

# 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:

Thursday 14th December: Celebration Assembly @ 11:15am  
 Thursday 14th December: Last Day Term 4 - School ends @ 12:00pm  
 Monday 29th January: School Office Open

Tuesday 30th January: Term 1 - School starts for 2024  
 Friday 2nd February: Mihi Whakatau @ 10am  
 Tuesday 6th February: **School Closed for Waitangi Day**  
 Wednesday 7th February: Year 7 & 8 Technology in Pahiatau  
 Thursday 8th February: School Meet & Greet @ 4:30pm

*Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa*

*This is the last newsletter of the year - and what a fantastic year it has been! We would all like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued involvement in our wonderful school. We wish you the very warmest Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays. We will keep updating the school Facebook page over the holidays, so keep an eye out! See you in 2024!! Nga mihi and Koa Kirihimete - Eketāhuna School Team. xx*

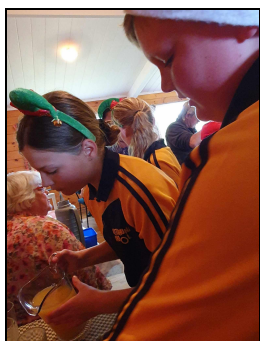


## A WONDERFUL EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL FUN DAY IN!!

The students had a wonderful time at school yesterday at the festive 'Fun Day In'. Students enjoyed a free swim, time on a bouncy castle, Christmas decoration making, movies & popcorn, Christmas baking, along with shared lunch & ice cream sundaes and taking part in a staff competition! A lovely way to end our year - an absolutely, amazing FUN DAY!

## PRINCIPAL'S MORNING TEA

On Monday, ten awesome students were treated to a delicious morning tea in town at 'The Lazy Graze' in recognition of their ability to make good choices! Congratulations to Holly Spring, Beth Anderson, Lucy White, Annabeth Read, Madison Rankin, Toby White, Ryder Hammond, Ayva Donahue, Liam Giddens, Izzy Lawrence. Our school behaviour system is focused on "catching children when they are good" as these positive reinforcers have a powerful effect. It was a great morning treat with lots of happy, and excited chat about the coming holidays!



## LEADERS AT ST CUTHBERT'S CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY LUNCH

Our House Team Leaders enjoyed their service at the annual community lunch last Friday. Each term they take turns to help with the serving, waiting and doing dishes. We had some lovely feedback from St Cuthberts, which made us very proud:

*"Just to say a huge thank you to your school leaders for helping yesterday. As usual, the leaders were just wonderful. So very patient, respectful and helpful and generally just a delight! We had many comments about them, so thank you very much.*

**HUKANUI:**



Happy Christmas to you all from us here in Hukanui. Have a wonderful holiday break.



**RONGOMAI NEWS: (ROOM 2)**



Enjoy your well deserved break and have a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. 😊

**HĀMUA NEWS:**



From Hāmua

**NIREAHA NEWS:**



Nireaha wish you a very...



**PŪTARA NEWS: (ROOM 6)**



Wishing you all a fantastic Summer's break!!  
From Pūtara



**SCHOOL FINISH FOR 2023**



**We close on  
THURSDAY 14TH AT 12PM  
ALL BUSES WILL BE RUNNING**

**COMING UP 2024:**

**MONDAY 29TH JANUARY - TEACHER ONLY DAY / OFFICE OPEN**

**TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

**FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY - SCHOOL MIHI WHAKATAU**

**TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY - WAITANGI DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)**

## EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL PRIZEGIVING 2023

Last Thursday we celebrated the successes our children, and the school, have had in 2023. A huge congratulations to all the winners of our major awards!

