

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL

Newsletter

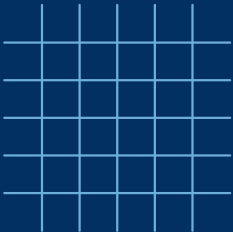
Friday 4th September 2026



Upcoming Events

8 th September	Board Meeting
9 th September	Ricoh Sports Tournament - Y5&6
10 th September	Year 4-6 Kapa Haka Mini Fest at PNINS
11 th September	School Assembly - TKA ROSS Intermediate & PNINS enrolments closing date
15 & 16 th September	Celebration of learning evenings 5:30 - 6:30pm
18 th September	Pizza Lunch Day Vision & Hearing Screening
24 th September	PNINS Information evening for students attending 5:45 - 7pm
25 th September	Term 3 Ends
12 th October	Term 4 Begins
22 nd October	Year 4 Sleepover & Ngā Manu
27nd October	Board Meeting
5 th November	School Athletics Day - Year 4-6

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



Update from the Principal



Kia ora koutou,

It has been another busy week with so much happening across our kura!

It started off with our Jump Jammers competing on Saturday, what a huge effort! They should all be very proud of themselves. A huge thank you to Ms Tayler for giving up her lunchtimes throughout the year as well as her Saturday to support these students. We truly appreciate the time and energy both Stacey and our tamariki have put in.

Our chess players also achieved fantastic results at the Manawatū Championships, 18 students represented us at the Manawatū Teams Orienteering Champs, and our Student Ambassadors got up extra early on Thursday morning to attend the annual Nireaha Tree Planting at Ashhurst Domain.

Last Friday was also our Year 4–6 poetry and speech finals afternoon. Well done to our winners and to all the students who made the finals—the presentations were of an extremely high standard! I would also like to say a massive well done to every student who worked hard to write and deliver a speech or recite a poem in front of an audience; speaking publicly is an extremely challenging thing to do.

Celebrating Learning Evenings (Week 9)- A reminder that our Celebrating Learning Evenings will be held in Week 9 on **Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th September from 5:30pm - 6:30pm**. These evenings are all about celebrating the learning journey your child has been on throughout the year. It is a wonderful time for your child to lead the conversation, show you what they have been working on, and engage you in their learning environment. Teachers will be on hand to touch base, but if you have specific concerns or questions that require more time, please arrange a separate meeting with your child's teacher.

Please note: TKW classrooms will only be open on Tuesday evening, as TKW teachers will be conducting scheduled 20-week and 40-week parent meetings.

STRIVE Focus: Atawhai – Value Others Our STRIVE focus for the next couple of weeks is Atawhai – Value Others. I have seen so many great examples of Atawhai around the school this week, from students using excellent manners to actively looking out for one another. I had a very enjoyable morning tea on Wednesday with **Vova**, our STRIVE Spin to Win winner. He showed lovely manners, and I really enjoyed learning about his family's passion for mountain biking!

2027 Term Dates - To help with your planning for next year, here are our confirmed term dates:

- Term 1: Monday 1st February – Friday 9th April
- (Public Holidays: Waitangi Day – Mon 8th Feb; Good Friday – 26th March; Easter Monday & Tuesday – 29th & 30th March)
- Term 2: Tuesday 27th April – Friday 2nd July
- (Public Holidays: Queen's Birthday – Mon 7th June)
- Term 3: Monday 19th July – Friday 24th September
- Term 4: Monday 11th October – Wednesday 15th December
- (Public Holiday: Labour Day – Mon 25th October)

A Big Thank You - A huge thank you to Kevin from aPlus. Kevin is a fantastic supporter of our school and regularly lets us use his minivans to transport our students to various events. We thoroughly appreciate your ongoing support and generosity, Kevin!

Have a fantastic, restful weekend.

