



# Tokomaru School Newsletter

Thursday 19th February 2026



## Principal's Pen

Kia ora koutou,

Learning doesn't just happen in the classroom, and the last couple of weeks has been a great reminder of the value of new experiences in helping our students grow.

Our Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed an amazing camp at El Rancho. It was a fantastic few days filled with fun, challenge, and plenty of new experiences. With plenty of outdoor activities and team-building challenges, students stepped outside their comfort zones and supported one another. A big thank you to our staff and whānau who helped make this camp such a memorable experience.

The Cluster Careers Expo was a wonderful day for our students, bringing together four schools from our cluster to explore future pathways. With 14 presenters sharing their experiences, students rotated through their pre-selected sessions and had the chance to learn about areas that really interested them. It was fantastic to see how engaged everyone was - our students asked great questions and showed real curiosity about different careers. We're so proud of how they represented our school, and after such a successful first event, we're already looking forward to doing it again!

**Mel Ryan,**  
**Principal.**



## Term One Dates

Monday 26th January - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
Good Friday - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Easter Monday - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Tuesday - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April



## Upcoming Dates

- Friday 20th March
- Swimming Showcase
  - Variety Morning Tea
- Tuesday 24th March
- Epic Music Lessons
- Wednesday 25th March
- Year 7&8 Technology
- Thursday 26th March
- Variety Morning Tea
- Friday 27th March
- Junior Cluster Athletics
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Epic Music Lessons
  - Year 7&8 Vaccinations (for consented students)
- Wednesday 1st April
- Year 7&8 Technology
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- Last day of term 1
  - Variety Morning Tea
  - School Assembly 2:20pm

# Sports

What an awesome effort from all of our tamariki who have been working hard to prepare for today's Swimming Showcase! It has been fantastic to see so many students confidently demonstrating the skills they have been working hard on during their swimming lessons. Ka pai to everyone for giving it a go and showing great determination in the water! Looking ahead, we have our Junior Cluster Athletics coming up next Friday, which will be held here at our school. Our junior students have been practising their events and are looking forward to showcasing their skills. We would love to see lots of whānau there supporting and cheering them on!

A huge thank you to our amazing parent helpers who have been giving up their time to support and coach our summer netball and hockey teams. Your time, effort, and commitment are truly appreciated and make such a positive difference for our students.

Well done to Emily and Ruby for proudly participating in the Weet-Bix Triathlon on Wednesday. What an incredible effort to take on all three events –swimming, biking, and running! You both showed perseverance and a fantastic attitude throughout. We are so proud of your achievement and the way you represented our school—ka pai girls!

**Miss T & Matua Murray**



# Board of Trustees

## Attendance:

Student attendance continues to be a focus for our school in 2026. It's something we talk about regularly with students, families, and staff.

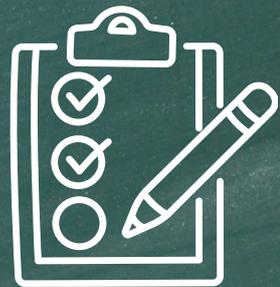
Even missing just one day of school every two weeks adds up quickly. By the time a child reaches 16, that can equal more than a full year of missed learning. As parents and caregivers, you play an important role alongside us, in helping build strong habits of regular attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day. If your child is going to be absent, please let us know. This includes absences for things like a tangi or appointment. If your family needs to take time away during the term (for example a holiday or extracurricular commitment not organised by the school), please talk with us first so we can discuss this together and, where possible, arrange learning to be taken home.

If you're unsure whether your child is well enough to come to school, or if you're finding it difficult to get them here, please get in touch. We are always happy to work alongside families to support students to attend and achieve. If you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please contact us so we can work together.

## Community Consultation:

Our recent Board of Trustees meeting focused on how we can keep improving and planning ahead for our school. As part of this, we'll be gathering feedback from our community in Term 2, and we'd really love for our whānau to be involved.



We also encourage you to hop onto SchoolDocs to have a look at the policies currently open for feedback and share your thoughts. Your voice is important to us and helps make sure our school continues to reflect what matters most to our community. Check out our school website Policies & Procedures tab for details.

# Home & School

Our Home and School Association held its first meeting of the year last week - thank you to everyone who attended and contributed ideas to support our students and school.

We're pleased to share that our recent Triathlon fundraiser raised just over \$250 - thank you for your support! Today, we're also selling ice blocks and hot drinks at the Swimming Showcase - we hope you enjoy!

