

EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Preparing today's child for tomorrow's world - Whakakaha ngā tamariki mo apopo

Phone: 375 8191 or 022 368 1830 **Email:** office@eketahuna.school.nz **Website** www.eketahuna.school.nz

COMING UP:

Wednesday 3rd February: **School Open – Students on site from 8:30am**

Monday 6th February: Waitangi Day - **School Closed**

Tuesday 7th February: Home & School Association Meeting @ 7pm

Tuesday 7th February: Class Swimming Lessons begin

Wednesday 8th February: Year 7 & 8 Technology @ Tararua College

Friday 10th February: School Mihi Whakatau @ 10am



Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te kura Eketāhuna,

I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are all part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education. All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff have spent time planning and preparing for our children and as I walked through classes today, the learning was fun and engaging - lots of awesomes smiles! We are indeed a kind and caring school community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting such high-level learning!

A BIG FAREWELL TO KYLEE

Sadly, next week we will be saying farewell to our amazing cleaner, Kylee Joep, who is leaving us to take on a bigger role at Fonterra milk powder processing facility in Pahiatua. Kylee has been at Eketāhuna School for many years, being a much loved part of our team, not only due to cleaning duties, but also her commitment to the school and her personal support of many students, where she goes 'above & beyond'. I know she will be successful in her new endeavours and I am sure you will join me in thanking her for all her hard work as we wish her the very best for the future. Looking forward to a replacement, we are currently advertising the position and hope to update you over the next few weeks.



SCHOOL WIDE ORGANISATION OF CLASSES FOR 2023

We are so pleased to have great teachers in classes again this year. We will also have Ali Mackisack returning as the release teacher for Nireaha each Monday, along with new release teachers Carol Laubscher in Hāmua each Monday and Lisa Patrick in Rongomai each Wednesday. Kathryn Morgan and Peta Campbell are also returning to work as CRT staff across the school.

Hukanui - Room 1	Hāmua - Room 3	Rongomai - Room 2	Nireaha - Room 5	Pūtara - Room 6
Year 0 - 2	Year 2 & 3	Year 4 & 5	Year 6 & 7	Year 7 & 8
Marilyn Whiteley	Rachael Dickson	Holly Johnston	Barbara Whitburn	Dean Parsons

MIHI WHAKATAU ON FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY

Next Friday, we will formally welcome our new students and whānau to Eketahuna School. A mihi whakatau is a Maori welcoming ceremony involving korero and waiata. We look forward to seeing you all there! The organisation for Friday is:

- New staff, students, whānau and supporters will gather at the school courtyard seated area at 9.55am for a 10:00am start. If wet we will hold it in our school hall.
- At the completion of the ceremony there will be a morning tea for those who were welcomed to school.

SWIMMING LESSONS FOR 2023 STARTING

Tuesday, next week, we will start our swimming lessons at school for students in our amazing heated pool. Ryan & Lisa Seator will be running the daily sessions for the next 6 weeks. This comes under our Health & Wellbeing Curriculum and just like all other learning areas, students will be expected to participate. Please make sure children bring their togs & towels daily.



ATTENDANCE & BUSES FROM SCHOOL

IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT COMING TO SCHOOL PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE BEFORE 9AM TO LET THEM KNOW. A REMINDER TO ALSO NOTIFY THE OFFICE BEFORE 2:30PM IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT GOING HOME ON THEIR USUAL BUS.



CELL PHONES

A REMINDER THAT STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO HAVE PHONES OR DEVICES OF ANY DESCRIPTION ON THEM AT SCHOOL. IF THEY DO NEED TO BRING A DEVICE OR PHONE TO SCHOOL, THEY ARE TO BE HANDED INTO THE OFFICE BEFORE SCHOOL. THANK YOU!



BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE

A REMINDER FOR STUDENTS TO BRING THEIR WATER BOTTLE TO SCHOOL EACH DAY. THE WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION IS OPEN AND STUDENTS NEED TO BE HYDRATED THROUGHOUT THEIR BUSY DAY AT SCHOOL. PLEASE ENSURE THE BOTTLE HAS YOUR CHILDS NAME ON IT. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



UPDATE STUDENT & HOME CONTACT INFORMATION

With the start of the new year we ask that parents and caregivers update the school with any new information regarding their children - especially in relation to their health i.e, asthma, allergies etc. We would also appreciate any new contact details being updated. Please give the school office a ring, and speak to Leona, if any update is necessary.

