

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

Newsletter

Friday 13th Feb 2026



Upcoming Events

13th February	House meeting day - wear your house t-shirt today if you have one.
17th February	5:30pm - Board Meeting
19th February	Library bus
20th February	9am School Assembly - TKA
24th February	9:30am Triathlon - Years 4, 5 & 6
3rd March	11:30 Swimming Sports - Year 3 & 4 2pm - Swimming Demo - Year 1
4th March	Interschool Triathlon -Yr 5/6
5th March	2pm - Swimming Demo Year 2
6th March	9am - School Assembly TKM

Do keep checking this calendar, as there will be new items added as soon as possible!



Update from the principal



Kia ora koutou. Nau mai haere mai,

The weather has really turned it on for our first full week back at school. Our tamariki have had the opportunity to swim daily and this has been a welcome break from the heat! Please ensure your children have their togs everyday. Swimming and water safety skills are part of the NZ Health and Physical Education Curriculum

It was great to see so many families at the Pool Party last night. It looked like everyone was having great fun and we enjoyed connecting with whānau. A huge thank you to Amy Westergaard for all her time and effort putting things in place. A 'team' of helpers including parents, staff and board members assisted with food preparation, set up and clean up. Ngā mihi nui.

Our teachers are continuing to build connections with their tamariki and within their whanau classes as new groups of students come together. All Kete's are working hard to reestablish routines so that the day to day running of our school is smooth. We are instilling high expectations in terms of behaviour. This is supported and reinforced using our STRIVE values and these remain the backbone of how we do things at our kura. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our staff who have ensured that we started the year off in a positive way.

Please remember to keep up to date with all of the events that are coming up, including school camps for Year 5's and 6's. If you have not yet downloaded the school app I would suggest you do this. We frequently send out alerts and reminders via this.

Hope the great weather sticks around a little longer and you can all enjoy the weekend.

Ngā mihi nui

Reece Hawkins

BALLOT FOR OUT OF ZONE TERM 3 AND 4 ENROLMENTS 2026

A ballot (if required) will be held on 1 April for new entrants who reside out of our school zone, but wish to enrol at our kura, starting in Terms 3 or 4 of this year.

Do you have a child turning 5 over this period? Do you know someone else who wishes to enrol with us, but we do not yet have their enrollment details?

Everyone (including siblings) who reside outside our enrollment zone MUST have enrollment information into the office by the 27 March so that we can accurately gauge how many spaces we have.

BUILDING WORK

We are preparing to upgrade our perimeter fencing to meet Ministry of Education requirements. This project includes the sections between buildings at the front of the school. Work is expected to commence in late February or early March. I will provide further updates as the project progresses.

REMINDERS

- Parents and non school age children are not to use the in school toilets. Please use the public toilets at Hokowhitu Park.
- Please remember to not stop on the yellow lines outside school, even for quick drop offs and pick ups.

2026 SUPPORT STAFF TEAM

Office Manager	Marie Greig
Office Assistant and Learning Coach	Leanne Hughes
Librarian and Learning Coach	Susan Janssen
Learning Coaches	Wendy Donnellan, Emma Vekula, Karen Douglas, Jess Burr, Emily Davis, Hailey Brown, Tim Onnes & Kobe McLean

Thanks to each one of you for the valuable contributions you make every day!



STUDENT SUCCESS



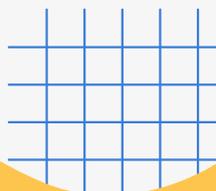
We love to celebrate student success here at Hokowhitu School! Over Waitangi weekend, **Junoo Hong** travelled to Auckland to attend the NZ National Speed Skating Competition. He achieved great success and came away with:

- 1 x Gold medal (200m), breaking the national record at 23.872!
- 2 x Silvers medals (500m & 1500m)
- 1 x Bronze medal (1000m)

Well done Junoo!



*If you would like to share your child's achievements with us, we would love to feature them in the newsletter. Please email: office@hokowhitu.school.nz



Achievement Awards



Te Kete Wakahuia

Welcome to **Nurmahammad** and **Theodore** who have joined us in TKW Tahī and Rua and Hokowhitu School. We hope you have a fabulous time at our school!