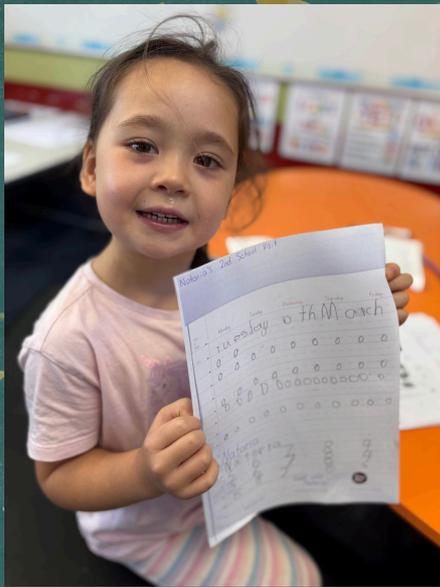
Looking ahead, our next event is the Junior Cluster Athletics, which we are hosting here at Tokomaru School. We'll be running a sausage sizzle and selling ice blocks and cookies - pre-orders are available for our students and you can bring along some cash on the day if you're here to cheer on the kiddos!

We warmly encourage all whānau to consider joining the Home and School Association. It's a great way to connect, contribute, and make a positive difference for our tamariki.



# Student Stars

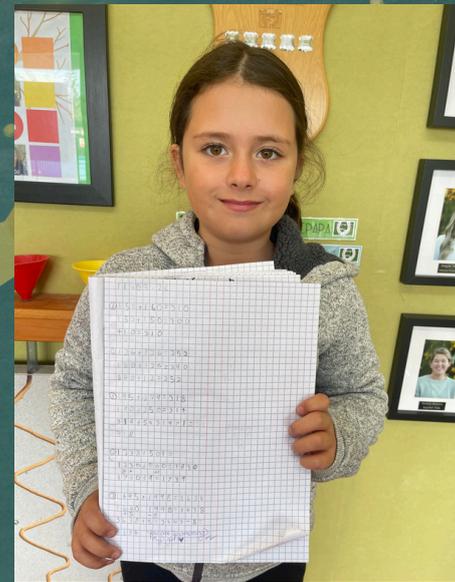
Te Tutuki i te kairanga



Nataria enjoying handwriting at her second pre-visit!



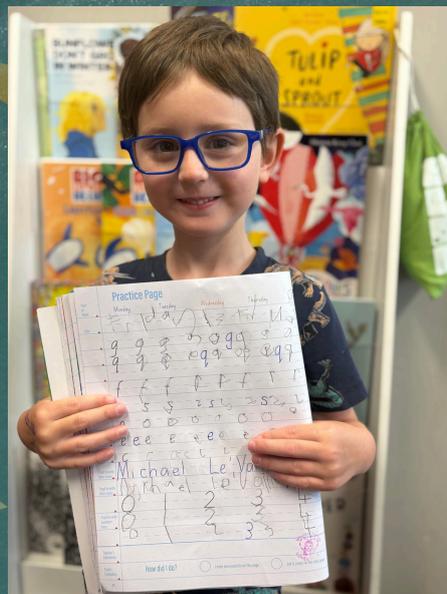
Last week's player of the day for Netball - well done Lincoln



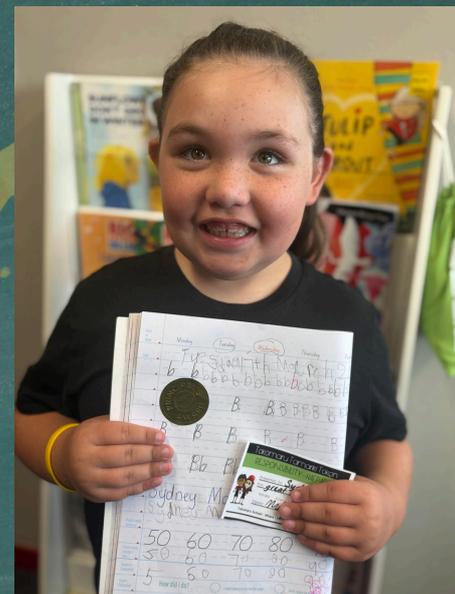
Adaline's marvellous maths initiative!



Octavia's lucky library ticket!



Michael's impressive handwriting!



Sydney's beautiful 'b' writing!