STUDENTS ARE SUN SMART IN TERM 1

Another friendly reminder is that Eketāhuna School has a Sun Safety Policy which requires all students' to ensure their shoulders and upper arms are covered, along with requiring sun hats to be worn at all breaks. Those students without hats will be asked to stay on the verandahs, in the shade. We also ask that you 'slap on' some sunscreen before children leave for school. Teachers will have sunscreen available in classes to 'top up' as necessary. We want to ensure everyone is 'sun smart' and safe!



EMERGENCY EVACUATION PRACTISE TOMORROW

On Friday each class will individually go through their first Emergency Evacuation drill for the year. As a school we need to hold regular practices that uphold the safety of all staff and children by ensuring they are familiar with, and confident in, responding to emergency procedures. These drills are held each term to check & review our systems, role playing a variety of situations from fire to earthquake.

We hope you all enjoy the long weekend and we look forward to seeing students back at school on Tuesday 7th February.

Ngā mihi

Melinda & the Eketāhuna School Team



EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2023 (NB: Two additional Teacher Only Days this year TBC)

Term	Starting: and Ending	School Closed (NB: Two additional Teacher Only Days this year TBC)
1	Wednesday 1st February to Thursday 6th April	Waitangi Day Tuesday 7th February / Good Friday 7th April
2	Monday 24th April to Friday 30th June	Kahui Ako Teacher Only Day 24th April / ANZAC Tuesday 25th April / King's Birthday Monday 6th June
3	Monday 17th July to Friday 22nd September	Mid Term Break (TBC)
4	Monday 9th October to Thursday 14th December	Labour Day Monday 23rd October

UPCOMING BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



The next Eketāhuna School Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on 22 Feb 6.30pm in the Eketāhuna School staff room, everyone is welcome to attend and if you have any items for the agenda please let me know by 5pm 17 Feb with all relevant information. I am contactable on bochair@eketahuna.school.nz or 3758059.

Warmest Regards, Skye White Chairperson, Eketāhuna Board of Trustees

EKETĀHUNA HOME & SCHOOL MEETING

Tuesday 7th February
7pm
@ Eketāhuna School



We look forward to seeing you all there 😊

CLASS UPDATES

HUKANUI NEWS: (ROOM 1)

Welcome back to 2023 in Hukanui! It was great to see the children ready, eager to learn and play yesterday. They were excited to see their friends and to see what was happening in the classroom. This week we are focusing on routines, as these are very important at the beginning of the school year. Please help your child in this area by getting them to carry their bag and unpack the things they need out. We are excited to be able to use the swimming pool, especially since it is lovely and warm.

Please remember hats and drink bottles.

Any queries please do not hesitate to contact me mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz or leave a message on the school cell phone and I will get it. Thanks. Marilyn

RONGOMAI NEWS: (ROOM 2)

Kia ora koutou,
Welcome to 2023! Over the last two days we have been really enjoying getting to know each other and sharing what everyone got up to in the holidays. This week will be spending time settling into a new routine and classroom. Please remember our tamariki needs to bring a sun hat, drink bottle, togs and a towel daily. If you have any questions please feel free to email hjohnston@eketahuna.school.nz
Nga Mihi, Holly 😊



HAMUA NEWS: (ROOM 3)

It's been so great to see so many smiling, eager faces back at school. Everyone is so energised after the Christmas break, ready for learning, and super keen to get into the pool.

There will be an adjustment period for all of us, new teachers, new classmates, changes in routines and expectations. We will work through it all together and all come out of it a year older and wiser!

This term we will be celebrating Eketāhuna 150 years with the community. We will be looking back, remembering how things were, and comparing them to how we live in 2023.

