

# 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:

Friday 10th February: School Mihi Whakatau @ 10am  
 Thursday 16th February: Meet & Greet Evening @ 14:30pm  
 Friday 17th February: Bush Minor Sport Yr1-2 @ Pahiatua

Friday 17th February: Celebration Assembly - Pūtara hosting  
 Tuesday 21st - Thursday 23rd February: Classes to Cobblestones Museum  
 Wednesday 22nd February: Board of Trustees Meeting @ 6pm  
 Friday 23rd February: Celebration Assembly - Nireaha hosting  
 Tuesday 28th February: School Swimming Sports for Yr 4 - 8

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

I hope everyone has had a great start to our school term and was able to spend Waitangi Day with family and friends. It has been a great week at school with lots of engaged learners and exciting activities. The start has been extremely positive, as evidenced by the excitement and enthusiasm being demonstrated already. We have many exciting opportunities planned for 2023. We encourage all our great children and whanau to make the most of them all - kia kaha!



## EKETAHUNA SCHOOL VALUES

At Eketahuna School, our values are encouraged, modelled and explored. We believe that although our school community comes from a wide range of backgrounds and diversity of experience, we collectively believe and uphold a range of values that are reflected in the way we think and act. They are integrated across the school curriculum and throughout each day. Our 4 core Values are:

BE RESPECTFUL	BE RESPONSIBLE	BE RESILIENT	BE REFLECTIVE
HE WHAKAUTE	HE TAKOHANGA	HE PAKARI	HE WHAKAARO HURITAO

## MIHI WHAKATAU

Tomorrow our school is holding a mihi whakatau, which is a traditional Māori welcome, which means to settle. This is our way of welcoming new students and staff, along with their families, into the te kura Eketāhuna community. You are very welcome to bring extended family plus anyone who is important to your child as they begin their learning journey.

## SCHOOL DONATIONS 2023

A reminder that we will not be asking for direct donations this year as we have again opted into the Government's scheme of funding \$150 per year per student. Parents are still required to pay for stationery, uniform items and out of school sports fees. However, day trips that support the curriculum and swimming lessons will no longer be charged to parents. School camps and technology will need to be partly funded by parents but with this government support we will be able to lower the cost to parents substantially. We try to make whatever we do as affordable as possible for families.



## MEET & GREET EVENING THURSDAY 25th FEBRUARY @ 4:30 PM

Eketahuna staff are planning an awesome evening at school in Week 4, where our community will get the opportunity to look at all the amazing work going on. 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, supplied by school & catch up with our Home & School Association. We look forward to seeing you!

## NO ASSEMBLY TOMORROW

Please note there is a change to the Term Plan and there will be NO School Celebration Assembly tomorrow afternoon. Our first assembly will now be held on Friday 17th February at 2pm in our school hall. The event will be hosted by our senior class Pūtara. Please come along and share, acknowledge and 'celebrate' student successes!



# WEEKLY UPDATE

## HUKAHU NEWS: (ROOM 1)

Wasn't it lovely to see the sunshine over the weekend, and even nicer that we had an extra day. We are enjoying getting into the swimming pool and showing what we are able to do. As I type this I am seeing lots of fish doing lots of bubbles, kicking and floating. We have been working on routines for writing, reading and maths times. There has been lots of work on letters of the alphabet, letter blends and basic sight words. The children are excited to look at the many books that we have in our class and the different puzzles and activities that we do. Next week, homework will start. Please make sure that you send their book bags daily. Also remember sunhats, drink bottles and togs daily. Please make sure that you return the permission slip for the minor sports event that we are going to next week. (Notices went home Wednesday) Any questions don't hesitate to contact me [mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz) Thanks, Marilyn.