Ngā mihi nui,

Reece Hawkins
Tumuaki / Principal

Ngā Aukaha - all in for tamariki

You may have seen many of the staff wearing purple on Thursday. This was an acknowledgement of Ngā Aukaha - all in for tamariki. This NZEI Campaign asks for the following of the government:

1. Increase dedicated teacher aide funding in early childhood centres and schools.
2. Increase the number of specialists (e.g. psychologists, physiotherapists and resource teachers) to meet student need.
3. Fund a dedicated Learning Support Coordinator or SENCO in every school and early childhood centre.
4. Expand the ORS criteria and increase the funding available so that it is based on need, rather than a fixed amount of funding available.
5. Develop and provide greater professional development (including career pathways) and specialist opportunities for educators to develop their understanding of learning support, including Initial Teacher Education.

Issues of funding and extremely long wait times means many tamariki are not receiving the support they need to thrive. Together, we can push the government to increase funding so a child can feel connected, supported and valued at school or in their early childhood education. We celebrate the people who work with these tamariki on Ngā Aukaha day in September each year.



INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Tuesday we sent 13 students to the Manawātū Primary Schools Chess Championships. It was a great event with 65 players from across the Manawātū. Jaxxon won the Overall Championship, with Jamie H 2nd (Jamie won it last year). We also had three other players just one win away from 3rd place (Quinn, Rory & Joshua). Zareesh was a strong 3rd place in the Female division. Many players attended their first competitive event and they all came away with wins. The future of chess looks bright at Hokowhitu School! Thank you to the parents who supported the kids on the day. They all had a great time.



YEAR 3 & 4 POETRY & YEAR 5 & 6 SPEECH FINALS

On Friday, we held our annual Poetry and Speech Finals. The speech topic for the Year 5 & 6 students was 'Why we need everyday heroes now more than ever!'. All the ākonga did an outstanding job presenting either their poem/speech. We are very proud of them.

PLACINGS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Year 4 - 1st: **Sadie**; 2nd: **Zoe**; 3rd: **Darcy**

Year 5 - 1st: **Ihaia**; 2nd: **Isla**; 3rd: **Anna**

Year 6 - 1st: **Zareesh**; 2nd: **Georgia**; 3rd: **Emelia**

A special thanks to our guest judges included Lin Dixon, Reece Hawkins and two former students Seongjin Choi and Lenny Hansen-Wall who are Student Leaders at PNBHS.

Our Year 3 Poetry Competition was held on Tuesday and the placings are
Year 3 - 1st - **Arlo**; 2nd - **Juliette**; 3rd equal: **Jack & Willow**





JUMP JAM COMPETITION



On Saturday 29th almost 50 children attended the Jump Jam Competition at The Spiers Centre. The year 4 team were brilliant, receiving a merit in technical execution and presentation. They came 4th and were awarded “Very Highly Commended”. The year 5-6 team had tough competition, receiving excellence in technical execution and presentation, also placing 4th and receiving the “Very Highly Commended” award. Competition was tight with only one point between the winning teams. Everyone had a blast and Ms Tayler had a much needed nap on Sunday.

- Ms Tayler



JUMP JAM



NIREAHA TREE PLANTING

On Thursday, the 3rd of September, the Hokowhitu School Ambassadors went to the annual Nireaha Tree Planting at Ashhurst Domain. It was held to remember Nireaha Tamaki, a very influential figure who fought for Māori land rights. It's said that Nireaha was probably born between 1835 - 1837 on the banks of the Manawatu River. In the 1870s, he went to court to argue that the British were taking the Māori land unfairly. He ended up winning his case and set a precedent for other nations controlled by the British to follow. Sadly, he passed away on the 3rd of July, 1911. The tree planting is held every year to honour all he has done for Aotearoa New Zealand.