### CLASS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE, EFFORT & EXAMPLE:

PŪTARA (Rm 6): Hunter Rankin & Jehanne Knight

NIREAHA (Rm 5): Mack Duffy & Rubylee Burton-Foley

RONGOMAI (Rm 2): Emmanuel McNamara & Toby White

HĀMUA (Rm 3): Maia Cremen & Neive Davis

HUKANUI (Rm 1): Amelia Webber & Mackenzie Braddick

### EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL CUPS & TROPHIES:



#### Junior

Effort		1 - 3	Pāniarose Mita
Sportsperson		1 - 3	Halo Crudis
Academic		1 - 3	Olivia Capes

#### Intermediate

Effort		4 - 6	Hollie Giddens
Sportsperson	M & T Duffy Cup	4 - 6	Cody Bedford-Robinson
Academic		4 - 6	Faith Kwocksun

#### Senior

Effort	Webster Cup	7 & 8	Addiena Jones
Sportsperson		7 & 8	Evan Governor & Hunter Rankin
Academic	Bevan Reichenbach Cup	7 & 8	Brent Knight

#### SPECIAL SENIOR AWARDS

Values		8	Elisabeth Anderson
Arts		8	Heidi Hanson
Technology	Woodhouse Family Cup	8	Holly Spring
Taha Maori	Tangaroa Award	8	Kyira-Jane (KJ) Arnold
Sportsmanship	Mike Monaghan Cup	8	Carlos Cresswell
Attitude		8	Johnny Duffy

## FAREWELL TO OUR AMAZING YEAR 8 STUDENTS

We are so proud of our amazing Year 8 students and wish them well as they head off to college next year.

They have been wonderful role models and will be missed around school.  
**Tararua College:** KJ Arnold, Carlos Cresswell, Johnny Dandy, Heidi Hanson\*,  
**Addiena Jones, Taimana Mocaraka\*, Aidan Rolfe\*, Holly Spring,**  
**Priscilla Taiaroa-Stafford, Savana Waugh\***  
**Wairarapa College:** Brent Knight.  
**Solway College:** Elisabeth Anderson

\*\*Absent for the photo



## THANKS TO OUR 2023 HOUSE LEADERS & DEPUTIES

We had 8 wonderful leaders this year who were so positive and encouraging around the school - great role models for our students. Today they enjoyed a delicious, well deserved, morning tea shout down at the Lazy Graze Cafe!

Thanks to Noah Duffy, Evan Governor, McKenzie Moore, Shylo Matiaha, Brooke Duffy, Hunter Rankin, Holly Spring, and Jehanne Knight for being awesome LEADERS!



### LOST PROPERTY TO BE COLLECTED

PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILDREN TO HAVE A LOOK THROUGH THE HUGE AMOUNT OF LOST PROPERTY - LOTS OF CLOTHES WHICH NEED TO BE COLLECTED BEFORE THURSDAY - WE WILL KEEP REMINDING THEM TOO!



### STATIONARY LISTS FOR 2024:

CLASS STATIONERY LISTS WILL AGAIN BE ONLINE AT: [MYSCHOOL.CO.NZ](http://MYSCHOOL.CO.NZ) SIMPLY SEARCH FOR OUR SCHOOL, SELECT YOUR CHILD'S CLASS LISTS & FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON THE WEBSITE. CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES.

**Getting help with kai over Christmas break**

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua  
Kai Hau Kai 0800KKTNAR (558627)  
Office closed 23 Dec - 8 Jan

Rangitāne o Tamaki Nui-ā-Rua  
06 374 6860  
Office closed 22 Dec - 8 Jan  
St.Vinnies Dannevirke  
Store closed 20 Dec - 15 Jan

Tararua Community Youth Services DVK  
06 374 9214  
Closed 23 Dec - 27 Dec, 29 Dec - 3 Jan

Woodville Inter Church Combined Foodbank  
06 376 4023  
Closed 21 Dec - 3 Jan  
Woodville Pantry  
021 156 6925