Honatana - For showing the T in Strive by trying something new and getting into the swimming pool.

Zeen - For showing the T in STRIVE and getting in the pool.

Kyrie - For showing the T in STRIVE by joining in all of our learning with greater confidence. Ka pai.

Galaxie - For showing the T in STRIVE by getting straight back into school work and trying hard at everything. Awesome!

Reign - For super listening. Ka Pai! Madeline - for asking questions. Tino Pai!

Te Kete Pounamu

Welcome to **Breanna**, **Pippa** and **Ian** who have joined us in TKP and Hokowhitu School. We hope you all have a fabulous time at our kura.

Melinesi - You have made a fabulous start to 2026 in TKP. Keep up the amazing effort

Saanvika - We appreciate your help and expertise in Pīwakawaka and TKP. Thank you for being a fabulous role model to others

Miller - For being a fabulous role model to others by listening with respect and following instructions

Heela - For sharing your maths knowledge with an elbow buddy during whole class maths. Tino pai!

Mizgine - for settling into TKP very quickly and following our routines well. Tino Pai!

Eva - for being a super helper in our classroom. Ka pai!

Sanumi - For being a talented artist who takes pride in her work. Tino pai!

Keepa - For being so keen to share your knowledge and experiences with the class. Ka rawe!

Anewa - For settling in so well on your first day and asking questions when unsure. Ka rawe!

Te Kete Manawa

Ava - For stepping up and being a great leader in TKM.

Namish - For demonstrating great focus in Maths.

Reeyana - For presenting your work to such a high standard!

Lenyelenhle - For working hard to be back in class quickly and ready to learn.

Hui-Tanguru - For listening carefully and presenting book work beautifully.

Yarik - For showing great understanding of basic facts.

Lusion - For helping and supporting others in your whānau class.

Lucy - For a fantastic start to the year and giving all things a try in a positive manner.

Ryder - for listening in math and working hard to complete challenging tasks.

A very warm welcome to **Ben**, **Ina**, **Yarik**, **Lenyelenhle** and **Ryder** who are joining Te Kete Manawa and Hokowhitu School. We are glad to have you here.

Te Kete Aronui

Welcome to **Pier Alaa**, **Mila-Mae** and **Aria** who have joined TKA and Hokowhitu School. We hope you have a fabulous time at our school!

Aditya and **Romaan** - you are fantastic Office Duty students!

Adam - For setting book work out well and listening to instructions!

Darcy - For being a positive role model and for always offering to help me in any way she can.

Lachie - For always being ready to learn and consistently showing STRIVE in everything he does.

Freya - for a great start in learning new routines.

James - for a super positive attitude towards your new kete and new challenges.

Te Kete Tangaroa

Welcome to **Yolisa**, **Hamish**, **Luca**, **Olivia**, **Jacob**, **Vladimir** and **Emelia** who have joined TKT and Hokowhitu School. We hope you have a fabulous time at our school!

Inwoo - Using his initiative and helping with chairs in the morning.

Afokoula - Being an amazing buddy to our new akonga

Antonella - Showing manawanui and leading by example

Olivia H - For making an outstanding start to the year, stepping up as a leader in the class.

Violet - for excellent basic facts accuracy

Grisha - for being supportive and helpful of our new students.

Ryder - For a great start in TKT. You have been sharing your ideas with the class and have shown atawhai each day.

Anita - For stepping up as a leader in Turitea. You lead by example and support others.

Yuleena - For showing responsibility and volunteering for class duties. Great to see you **stepping up!**



School Community Officer

Kia ora,

I'm Constable Nikita, your School Community Officer for the Palmerston North Area.

I truly enjoy working with our schools to support positive engagement and learning! I've been a Police Officer for the past 12 years working across several different workgroups, including on the frontline.

As your School Community Officer, I'm here to build strong relationships with the wider school community and offer key support, including:

- Providing tailored crime prevention advice for students, staff, and whānau.
- Delivering valuable police educational programmes on topics like online safety, Keeping Ourselves Safe, and road safety.
- Being a consistent, friendly police presence in your school community.

