you think we should be aware of. Once placements are made, it is not possible to make changes. Please don't assume all teachers will be in the same spaces as this year either - we often make changes. Almost every kete in our school is composite - that means there are 2 year groups of children in each kete. A reminder that whether your child is (for example) a Year 5 in TKT or TKA, they will have the same experiences. The same applies to EACH of the other year levels. One of the reasons that we have composite classes is to balance class numbers - no one wants their child in a class of 35+ children (with only 22 in the class next door). Another important reason is getting the right social/emotional/academic balance - this way we can better meet individual needs.

EVERY child at our school spends 2 years in at least one kete area, they are not being held back or disadvantaged in any way. All the children know this; they just may need reminding from you. Our class placement process is considerable - we certainly don't just pop names on a list. We gather data from teachers and create draft lists. These lists go back to the teams to see what the combinations look like to them. We then tweak and rework the lists until we have our final placements. We think about children who work well together and those who don't. We consider teacher strengths and personalities to match individuals. While we try hard to ensure everyone has children that they know with them, sometimes they may not be in the same kete as their best friend - this happens. They get an opportunity to work with different people and widen their friendship circles. We encourage you to be positive about class placements with your children, they take their cues from you.

Thanks so much in anticipation of your support.

YEAR FOUR SLEEPOVER AND EOTC TRIP TO NGA MANU

The year 4s thoroughly enjoyed their overnight stay at school and the Nga Manu Bird Reserve trip. Even with little sleep, everyone still had a fun-filled day as we observed eels, tuatara, Kereru and many more wildlife experiences. We hope everyone that came along had a good rest over the long weekend and we look forward to doing it again next year. Thank you to all families for providing the baking. A huge thank you to the parents who joined us for the Sleepover and those who helped at Nga Manu for the day!



SUN HATS

In terms 4 and 1 of each year it is compulsory to wear a sunhat when outdoors. Our regulation plain navy-blue bucket hat costs \$12.00 from the school office. Our school policy states 'no hat, no play', so please ensure all the tamariki have a sunhat every day. Hats are also available at Academy Apparel for \$15.00.



CONGRATULATIONS

A big congratulations to **Kate E** for securing a major role as Amanda in the upcoming Matilda production. Well done Kate!

PTA

At yesterday's meeting we discussed the upcoming Xmas Carnival which occurs before our 'whole school' prizegiving on the 12th of December.

If you didn't make the meeting, but can help in any way, please email Amy at amywestergaard@gmail.com. If everyone does just a little bit, the load is shared and no one bears a huge undertaking.

Last year we invited whānau to donate items that could be given to people who have volunteered to prepare food to sell and serve at the carnival. It has been suggested that we do this again.

Closer to the time we will send home a list of required ingredients, and if you could even donate ONE item, we would be very grateful.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Class, individual (and where requested, sibling) photos were taken yesterday and today.

You do **NOT** need to pay for the photos at this time. A 'shoot key/code' will be sent home in the coming weeks - this allows you to view the photos online, decide if you wish to order them and you then pay Photolife directly.

Have a fantastic weekend everyone. Go, go go to the All Blacks - kia kaha!

Ngā mihi nui
Lin Dixon

Update from the School Board

Tēnā koutou,

Welcome to the last term of the year! The Board met earlier this week, and there are a few items we would like to bring to your attention.

One of the issues that must be decided at this time every year is the availability of the school pool over the summer. After careful consideration, we have decided that we will not be selling pool keys to members of the school community this year. This was a difficult decision, but it comes down to our health and safety obligation to test the pool water three times a day, seven days a week. This is something we feel cannot be left to a roster of volunteers, while paying someone to perform this service would come at a prohibitive cost either to pool users or the school.

As Lin has been mentioning in the newsletter for a while now, the Board is considering some changes to the school uniform. We will make a decision on this at our meeting on 28 November, and we will communicate the outcome of that to you as soon as possible. If a change is made, we are committed to making the transition as straightforward and cost-effective as possible. You can see examples of the proposed changes at the school office, and there is an online form where you can provide us with your views:

<https://forms.gle/7AGWHTr2oMNY2FD29>.