There were many different schools there, such as Ashhurst School, Terrace End, and more. The organisers marked where we should dig the holes to plant the trees and plants. The main goal for the day was to plant 100 trees. They wanted us to plant tall trees, plants, bushes and shrubs. We grabbed our trusty shovels and got to digging. We had to smack the plant to get it out of the mold, and then loosen the roots. We weren't allowed to dig next to the grown trees, so we dug in an open field of grass. Half of us were digging, and half of us were grabbing plants from the plant. It was very repetitive. We worked like clockwork, digging, planting, digging, planting, digging, and planting. When we dug holes, we ran into many rocks, pine cones, and tree roots. It was very tiring, as we spent about an hour and a half planting trees and shrubs. Luckily, it ended up being SO worth it, as after the planting we got a cup of hot chocolate and some SCRUMPTIOUS muffins.

- Written by Rory and Jamie, Hokowhitu School Ambassadors.



Achievement Awards



Te Kete Wakahuia

Danyal - For fantastic writing. Tino pai.

Harvin - For working hard to write the sounds and words you know, in your writing. Ka pai.

Zeen - For great progress with learning to write the heart words. Ka pai.

Maple - For learning to write all the heart words. Ka rawe!

Maisie - For using great listening skills. You can follow instructions around the classroom and in your learning. Ka rawe!

Carter - For showing courage, gaining confidence and giving lots of new things a go. Ka pai!

Gurrehmat - For very neat handwriting. Tino pai.

Danah - For very neat handwriting. Ka pai.

Te Kete Pounamu

Lana - We will miss your smile and laughter in TKP Lana. Safe travels home to Japan.

Toby - You are an awesome role model in TKP with your fantastic learning body and enthusiasm for learning - Keep it up!

Nia - For writing independently with correct punctuation - Tino pai!

Kiyara - For reading your writing carefully to check and correct any mistakes. Ka rawe!

Imogen - For giving awesome compliments to others and 'filling our buckets'. Ka mau te wehi!

Bai - For having a fantastic 'listening body' on the maths mat, with no distractions in your pocket. Ka wani kē!

Breanna - For focusing well in literacy and for contributing actively in whole class 'code' activities. Tino pai!

Suvarn - For stepping up to form your letters correctly and keep your handwriting tidy. Ka rawe!

Te Kete Manawa

Spencer - For listening to and following instructions during literacy.

Remy - For great precision with your art.

Harrison B - For improved bookwork and listening to instructions in literacy.

Jack - For practicing the basic facts and moving up a level.

Hazel - For always listening and contributing great ideas to discussions.

Carson - For having a caring nature toward your peers.

Muhammad - For contributing well to discussions about persuasive techniques.

Ashpreet - For thinking of great persuasive ideas about why we should not wear uniforms.

Ava - For being a kind and caring member of TKM.

Te Kete Aronui

Freya & Beaudi - For their enthusiasm for learning in their Performing Arts workshop.

Meilah - For applying maths strategies to a real life context.

Oliver, Lucy & Suyog - For great effort and skill when completing your calendar art.

Paikea - For persevering to master 2 x 2 digit multiplication.

Junoo - For impressing us with fantastic skills in multiplying multi-digit numbers.

Joy & Alaa - For fantastic bookwork and handwriting!

Darcy - For your amazing work with multiplication methods.

William - For your fantastic bookwork with cursive writing!

Te Kete Tangaroa

Isla F - Persevering with difficult maths tasks.

Aadarsh - Showing initiative.

Paxton - Excellent use of subordinating conjunctions.

Ajay - Superior Jumpjam moves.

Edward - Excellent work finding percentages of an amount.

Georgia - Fantastic persuasive paragraph writing.

Jessica - For excellent work in statistics in maths this week.

Logain - You are quickly learning to play the ukulele. You learn new chords quickly and can change quickly between different chords.

Vova - You are picking up ukulele chords quickly!

Well done!