I was born and raised in the Chatham Islands and I have been living in the Manawatū for many years with my husband and children.

I look forward to meeting you all. Please say hi if you see me around and don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help to your school community.



Contact info –
Nikita.Joyce@police.govt.nz
/ 021 192 0906

Important Information for Parents & Guardians

- Please respect the privacy of all ākonga when taking photos or videos.
- Please do not publish any photos containing other children from any school event.
- Please look out for kete newsletters - these include additional specific dates/events for that kete.

Ways to Contact The Office When Your Child Will Be Late Or Absent



Email

office@hokowhitu.school.nz



Phone

(You can also leave a voicemail)
06 357 9667 School cell phone
(txt or phone) - 027 357 9021



App

See how to download the App here:
<https://hokowhituprimary.apps.school.nz/>

Sport

Now Open on Kindo

SUMMER HOCKEY T1 2026 - All year levels - Registrations now closed

BADMINTON - Open for years 5-6 - Registrations now closed

NETBALL Term 1 - All year groups - Unfortunately, not enough players to make a team.

CRICKET - Open for years 1-6

Check out the many Smash Cricket offerings we have and get amongst the FUN!

Smash Play (Year 1-4s) - <https://www.sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/smash-play>

Smash It! (Year 3&4s) - <https://www.sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/smash-it>

Smash Yard! (Year 5&6) - [sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/smash-yard-1](https://www.sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/smash-yard-1)

Yeah! Girls Smash (Year 5&6 - Girls only) - <https://www.sporty.co.nz/mca/smash-cricket/yeah-girls-smash>

NOTE - This is a club sport, please register via the above links



SMASH CRICKET
YEAR 1-4

MANAWATU CRICKET

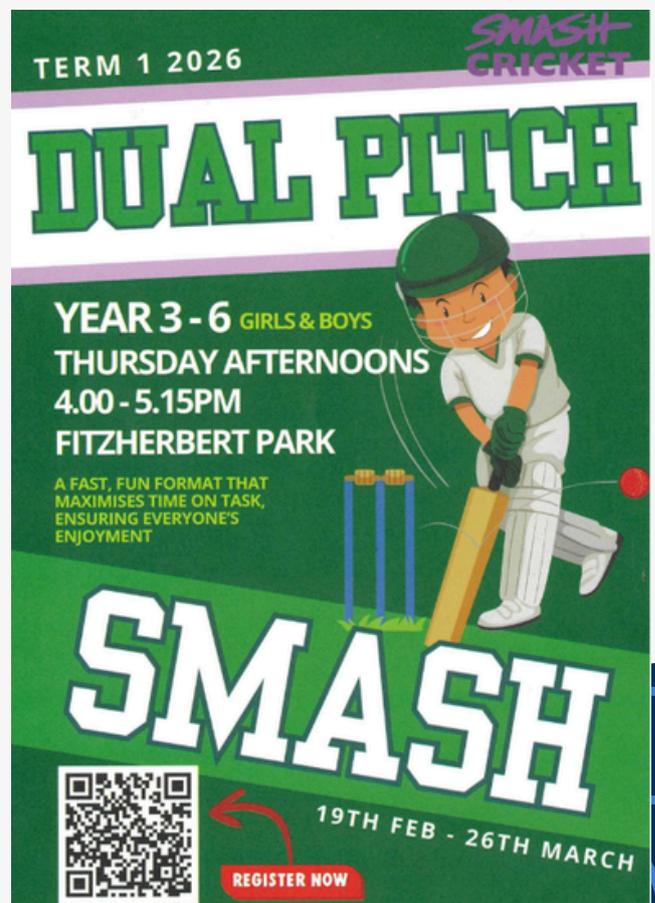
REGISTER HERE!

SMASHplay Smash it!

DAYS, HUBS & TIMES:
scan the QR code to find out further information

COST: \$25

juniorcc@mca.org.nz



TERM 1 2026

SMASH CRICKET

DUAL PITCH

YEAR 3 - 6 GIRLS & BOYS
THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
4.00 - 5.15PM
FITZHERBERT PARK

A FAST, FUN FORMAT THAT
MAXIMISES TIME ON TASK,
ENSURING EVERYONE'S
ENJOYMENT

SMASH

19TH FEB - 26TH MARCH

REGISTER NOW

WELCOME TO THE MARIST "HOT SHOTS" TENNIS PROGRAMME!

