

# EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

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**COMING UP:**

Friday 2nd February: School Mihi Whakatau @ 10am  
 Tuesday 6th February: Waitangi Day - **School Closed**  
 Wednesday 7th February: Class Swimming Lessons begin

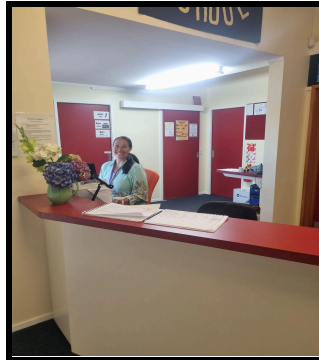
Wednesday 7th February: Year 7 & 8 Technology @ Tararua College  
 Thursday 8th February: School Meet & Greet Evening @ 4:30pm-6pm  
 Friday 9th February: Celebration Assembly @ 2:15pm - Leaders Hosts  
 Friday 9th February: Town Pool Fundraiser

**NB - SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY 6th FEBRUARY FOR WAITANGI DAY**

Tēnā koutou e te whānau o te kura Ekētahuna,  
 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 awesome 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!



**EXCITING PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE HOLIDAYS - WITH MORE TO COME!**



The all weather Turf has gone in behind Nireaha & Pūtara and looks fantastic! Fencing and borders are still being organised but the children love the 'touch rugby' on it at break times! At the front of the same two classrooms the new covered verandah has been erected which is already allowing shade cover for the rooms during our sunny days - such a great development! Also over the break our office and admin area had a paint refresh and the school is currently having the exterior paint touch ups completed. For the coming year we have more landscaping planned and a new upgrade of our Hāmua and Rongomai classrooms - exciting times!

**SCHOOL WIDE ORGANISATION OF CLASSES FOR 2024**

We are pleased to have awesome teachers in classes again this year. We will also have Jess Wilkinson returning as our weekly release teacher. Ali Mackisack is returning as our school librarian and Peta Campbell is also returning as lead te reo/tikanga teacher.

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	Holly Johnston	Lisa Patrick	Barbara Whitburn	Dean Parsons

**MIHI WHAKATAU ON FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY**

Tomorrow, we will formally welcome our new students and whānau to Eketāhuna School. A mihi whakatau is a Māori 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 outside the school hall area at 9.55am for a 10:00am start. Due to the verandah building work we are not able to use the courtyard.
- At the completion of the ceremony there will be a morning tea for those who were welcomed to school.

# WEEKLY UPDATE

## HUKANUI NEWS:

Welcome back to 2024 in Hukanui! It was great to see the children ready, eager to learn and play on Tuesday. 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](mailto:mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz) or leave a message on the school cell phone and I will get it. Thanks. Marilyn

## HĀMUA NEWS:

Kia ora koutou,  
Welcome to 2024! 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](mailto:hjohnston@eketahuna.school.nz) Nga Mihi, Holly 😊



## RONGOMAI NEWS:

It's been a great start to the 2024 year in Rongomai! So many smiling faces and positive attitudes for the new year ahead. This week we are settling into class routines, responsibilities & expectations. We have been writing about our holiday events, creating artwork and doing some assessment in between. Class Dojo invites have been sent home. There you will find class updates and celebration of your child's learning and positive choices. It really is a great tool for linking school with home. Swimming assessment will be taking place today and lessons will begin next week. We are so lucky to have the expertise of Ryan and Lisa teaching our tamariki. Feel free to contact me via email on [lpatrick@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:lpatrick@eketahuna.school.nz) or via Class Dojo if you have any questions, queries or need any further information. Nga mihi, Miss Mac

### 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 FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



### STATIONERY LISTS:

SOME STUDENTS STILL NEED THEIR SCHOOL STATIONERY LIST - YOU CAN FIND IT ONLINE AT [myschool.co.nz](http://myschool.co.nz) SIMPLY SEARCH FOR OUR SCHOOL, SELECT YOUR CHILD'S CLASS AND/OR SUBJECT LISTS AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE WEBSITE. CONTACT LEONA IN THE OFFICE IF YOU NEED HELP. THANKS.