Finally, one of our main items of business this term will be the completion of a strategic plan that will set the direction of the school for the next two years. This is a new requirement of the Ministry of Education, and we will be using the consultation activities you have participated in this year to recognise and build on our existing strengths, as well as identify areas for growth and development. We will communicate more about this as the plan takes shape.

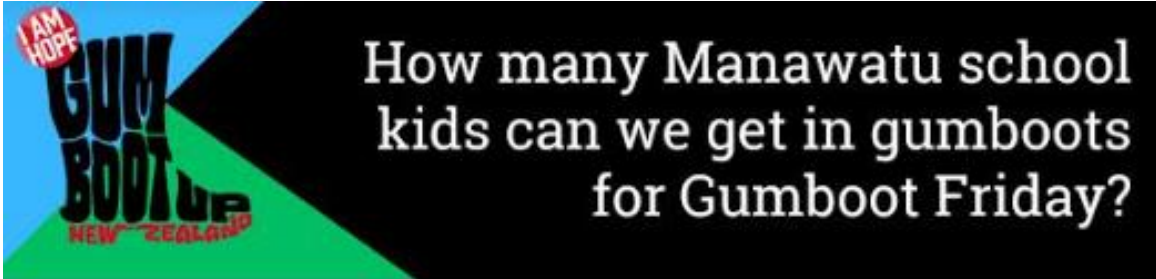
As always, if you have questions or feedback on this, or any other aspect of the school's governance, please feel free to talk to a Board member or to email us at board@hokowhitu.school.nz.

Ngā mihi nui,
Philip Steer

GUMBOOT FRIDAY

On Friday the 3rd of November Hokowhitu School and the student leadership team will be encouraging everyone to wear their gumboots to school to support Gumboot Friday! Please support timely, free access to counselling services for our vulnerable young people and be part of the Great Young Palmy Gumboot Army.

We will also be collecting gold coin donations to contribute to the cause.



Ways you can contact the office when your child/children will be absent or late -

Email - office@hokowhitu.school.nz

Phone (You can also leave a voicemail) - 06 357 9667

App - [https://schoolappsnz.co.nz/login/](https://schoolapps.nz.co.nz/login/)

School cell phone (you can ring or text this number) - 027 357 9021

Please contact us as soon as you know your child will be late or is not coming to school as it can take a long time to contact everybody that doesn't contact us. We do this to ensure your child is safe and not a missing child. Please do not contact the teacher directly, they don't always see emails when they are teaching. Thank you.



Sports

Volleyball

Hokowhitu Spikers - Had a great game this week. We tied 51 all.
Olivia S was our player of the day with her improved serving skills

Summer Soccer

Hokowhitu Goalies - We had a fantastic first game with lots of fun!
Player of the day was **Toanui**. Well done Toanui!

Summer Hockey

Hokowhitu Red Sticks - The Red Sticks team had their first game, and they all absolutely loved it and did so well. What a great start! The parents decided that **Harley** was our first player of the day. Awesome work Harley!

Coaches/Managers - If you would like any awards or photos in the newsletter, please email them through to office@hokowhitu.school.nz





Achievement Awards

Te Kete Wakahuia

- Harrison B** - Well done for listening at workshops and trying hard at all of your work. Ka pai!
- Spencer** - You come into school with a happy smile and try hard at everything that you do. Well done Spencer!
- Willow** - For asking fantastic questions in oral language - Ka rawe!
- Blake** - For asking fantastic questions in oral language - Ka rawe!
- Zia** - You have been so positive and happy in our class despite having a broken collarbone - what a star you are Zia!
- Lucy E** - You have made a positive start to term 4 Lucy - Fantastic work!
- Toanui** - Fantastic presentation with your independent activities.
- Ashpreet** - For getting involved in team sports - Ka rawe!
- Darcy** - For learning all of the list one and two heart words. Ka pai!
- Frankie** - For progressing super-fast in literacy. Ka pai!
- Ungatea** - For making some great progress in your reading and writing. Tino pai.
- Zoe** - For your amazing progress in reading and writing. Kā rawe.