## RONGOMAI NEWS: (ROOM 2)

Kia ora Whanau,

I hope everyone enjoyed their long weekend. Rongomai has been amazing, settling into the new environment & adjusting to having two teachers in the class over the week with Miss Mac on a Wednesday. We have been working on self portraits about who we are on the 'inside' on one side (what our hobbies and interests are) and on the other side we will be recreating what we look like on the outside by identifying facial features. In maths we have been looking at statistical investigations as a way to learn about everybody's favourite things. Next week homework will start, please send a book bag if you have one. Thank you for sending drink bottles and sun hats. If you have any questions please email me at [hjohnston@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:hjohnston@eketahuna.school.nz) Have a fun-filled weekend before homework starts next week. Thanks Holly 😊

## HAMUA NEWS: (ROOM 3)

Well things have certainly been busy in Hamua this week! It was so great to have **everyone** in the pool, and seeing how much progress they have made in such a short time. Well done all of you for sending togs and towels on a daily basis. I have been lugging around the massive bottle of sunblock and have been slathering it on. We are currently doing an investigation into our school lunches and hope to share this information with you when you come to the **Meet and Greet** next week. The children were amazed by the variety of food they are actually served day after day, and there are certainly some firm favourites. (And just when we think we have remembered everything they serve us something new! Wednesday's Pasta was a real hit and most children ate it all and hoped for seconds!) Keep up the good work, sending hats, snacks, drinks, and togs to school. Please remember to return the permission slip for the Minor Sports day, Year 2s. Many thanks, Rachael

### SCHOOL RUBBISH:

WE ARE ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO PUT FOOD 'WRAPPINGS' & PACKAGING BACK IN THEIR LUNCH BOXES ONCE THEY HAVE EATEN AT BREAK TIMES. WE ARE CONTINUING TO KEEP THE AMOUNT OF RUBBISH DOWN HERE AT SCHOOL. THANK YOU!



### STUDENTS 'OFF' BUSES

A GENERAL REMINDER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF BUS STUDENTS TO PLEASE RING IN BEFORE 2:30PM TO LET THE OFFICE KNOW THEIR CHILDREN ARE TO BE TAKEN OFF THE AFTERNOON BUS LISTS. IT MAKES THE JOB SO MUCH EASIER AND SAFER.



### HATS & SUNSCREEN

OUR SUN SAFETY POLICY REQUIRES HATS TO BE WORN IN TERM 1. A GOOD IDEA IS TO HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING A HAT (NAMED) THAT CAN BE LEFT AT SCHOOL THEREFORE AVOIDING SPENDING THEIR BREAKS ON THE DECK IN THE SHADE.



## STUDENT STATIONERY STILL REQUIRED

A huge thank you to all those who have organised their children's school stationery through Office Max. We still have some students without stationery, so coming home with them this week will be a paper stationery list. You can either purchase those items yourself and get them into school, or send the list and money into school and will order for you. School provides many things through the year but it is up to parents to provide the stationery. We work hard to ensure the lists are inexpensive and manageable for our whanau. If you need any help organising stationery please contact Leona in the school office.



**NIREAHA NEWS: (ROOM 5)**

Kia ora whanau,

Wow, Nireaha are awesome! The children are so settled and ready to learn. I really am the luckiest teacher in the school! Swimming lessons are well underway with Ryan and Lisa. The children are working on their stroke development and will quickly become more 'swim fit'. Please remember to send a note if your child is unable to swim that day. In maths we are working on numbers and place value. We will be starting statistics next week. Our reading programme begins next week too. Homework will come home on Monday, to be completed and returned to school each Friday. Feel free to contact me via the school phone, or email [bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz) if you have any questions or concerns.

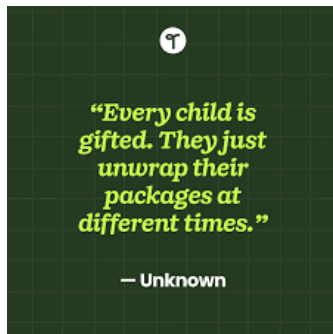
Nga mihi,  
Barbara

**PUTARA NEWS: (ROOM 6)**

Guess what... I certainly do have a gifted class! It hasn't taken me long to realise just how amazing all your children are! Talent presents itself in many ways!