Help-n-Hand/Pahiatua Foodbank  
022 589 0044  
Closed 23 Dec - 15 Jan

Tararua Community Services  
06 376 7608  
Closed 22 Dec - 8 Jan

Eketahuna Foodbank  
021 250 3015  
Closed 23 Dec - 4 Jan

24th - 26th of January 2024  
SCHOOL YEARS 5-9

### EQUESTRIAN HOLIDAY CAMP 2024

Includes

- Coaching from our Solway Equestrian Academy resident coaches, Tinks Pottinger, Francesca Silver-Carter and Marg Robinson
- Horse Management Sessions
- Fun Games and Activities
- Recycled Ribbon Day

Email Millie [equestrian@solwaycollege.school.nz](mailto:equestrian@solwaycollege.school.nz) for more info and to book a place

## TARARUA LIBRARIES ARE CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF HAIRY MACLARY!

**Please Join us to celebrate!**

Come along for fun activities, spot prizes, balloons and more!

**Date:** 21 December  
**Time:** 11:00am

**Invitation only - please register at desk for your free invite.**



## **BOARD CHAIR PRIZE GIVING SPEECH**



Hello and welcome everyone to our end of year prizegiving for 2023, I'm Skye White the School Board of Trustees chairperson.

What a wonderful year we have had here at Eketāhuna School, there have been many highlights. I particularly enjoyed the swimming sports, it was so good to see all our kids getting in and doing their best having a go and being able to show their skills that they had been practising. The celebration of our town turning 150 was a perfect opportunity for school to get involved and learn about the way things were many years ago, the trip to Cobblestones was great fun and a first for many of our students. Our kids really showed their best self in their amazing performance at the cultural festival. I felt so proud to be part of this wonderful school! Seeing our kids getting out there and enjoying all the sporting and inter school activities has been amazing although the rain has made it self a bit of a nuisance the kids have still had many wonderful opportunities.

In achievement, our children continue to do well in Reading 72% are at or above their year level, Writing 70% and Maths 81%. These are incredible results considering the learning challenges some face.

I would like to thank Melinda, the teachers and support staff for all their amazing work and efforts with our children, our school always has a wonderful feel to it and I think the children feel really well connected, thank you so much, we are so very lucky to have such wonderful people working at Eketahuna School and to have such strong enthusiastic leadership and commitment.

A massive thank you also goes to the Home and School Committee, Kirby and her team of amazing individuals achieves an astonishing amount of fundraising and organising. The Golf Tournament was again a fabulous event and one of the main fundraisers for our school, we are so very lucky to have such a dedicated bunch.

Thank you also to all the amazing volunteers and parents that come into school and help with events, sports, reading, taking transport and other programs. It is so extremely valued to have your help and assistance, and it makes it so much more possible to achieve great results.

Thank you to my fellow trustees, Hemi, Matt, Ngaio, Melinda, Dean and Leona. The board provides a strategic direction and leadership to the school, they put many hours into ensuring our school is running smoothly and our children are getting the best education possible, they are all so dedicated and are invaluable to our school.

To our Year 8s, a significant chapter of your life is coming to an end but a new exciting one is awaiting you. I hope the values of our school and the education you have gained has helped fill you with the confidence and skills to take on your next challenges. I hope when you look back you will remember your days at Eketahuna School with happiness and pride.

I remember my last day at Eke School, we didn't have a whole fun day, we cleaned the class in the morning and in the afternoon we were allowed to play danish rounders which we all loved it's kind of like soft ball, I remember the excitement but also the worry of starting a new school, like many of you I had only been here and never had to change schools or make new friends and had no idea what college would be like.

So I have tried to think what advice would have been good for 12 or 13 year old me, and what i came up with is.....try your best with school work so you have the most choices possible going forward but still remember college is a small part of your life it doesn't define you, take all the opportunities offered and stay out of any dramas. The best way to predict your future is to create it! Oh and be nice to your parents and take care of your knees and your back. You'll miss those when they are gone.

And so lastly, I want to thank all of the children, the families and the community who give our school life and purpose, you really are the reason why we all do what we do, our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children.

Merry Christmas!

Skye White