Tennis played on kid's terms!



Smaller courts and rackets! Softer tennis balls! A fun challenging programme with lots of friends! Thanks for checking out the award winning "Hot Shots" Coaching Programme at the Marist Tennis Club (Vautier Park). It is open to any junior player of any ability, 5 years and older. It is run by our Hotshots coach, Neeve Harbott.

The programme is a structured skill development program which focuses on maximum participation and having fun, whilst teaching the fundamental skills of the game. The programme is delivered in 2 coloured stages. The children all move through each colour with skill drills and games which increase in complexity and movement.

It is a Saturday morning programme where we offer a 50 minute group lesson in Term 1 2026. It is a 6 week programme at Vautier Park commencing on **Saturday 21st February 2026.**

- **Stage 1** - Red Squads (5-8 years) – **9am - 9.50am**
- **Stage 2** – Orange Squads (9- 12 years) – **10am – 10.50am**

To confirm your child's place in the programme for Term 1 a \$ **100** fee is required. Payment via internet banking: ANZ 01-0745-0198533-00 Reference: Child's name. Could you also please email Neeve confirming your child's participation and colour squad and that payment has been made. Please enrol A.S.A.P
(neve.harbott@gmail.com)

Don't panic if you don't have a racket, we have them for you to use free of charge until you are ready to purchase your own. We will provide the other equipment, just bring yourself and a friend and we will put you in a draw to win an awesome spot prize!!

The wet weather rule is to phone Neeve before you leave home, if you are unsure if the coaching is on, contact her on 02040789264.

The Marist "Hot Shot" Team -Manawatu's #1 Hot Shot Club!

Neeve Harbott

Hot Shots Coach

02040789264

neve.harbott@gmail.com

JOIN THE EGG PROJECT FUNDRAISER TODAY!

FREE RANGE DOZEN - \$9.50
CERTIFIED ORGANIC DOZEN \$11.50

SET UP A SUBSCRIPTION OR ORDER YOUR EGGS ON THE WEBSITE BEFORE TUESDAY AND THEY WILL BE READY FOR COLLECTION FROM THE OFFICE ON THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL. WE WILL GIVE THE SCHOOL BACK \$1.00 PER DOZEN.

YOUR UNIQUE CODE SCH-003

WWW.THEEGGPROJECT.CO.NZ

The Egg Project

- Jump onto the website www.theeggproject.co.nz
- Click up the top on the blue bit where it asks if you have a unique code.
- Use the code SCH-003 at to sign up, select what eggs you want as a one off or set up a subscription, confirm and pay.
- If you need help with anything—ordering, subscriptions, or just want to talk eggs—flick me an email. I'm just sitting here chatting with the eggs anyway (they're great listeners, but not so hot on tech support). Pip@theeggproject.co.nz

Hokowhitu School has fundraised more than \$2689 so far by having whānau purchase these eggs. Along with being so fresh, the eggs are also much cheaper than the equivalent at the supermarket.

Community Notices

**2026 New Year
New Students
Welcome**



沖繩剛柔流

www.karate.org.nz
**GOJU RYU KARATE
PALMERSTON NORTH**

沖繩剛柔流

LOCATION: Hokowhitu School Hall
Albert St, Palmerston North
TIMES: Tue / Fri Juniors 6pm-7pm
Seniors 7pm - 8pm
(advanced - 8:30pm)

CONTACT: Clayton, 021 2082 012
EMAIL: claytonsensei@gmail.com
WEB: www.karate.org.nz



Music lessons for children aged 4 - 13

Enrolments open!

Teaching the following instruments:
cello, choir, clarinet, drums, flute, french horn, guitar, ukulele, junior flute (fife), keyboard, music basics, orchestra, recorder, saxophone, trombone, trumpet and violin.

Enrol now for 2026!

www.saturdaymusic.org.nz

Email: contact@saturdaymusic.org.nz

**Providing affordable Music education for
the children of Manawatū**