Kia ora, whānau. This is going to be a tremendous year. I have looked forward to having your children in my class for a few years now. Two I taught last year; however, of the 26 children in my class, 24 are new to me - in a teaching sense. I'm extremely impressed so far. We've done two maths tests, I've collated the data, and I know what is needed.

Keep encouraging your children, keep them coming to school, and boost them up at every turn! Dean 😊

**HOMEWORK FOR 2023**

Homework is happening in all classes across the school this year, and should be coming home weekly. Tasks will be skill based, set at the appropriate level for the students. Activities will be related to reading, writing and maths as 'follow ups' to classroom learning. If you would like more information around specific tasks, further support at home, or have not had your child bring it home please contact your child's class teacher. You can do this before school, or after, via the school phone on 375 8191 or the school cell phone on 022 368 1830.

You can also contact out teachers via their emails:

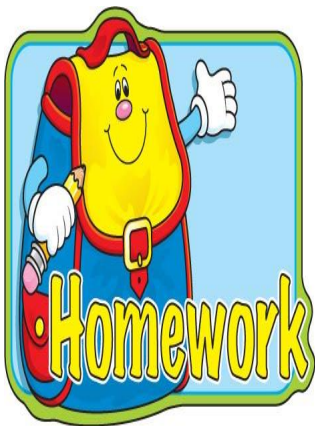
Pūtara (Rm6) Dean Parsons = [dparson@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:dparson@eketahuna.school.nz)

Nireaha (Rm 5) Barbara Whitburn = [bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz)

Hāmua (Rm 3) Rachael Dickson = [rdickson@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:rdickson@eketahuna.school.nz)

Rongomai (Rm 2) Holly Johnston = [hjohnston@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:hjohnston@eketahuna.school.nz)

Hukanui (Rm 1) Marilyn Whiteley = [mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz)

**BUS CODE OF CONDUCT**

A significant number of school students at Eketāhuna travel on buses to attend school. All students have the right to a safe and enjoyable journey between home and school. In the morning, a pleasant trip to school can set the tone for a day of productive learning. We have an updated Bus Code of Conduct which provides guidelines for those involved in the safe travel of school students on buses. All students are required to sign the school bus code of conduct. We will be sending out the NEW code of conduct today and those who have children on the bus - please take the time to read through it with them and get the signed form back to school as soon as possible. Thanks for your ongoing support.

**REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REMINDER**

School attendance has a direct impact on academic achievement. In order to make the most of educational opportunities, students must have consistent, punctual daily attendance. We are currently at a RED setting, so expect all students to be attending school daily. Remember schools require students to attend around 95% of each term. Days away have a huge impact on the progress students can make with their learning, which is why a doctor's certificate is required for more than three consecutive days away. We hope to see ALL students healthy and attending regularly.



## What to expect at our Mihi Whakatau tomorrow:

- The manuhiri (visitors) will gather at the reception then someone will lead you into the whakatau.
- The tangata whenua (hosts) will be seated facing the manuhiri (visitors) to welcome you.
- A mihi (welcome speech) will be made by a representative of the school. The school then will stand and sing a waiata (song) to support the speaker's message.
- A representative from the manuhiri (visitors) will respond, then the group will stand and sing to support the speaker, a waiata. The group will sit down.
- The last speaker will then be from the school.
- Hariru – the hosts and new families involved will have the opportunity to shake hands or elbow 'pump'.
- We will then offer a simple morning tea or kai for parents to share. Children will go back to class at this point. This concludes the whakatau and signifies the coming together of the visitors and school.



## **REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE**



We are reminding every child to bring a water bottle, with their name on it, to school each day.

The water bottle refilling station has fresh, chilled water and is great to keep the students hydrated.

**THANK YOU!**

## **Upcoming Board Of Trustees Meeting**

The next Eketahuna School Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on 22 Feb 6.30pm in the Eketahuna 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 [botchair@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:botchair@eketahuna.school.nz) or 3758059.