Te Kete Pounamu

To all of **Te Kete Pounamu**, you have all had a great week with all the disruptions that we have. Keep being awesome!

Aaliyah - Welcome to Hokowhitu School and TKP!

Te Kete Manawa

- Taylah** - For amazing reading, we are so proud of your progress and confidence as a learner!
- Ranvir** - For fantastic progress in his reading, you read with great expression!
- Afo** - We are so proud of your growth in reading. It is so lovely to hear you read with fluency and expression.
- Rohan** - For your continued growth in literacy, you are a fabulous reader and should feel so proud of yourself!
- Mila P** and **Mason H** - For a wonderful effort when reading with your teachers, you both have lovely positive attitudes!
- Madison** - WOW! Congratulations on your progress in reading. You have grown so much in confidence - Tino pai.
- Ryder** - For amazing reading, you have blown us away with your skills!
- Ruiling** - It is lovely to hear you read!
- Mario** - For fantastic fluent reading with Miss Puts, ka rawe.





Achievement Awards

Te Kete Aronui

Olivia G - For an awesome effort with your homework tasks.

Darcy - For taking extra care and effort with your artwork to do your very best.

Jaxon T - For the enthusiasm that you bring to school with you each day.

Ava K - For making good choices during learning so you are able to focus.

Ben - For being positive and super helpful around the kete.

Dwayne - For your great participation and contributions during science.

Mason - For working hard to blend colours during our Moana art.

Jacob - For great focus during art sessions.

Chris - For developing and re finding your badminton skills.

Te Kete Tangaroa

Ava M - For creating a stellar brainstorm with expert vocabulary.

Madisyn - Excellent comprehension work, answering her questions with complete sentence answers.

Yuna - Great division work.

Keesha - For finding the body of water closest to her house, using investigation skills.

Felicity - For outstanding work in maths.

Declan - Excellent comprehension work, answering her questions with complete sentence answers.

Felix H - Outstanding maths knowledge during daily mental maths.

Juha - Applying place value knowledge for addition.

Rei - Outstanding work in Maths.

Congratulations!

Community Notices



SAVE THE DATE

NZSC Manawatu Tough Kid® Challenge 2024

Mount Biggs School, with the support of Sport Manawatu, would like you to SAVE THE DATE for the NZSC Manawatu Tough Kid® Challenge.

FRIDAY MARCH 22nd 2024



Entries will open on Tuesday 20th of February 2024



Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/manawatutoughkid>

ATHLETICS
NEW ZEALAND

**GIVE IT A GO
THIS SUMMER!**

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Thanks to our partners

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

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ZERO GRAVITY Cheerleading



Zero Gravity Cheerleading offers classes from Tots to Teens, for boys and girls. Your child will learn gymnastics skills such as rolls, handstands, cartwheels and walkovers + cheerleading elements including stunts, lifts, pyramids, jumps and dance. Cheerleading is a great team sport which improves fitness, flexibility, strength, coordination and confidence. Being part of one of our many competitive teams helps develop good life skills and qualities including commitment, cooperation, and perseverance.



Enrol for term
4 or book a
free trial class
via our
website.
zgcheer.co.nz



“Fun in the Sun with the Marist Hotshots Tennis Programme – Beginner skills development programme for 5–12-year-olds run by our amazing Hot Shots coaches. These 50-minute sessions run on Saturday mornings over term 4 and will focus on improving strokes, footwork and court strategies! This is our most popular tennis programme which will upskill and develop techniques, so you are ready to face challenges on the court this summer season. All levels catered for, and all equipment provided. For more info contact Big John on 0274808808 or email johnsalisbury@xtra.co.nz”

**NEON dressup
Sausage Sizzle
Goodie Bags**



**Check-in
10am-
10.30am**

Festival Day
10.30am
12.30pm

Future Ferns
Saturday
Nov 11th



**MASS Warmup
Fun netball
skills**

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/270233>