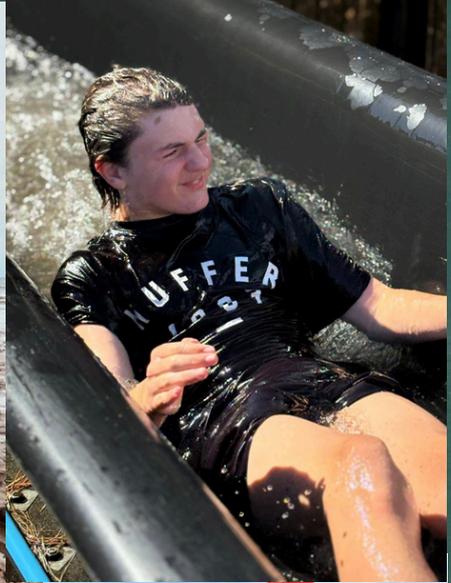


Tokomaru Early Childhood learning with Room 1!

Mrs Ryan singing with Room 1 from a book during their library time!



# Senior Camp 2026



# Careers Expo



# THE GREAT MANAWATU STEAM FAIR 2026

**WHEN**  
**March 21-22**  
**10am-4pm**

**WHERE**  
**The Steam Traction Society,**  
**Maewa Road, Feilding**

**FEATURING • Have-a-go Steering an Engine • Trailer Rides • Steam Sports • Live Displays • Vintage Vehicles and Machinery • Food and Beverages • Raffles • Guided Tours**

**At the Gate (CASH ONLY)**  
**\$10 Single**  
**\$30 Car (max 5 people)**  
**\$5 Steer an engine**  
**Under 5's FREE**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

The Steam Traction Society

Or email  
[steamtractionsoc@gmail.com](mailto:steamtractionsoc@gmail.com)  
 for more details



## The BIG Easter Weekend!

Ngā Manu  
 NATURAL RESERVE

Over  
**\$3000** of  
 prizes to  
 be won!



### FOUR DAYS OF WHĀNAU FUN!

- Annual Easter Rock Hunt
- Easter Hub for the kids
- Face Painting
- Sausage Sizzle

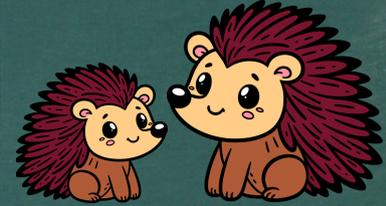
[ngamanu.org.nz](http://ngamanu.org.nz)

74 Ngā Manu Reserve Road  
 Waikanae



Weird but true...

Porcupines can float! Thanks to the hollow structure of their quills!



# Tokomaru ECC

| [www.tokomaru-ecc.co.nz](http://www.tokomaru-ecc.co.nz) | (06) 329 8730 | [info@tokomaru-ecc.co.nz](mailto:info@tokomaru-ecc.co.nz) |

## Tokomaru RSA and Country Club

ENROLMENTS OPEN NOW!



# Start Your Musical Journey with EPIC!

## Learn Drums, Keyboard & Guitar!

Does your child want to:

- learn an instrument,
- play in a band,
- & perform on the big stage?

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**EPIC!**  
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Ask the school office for a sign up form!

Or send us an email:  
[schools@epicma.co.nz](mailto:schools@epicma.co.nz)

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# Tokomaru School Staff



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Samantha Sarten  
Room 3 Teacher  
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Murray Te Huki  
(Matua Murray)  
Room 5 Teacher  
mtehuki@tokomaru.school.nz



Katrina Lawton  
Librarian  
Teacher Aide



Hayley Westrupp  
Teacher Aide



Damian Groves  
Caretaker

## Home & School

Chairperson: Narissa Cosgrove  
Secretary: Karen Lister  
Treasurer: Roxanne Eastham  
School Reps: Mel Ryan & Torah Toney  
Grants Officer: Adele Coles  
Parent Reps: Chante Lennon, Kylie  
Winiata, Kelly McDermott.

## Bank Account Info

**Tokomaru School**  
**(Board Account)**  
**12-3143-0428358-00**

**Tokomaru School**  
**(Home & School Account)**  
**12-3143-0428358-01**

## Board of Trustees

Presiding Member: Dave Lawton  
Principal: Mel Ryan  
Secretary: Rachel Wilson  
Minute Secretary: Roxanne Eastham  
Staff Representative & Treasurer:  
Roxanne Eastham  
Parent Representative: Haley Dell