Warmest Regards , Skye White Chairperson , Eketahuna Board of Trustees



## **Junior Golf - Eketāhuna**

**Where**–Eketahuna Golf Club

**When** – weekly on Tuesdays starting February 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Time** – 3.30p–4.30p

**New players welcome. Please bring a hat, drink, snack, wear sunblock and suitable shoes.**

**Any queries contact Francie Duffy 06 375 8384 or Jenny Anderson 06 375 8310**



## **EKETĀHUNA NETBALL**

Junior netball for Years 1 – 4 starts on the 21st February in Masterton after school.

Times to be confirmed. If you have any questions you can contact us on: [ekenetball@yahoo.com](mailto:ekenetball@yahoo.com).

Subs are due \$25 per player paid to 02-0724-0099173-000

Netball for years 5-8 starts in Term 2

Netball meeting for parents for all teams on 15 March 6.30pm at school.



Kind regards  
Skye and Ngaio

# HOME AND SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

*On Tuesday the Home and School held their first meeting for the year, they agreed to contribute to the lease of the seniors chrome books, swimming lessons for all the children, to purchase new reading books, contribute to the buses to take the whole school on a field trip and towards the subscription of the science kits, this came to total of \$6500.0. The Home and School also agreed in principle to help fund some new swings and an all weather turf.*

*This year there are four main events, the Golf Tournament, Road Race, Spring Show and Christmas Parade. They will also be continuing to run the Caf Scheme and sell pies.*

*We really need extra helpers to run these events, we will be at the Meet and Greet next Thursday 16th so if you are able to help out come and say hello, all we need is for you to help at one event, be it on a BBQ selling raffle tickets or helping with the food at the golf tournament. By helping at these events you are helping all our children to have the best possible opportunities and learning resources.*

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



## Eketāhuna 150<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Coin for Eketāhuna Children

To mark the 150th celebrations in Eketāhuna this year, the Eketahuna Our Town Committee have commissioned a commemorative coin for the children of Eketāhuna. This limited-edition coin features our famous iconic kiwi bird. It is free to children under the age of 16 who live in and around the town.

To register an expression of interest, please either email [eketahunakiwicountry@xtra.co.nz](mailto:eketahunakiwicountry@xtra.co.nz) or pop into The Information Centre. Coins will be available from the 10th March 2023.

Please make sure to contact us as soon as possible, as there are only 150 coins and once the coins have been designated there will be no more available.



# Eketāhuna 150th Celebration 10 - 12 March 2023



The first European settlers to arrive in Eketāhuna started breaking ground in 1871. Throughout its story Eketāhuna or Mellenskov, as it was also known, has had a proud and illustrious history. Many of the great families that established the town still have roots here today. To celebrate that history and to make new memories, we invite you to share our weekend of festivities

There will be a wide range of events running throughout the whole weekend, from catching up with old friends to enjoying a grass roots rugby game.

## Calendar of Events

### Friday 10th March 2023

Meet and Greet Evening (Ticketed Event—\$20)

### Saturday 11th March 2023

Community Gathering at the Community Centre

Lawn Mower Racing

Slide Show/ Oral History

Historical Buildings Tour

Tandem Bike Rides

Medieval Reenactment

Golf

New Zealand Defense Force

Historical Vehicle Show

Kids Activities

And lots more

Eketahuna's Pre Loved Ball (Ticketed Event—\$60 a ticket, \$100 per couple)

Dinner at the Club (Ticketed Event—\$35)



### Sunday 12th March 2023

Church Services

Rugby Game

Super Market



## ACCOMMODATION

There is a limited range of accommodation available in Eketāhuna, from the camp ground to AirBnB's. For more information please contact the info centre on

06 375 8545

[eketahunakiwicountry@xtra.co.nz](mailto:eketahunakiwicountry@xtra.co.nz)

32 Main Street, Eketāhuna, 4900