We will also be swimming every day for at least 5 weeks so it is important that togs are sent to school every day - or a note if your child is unwell. Please pop in if you need a chat about anything, or email me rdickson@eketahuna.school.nz. Enjoy your long weekend and we look forward to seeing you at the meet and greet in a couple of weeks.

All the best, Rachael 😊

NIREAHA NEWS: (ROOM 5)

Kia ora koutou,

I am delighted to be back teaching in Nireaha and working with these gorgeous Year 6 students!

So far this week we have been getting to know each other a little bit more, and as we are Eketahuna School 'seniors' now, we are working together to set the expectations of how our class will look, sound and feel like this year.

We will be set up to use the school Chromebooks, so please look through and discuss the Digital Agreement your child brought home on Wednesday, sign this and bring it back asap. Thank you. Swimming has started, even in the rain 😊 the water is warm, so please ensure togs come to school every day. A note needs to be sent in if a child is not swimming that day.

Wishing you a wonderful Waitangi Day celebration.

Nga mihi Barbara bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz

PUTARA NEWS: (ROOM 6)

Kia ora, whānau

Welcome back to an exciting 2023! It's wonderful to see all the children back at school, plus one or two new faces. I love being a teacher - I always have. We have an exciting term planned, beginning with swimming. Please ensure your child brings their togs and towel each day. If your child is not swimming, then I would like to see a note or an email please. Swimming is an important skill and we are extremely fortunate to have Ryan and Lisa develop our tamariki in this critical area.




Also, please make sure your children are bringing a drink bottle and sun hat to school. It's important we're all sunsmart.


Lastly, I look forward to meeting with you all. You are welcome to contact me at any time, so please make yourselves known (if I don't know who you are).

Have a wonderful Waitangi Day celebration and enjoy your time together. Ka kite anō, Dean

dparsons@eketahuna.school.nz

EKETAHUNA SCHOOL 2023 - TERM 1

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 1 Feb - 3 Feb			<u>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</u>		
2 6 Feb - 10 Feb	<u>WAITANGI DAY</u> School Closed	Daily Swimming Lessons 7pm Home & School Mtg	Technology for Year 7 & 8		<u>10am SCHOOL MIHI WHAKATAU</u> Assembly - Leaders
3 13 Feb - 17 Feb	Tararua Staff Powhiri	Tararua Minor Sport Yr 0 - 2 @ Pahiataua	 Trip to Cobblestones	<u>SCHOOL MEET & GREET</u> 4:30 - 6pm  Trip to Cobblestones	Assembly - Pūtara Touch Rugby Comp Starts  Trip to Cobblestones
4 20 Feb - 24 Feb			6pm Board of Trustees Mtg		Assembly - Nireaha
5 27 Feb - 3 Mar		School Swimming Sports (Yr 4 - 8)	Technology for Year 7 & 8	School Swimming Sports pp	
6 6 Mar - 10 Mar			Technology for Year 7 & 8	Junior School Swim Display	Tararua Interschool Swimming Sports TBC <u>EKETAHUNA 150 YEARS</u> Celebrations @ School
7 13 Mar - 17 Mar				Jr School Swim Display pp	Assembly - Rongomai
8 20 Mar - 24 Mar	2pm House Team Softball Round 1 (TBC)		Technology for Year 7 & 8	2pm House Team Softball Round 2 (TBC)	Assembly - Hāmua
9 27 Mar - 31 Mar	2pm House Team Softball Round 3 (TBC)			2pm House Team Softball Round 4 (TBC)	Assembly - Hukanui
10 3 Apr - 7 Apr	<u>Staff vs Students Softball</u> TBC	<u>Staff vs Students Softball</u> TBC	Technology for Year 7 & 8	<u>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</u> 2:15pm Assembly (TBC)	<u>GOOD FRIDAY</u> School Closed

 **Trip to Cobblestones Museum in Greytown for all students - more information to come**



EKETAHUNA SCHOOL MEET & GREET EVENING

Thursday 16th February 4:30pm - 6pm

We will have our classrooms open so families can meet our teachers and see the engaging learning spaces, have a swim in our heated pool, grab a free sausage or hot chips. See you there!



Hello and welcome to Term 1 2023!