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

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN VIA KINDO



Summer Soccer - All years
Registrations are now **open**.
Closes - 16th Sep 12 midday

T-Ball - Under 7's & 9's
Registrations are now **open**.
Closes - 17th Sept midday



Summer Hockey - All years
Registrations are now **open**
Closes - 18th Sep midday



Touch Rugby - All years
Registrations are now **open**
Closes - 11th Sept midday

Volleyball - Year 4, 5 & 6
Registrations are now
Closed



<https://shop.kindo.co.nz/>

TENNIS

Programme Details: Tennis Manawatu
 Eligibility: Students in School - **Year 6 Students ONLY.**
 Duration: 6 weeks
 Day/Time: Tuesdays, 3.45pm – 5pm
 Venue: Vautier Park, Puriri Terrace, Roslyn, Palmerston North
 Start Date: Tuesday, 20th October 2026
 Finish Date: Tuesday, 24th November 2026
 Entries close: Wednesday, **14th October 2026**

Please click the link for more information and to register with Tennis Manawatu - [Tennis Manawatu](https://clubspark.kiwi/TennisManawatu)



Term 1 Wed 4/2-Thur 2/4	Term 2 Mon 20/4-Fri 3/7	Term 3 Mon 20/7-Fri 25/9	Term 4 Mon 12/10-Fri 16/12
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Sports you will register through **kindo** to play for Hokowhitu School -

<https://shop.kindo.co.nz/>

*Uniform hire is required for all sports except Netball

COACHES - If you can, please send through a photo of the players of the day for the newsletter. We love to share the kids achievements! office@hokowhitu.school.nz

Badminton - yrs 5 and 6 (Registration - kindo beginning term 1) Summer Hockey - All yrs (Registration - kindo beginning term 1) Netball - All yrs (Registration -kindo beginning term 1) T-Ball - yrs 1-3 (This team is continued from Term 4) *All Term 1 Sports registration's are now closed	Basketball - yrs 3-6 (Registration - kindo term 1) Winter hockey - All yrs (Registration - kindo term 1) Table Tennis - yrs 4-6 (Registration - kindo term 1) *All Term 2 Sports registration's are now CLOSED	Badminton - yrs 4-6 (Registration - kindo term 2) - Registration NOW CLOSED Winter hockey carry on this term for two weeks.	T-Ball - yrs 1-3 (Registrations Now Open) Summer hockey - All yrs (Registrations Now Open) Summer soccer - All yrs (Registrations Now Open) Volleyball - yrs 4-6 (Registrations Now closed) Futsal - yrs 3-6 (Registrations open soon) Netball - All yrs (Registrations now closed) Touch - All yrs (Registrations now open)
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Sports available through outside agencies
 See this link for ALL sports in the Manawatu -
<https://www.sportmanawatu.org.nz/findasport>

Junior rugby https://www.manawaturugby.co.nz/community-rugby-1/junior-1 Winter soccer https://www.centralfootball.co.nz/competitions-1/fixturesresults-1/manawatu-2			Tennis https://clubspark.kiwi/TennisManawatu Cricket www.sporty.co.nz/mca
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If you have any sports queries please email our Sports Coordinator
c.hodge@hokowhitu.school.nz





Community Notices



A CONCERT EXPERIENCE FOR FAMILIES



PALMY VENUE + EVENTS
6 OCTOBER, 4PM

QUEEN • KATSEYE • SHAKIRA • KPOP DEMON HUNTERS
MICHAEL JACKSON • BRUNO MARS & ROSE • TAYLOR SWIFT



Open Day!