## SWIMMING LESSONS FOR 2024 STARTING

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 and towels daily. 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.

**NIREAHA NEWS:**

Kia Ora Whanau,

What a fantastic start to the week! The children in Nireaha are very settled and are ready to thrive! We have set our expectations for how we want Nireaha to 'vibe' this year and have been getting to know each other a bit more. Swimming lessons are underway and we have started to use the chromebooks. Students have each been allocated one to use for the year. We are learning to draw cartoon caricatures and our next step is to create one of ourselves - come and have a look next week at the Meet and Greet. Please remember: drink bottles, sunhats, togs and towels every day.

As always, send an email if you have any questions or concerns. [bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz) Nga mihi, Barb

**PŪTARA NEWS:**



Hi all

Welcome to 2024. The sun is shining and the pool is warm. We are swimming five days a week, so can you please ensure your child is coming to school prepared with their togs and towel each day.

Our devices are up and running, so we will be implementing our I.T. learning programme by the week's end.

If you have any questions about this term then make sure you get in contact.

[dparsons@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:dparsons@eketahuna.school.nz)

Lastly, Pūtara tamariki, you have had a great start to the term! Ka pai 😊



**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!

**EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2024**

Term	Starting & Ending	School Closed (NB: Two additional Teacher Only Days this year TBC)
1	Tuesday 30 January to Friday 12th April	Waitangi Day 6th February / Good Friday 29th March / Easter Monday 1st April / Easter Tuesday 2nd April
2	Monday 29th April to Friday 5th July	King's Birthday 3rd June / Matariki 28th June
3	Monday 22nd July to Friday 27th September	Mid Term Break (TBC)
4	Monday 14th October to Friday 13th December	Labour Day Monday 28th October

**Board Of Trustees Meeting**



The next Eketāhuna School Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th Feb at 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 on Friday 16th February. I am contactable on [botchair@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:botchair@eketahuna.school.nz) or 3758059.

Warmest Regards - Skye White  
(Chairperson Board of Trustees)

**EKETĀHUNA HOME & SCHOOL MEETING**

Tuesday 13th February  
@ 7pm  
Eketāhuna School  
Staffroom

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



# EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL 2024 - TERM 1

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 29 Jan - 2 Feb		<u>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</u>		Road Patrol & Bus Monitor Training	<u>10am SCHOOL MIHI WHAKATAU</u>
2 5 Feb - 9 Feb		<b>WAITANGI DAY</b> School Closed	Technology for Year 7 & 8	<u>SCHOOL MEET &amp; GREET</u> 4:30 - 6pm	Assembly - Leaders
3 12 Feb - 16 Feb		Home & School Meeting @ 7pm		<u>SCHOOL MEET &amp; GREET</u> 4:30 - 6pm PP	Assembly - Pūtara
4 19 Feb - 23 Feb		BOT Meeting @ 6:30pm	Technology for Year 7 & 8		PEACE RUN
5 26 Feb - 1 Mar		School Swimming Sports (Yr 4 - 8)		School Swimming Sports pp	Tararua Minor Sport Yr 0 - 2 @ Pahiatua
6 4 Mar - 8 Mar			Technology for Year 7 & 8	Junior School Swim Display	Tararua Interschool Swimming Sports St Cuthberts Lunch Assembly - Nireaha
7 11 Mar - 15 Mar					Assembly - Rongomai
8 18 Mar - 22 Mar	2pm House Team Softball Round 1		Technology for Year 7 & 8	2pm House Team Softball Round 2	Assembly - Hāmua
9 25 Mar - 29 Mar	2pm House Team Softball Round 3	BOT Meeting (TBC)		2pm House Team Softball Round 4	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> School Closed
10 1 Apr - 5 Apr	<b>EASTER MONDAY</b>	<b>EASTER TUESDAY</b>	Technology for Year 7 & 8		Assembly - Hukanui
11 8 Apr - 12 Apr					<u>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</u>

**\*\*Home & School Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Sunday 7th April - more information to come**



## EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL MEET & GREET EVENING

Thursday 8th 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 off the BBQ!

See you there!