I hope that you are all rested and ready to start the year, that you have had a wonderful break with your whanau and friends and are looking forward to another year at Eketāhuna school.

The school staff have been busy preparing and planning for all the students to return and are really looking forward to the term and positive that there will be heaps of fun, laughter and learning.

The term calendar is already filling up and there are plenty of activities and events for you and your children to get involved with, please keep yourself up to date with everything by reading the school newsletter, checking emails, Skool Loop and the Eketahuna School Facebook page.

During the break Josh Roberts Building has been working hard putting on our new roof and there are more plans underway for the driveway and school entrance which is very exciting and has been a long time in the pipeline.

I'd like to acknowledge the dedication and planning that has already been done for the start to the year, and thank the school staff for their continued responsiveness and dedication to our children. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the school Meet and Greet on the 16th February.

The first Board Meeting will be on 22 Feb 6.30pm in the staff room, everyone is welcome to attend and if you have any items for the agenda please let me know by 5pm 17 Feb with all relevant information. I am contactable on botchair@eketahuna.school.nz or 3758059.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees we wish you all a wonderful start to the school year and we look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Kind regards

Skye White
Chairperson of the the Board of Trustees
Eketahuna School

LOOK OUT FOR IMPETIGO (SCHOOL SORES)

We have been notified by the Eket ā huna Health Centre of rising cases of Impetigo (School Sores) recently. Sent home today was an information sheet on Impetigo. We want all our families to be vigilant about checking children for any signs of the infection as it can be very contagious and impact on health & well being. Please refer to the information sheet or contact your local health practitioner if you think your child has sores. Thank you.

If you would be interested in an informative session with the Health Centre staff on this issue please contact the school office.



P O Box 24
DANNEVIRKE
Telephone: 06 374 4500

31st January 2023

Hello Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers

Reminder...

I just thought I would take some time to provide you some information around dropping off and picking up children from school.

We are very fortunate in the Tararua around traffic safety at schools in comparison to cities where the population is more and traffic is heavier.

However, with that can come some complacency. We can find ourselves taking short cuts, parking in the incorrect zones, parking on yellow lines and allowing our children to cross the road at any given point. Roads around schools both before and after school can be dangerous due to traffic volume and the number of students entering or exiting the grounds is big. The results can be very upsetting if things go bad.

It takes us no longer to park in the designated areas and it does not hurt our children to have to walk a small distance into the school grounds from being dropped off by parents/caregivers – the exercise is good!

It is a timely reminder about the safety and legal obligations of all those parents and caregivers who bring their children to and from school by car.

The school and teachers are trying to ensure the safety of your children at pick up and drop off times by operating school traffic safety teams (school patrols at crossings for the schools who do this). To achieve this they require your help by observing the traffic laws in relation to pedestrian crossing and driving in general.

Police are committed to the safety of children around schools and as a result will be monitoring these locations at peak times.

Below is a list of offences that we will be actively policing:

Failed to stop and remain stopped for School Patrol	\$150.00
Blocked a pedestrian crossing	\$150.00
Driver or passenger not wearing seat belt	\$150.00
Failed to ensure child 8-14 year used seat belt	\$150.00
Permitted child under 15 in front seat unrestrained	\$150.00
Failed to ensure child under 7 in approved child restraint	\$150.00
Driver used a mobile phone while driving	\$80.00
Failed to wear cycle helmet	\$55.00
Parking within 6 metres of an intersection	\$60.00
Parking on or near a pedestrian crossing	\$60.00
Parked in area of broken yellow line	\$60.00
Parked obstructing vehicle entrance	\$40.00
Parking on a broken yellow line	\$60.00

I would also like to point out that bus stops during certain times are NOT to be used for dropping off or waiting to pick up your children. These times are: Monday to Friday 8.30am until 9.15am & 3.00pm until 3.30pm.

I do want to point out that we must abide by these requirements – which will be monitored and enforced to ensure safety measures are met. If we all do our bit to be aware of the risks and adhere to the regulations, then our children will be safe.

Yours faithfully,
M F Walshe
Senior Constable
School Community Officer

TARARUA