Saturday 5 September | 9:00 to 11:30 AM
PNINS Auditorium (Te Tihi)

Come and explore our affordable, accessible music classes for children in the Manawatū! We offer classes for:

Cello, Choir, Clarinet, Drums, Flute, French Horn, Guitar, Ukulele, Junior Flute (Fife), Keyboard, Music Basics, Recorder, Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet and Violin

www.saturdaymusic.org.nz
contact@saturdaymusic.org.nz



aPlus School Holiday Programme 2026



Hokowhitu School
227 Albert Street, Palmerston North



School Holidays:
28 September – 9 October 2026



Book now: aplus.kiwi.nz



WINZ subsidies available

SMALL FRY

Ages 5–6 • from \$32 per day

28 SEP **Spring Lambs** \$32
lamb games, crafts & stories 

29 SEP **Rainbow Rangers** \$32
colour mixing & rainbow fun 

30 SEP **Make it Yellow** \$32
sunshine sorting & yellow play 

1 OCT **Round and Round** \$32
circles, spinning & rolling fun 

2 OCT **Mix and Match** \$32
matching, monsters & easy drawing 

5 OCT **Born to be an Owl** \$32
owl matching & crafts 

6 OCT **How Many Ants** \$32
counting, observation & teamwork 

7 OCT **The Golden Fish** \$32
underwater art & games 

8 OCT **aPlus Festival of Spring** \$40
festival games, magician & ice cream truck 

9 OCT **Creative Balloons** \$32
balloon games, challenges & art 

HOLIDAY FUN

7 years & up • from \$35 per day

28 SEP **Tops and Tails** \$35
animal play, movement & art 

29 SEP **The Blue Duck** \$35
discover the whio 

30 SEP **What I Didn't Do Today** \$35
an upside-down imagination day 

1 OCT **The Twist and Grow Tree** \$35
nature, growth & creation 

2 OCT **Wooden Wonders** \$35
build, balance & invent 

5 OCT **Crazy T-Shirt Day** \$35
decorate and design 

6 OCT **Bats in the Cave** \$35
cave fun, art & stories 

7 OCT **Gecko or Skink** \$35
3D lizards & native species 

8 OCT **aPlus Festival of Spring** \$40
festival games, magician & ice cream truck 

7 OCT **Landscapes** \$35
paper scenes, weather & places 

EXPLORERS

7 years & up • from \$38 per day

28 SEP **Steampunk** \$38
gears, goggles & inventions 

29 SEP **Plan, Shop, Cook to Win** \$45
cooking teamwork challenge 

30 SEP **Star Wars** \$38
lightsabres & galactic creativity 

1 OCT **Movies – Events Cinema** \$45
snacks and a movie 

2 OCT **Purrfect** \$38
cats, art, treats & storytime 

5 OCT **Flamingo Flamenco** \$38
music, movement & pink fun 

6 OCT **Hector the Dolphin** \$38
rare NZ dolphin discovery 

7 OCT **Mystery Trip** \$48
a surprise adventure 

8 OCT **aPlus Festival of Spring** \$40
festival games, magician & ice cream truck 

9 OCT **Puppet Parade** \$38
make puppets & perform 

IPU NEW ZEALAND

SAKURA DAY

Saturday, 19th September

10 AM - 3 PM

57 AOKAUTERE DRIVE, FITZHERBERT,
PALMERSTON NORTH



Face painting
E-Game Challenge
Indoor Games



Cherry blossoms
Performances
Cultural displays



Food trucks
Haunted house
And more!



Cherry Blossom FEST 2026

20 SEPTEMBER | 11.30AM - 2.30PM
COLEMAN PLACE - PALMY

FEATURING

KODAMA DRUM TEAM * SORAN DANCE TEAM HANA
MATCHA TEA MAKING * PAPER CRANE ORIGAMI
THEMED FACE PAINTING * CANDY FLOSS MACHINE
SHODO JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY * SPOT PRIZES
TRADITIONAL JAPANESE GOWN DRESS UP PHOTO BOOTH

BE IN TO WIN

- * A KODAMA DRUM TEAM SCHOOL PERFORMANCE *
- * 1 OF 2 \$400 PLAZA VOUCHERS *
- * A CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE *

FOLLOW PALMY BID & IPU NZ SOCIALS FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO
WIN THE ABOVE PRIZES IN OUR CHERRY BLOSSOM FEST PROMOS!

