



Tokomaru School Newsletter

Thursday 11th June 2026



Principal's Pen

Kia ora koutou,

As many of you will know, Mrs Sam Sarten has recently begun maternity leave. On behalf of our school community, we wish her all the very best as she and her husband Matt await the arrival of their wee baby boy. Room 3 came up with a list of names so we'll keep you updated if any of them get used!

We are so pleased to welcome Whaea Gabi Venter to Tokomaru School as the Room 3 teacher for Terms 3 and 4. Many of our students will already know Whaea Gabi from her work as a release teacher over the past couple of terms. Her familiarity with our students and school will ensure a smooth transition, and we look forward to the positive contribution she will make to our Room 3 students and our school.

A few holiday reminders: our fenced court is being turfed and our variable speed limit work will be starting - we will keep you informed if the school grounds require closing during that period. We're so excited to see both of these being completed!



Mel Ryan, Principal.

Term Two Dates

First day of Term 2 - Monday 20th April
King's Birthday - Monday 1st June
Matariki - Friday 10th July
Last Day of Term 2 - Friday 3rd July



Upcoming Dates

Friday 12th June

- Variety Morning Tea

Monday 15th June

- Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30pm

Tuesday 16th June

- EPIC Music Lessons
- Rippa Rugby Tournament

Wednesday 17th June

- Year 7&8 Technology

Friday 19th June

- Variety Morning Tea
- Tokomaru's Got Talent 11:45am
- School Assembly 2:20pm

Tuesday 23rd June

- EPIC Music Lessons

Wednesday 24th June

- Year 7&8 Tech
- Ki o Rahi Tournament

Thursday 25th June

- Ki o Rahi Tournament

Friday 26th June

- Variety Morning Tea

Sports

What an awesome day we had at the Cluster Cross Country last week! We were incredibly lucky with the beautiful weather, which made for perfect running conditions. It is always a fantastic experience for our tamariki to get out and challenge themselves while running through the stunning farmland at Stewart's Farm. We are very proud of all the students who represented Tokomaru School, showing determination, perseverance, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day.

Next Tuesday, a group of our Year 4-8 students will be travelling to Foxton to compete in the Rippa Rugby Tournament at Coley Street School. Times are still to be confirmed and will be communicated as soon as we receive them. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear, bring a packed lunch and morning tea, and pack a change of clothes in case the weather turns wet. School sports uniforms will be handed out on the day.

A huge well done also goes out to all of our students who have been representing Tokomaru School in our winter hockey and basketball teams. It has been fantastic to see our tamariki developing their skills, working together as a team, and demonstrating positive sportsmanship each week. Congratulations to all of our Player of the Day players so far this season. Your hard work, commitment, teamwork, and positive attitude have not gone unnoticed. Keep up the great work!

Miss T & Matua Murray

Player of the Day

A huge congratulations to our players of the day from the last couple of games - amazing mahi out on the turf! Congratulations to: Max, Ruby B, Athea, and Riby I. Also a hHuge thanks to Pita Pit for the sponsorship - keep it up everyone!



Cluster Cross Country 2026

What a fantastic day we had at our Cluster Cross Country! It was awesome to see students from across our cluster schools challenging themselves throughout the run, going hard to the end! Well done to all of the students who gave their best out on the course, and thank you to the teachers, families, and supporters from all of our cluster schools for being part of such a great day, keeping the atmosphere so positive and cheering everyone on to do their best.

A massive thanks to the Stewart family for once again allowing us to use their farm, Gregg for his fantastic course setup and for being the "quad rabbit", and Jess for her support on the quad, checking everyone got back safely. And thanks to our families for transporting our students, our Home and School for making sure everyone was fed, and marshals for keeping everyone safe.

It truly takes a community to make an event like this happen, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed. Thank you all for helping make Cluster Cross Country 2026 such a success!



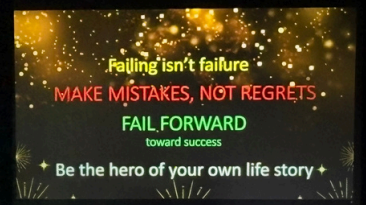
NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY

Our students had an inspiring day at National Young Leaders Day last week!

From William Pike's story of resilience and determination, to Riley Elliott encouraging us to embrace curiosity and courage, and Lola Fisher sharing how young people can create positive change, there was no shortage of motivation. Students also enjoyed hearing from Stephen Gallagher, film and television composer, who shared insights into creativity, following your passion, and the power of hard work in achieving your goals, and Graci Kim, former diplomat turned author, sharing her journey through a few "fails" to success.

A fantastic day focused on leadership, confidence, perseverance, and making a difference. Our leaders came away with so many ideas and ready to take on new challenges!

Our students are so grateful to our amazing Home and School Association for accepting their proposal to support them to attend - thanks team! And huge thanks to Sophie and Roxanne for transporting our students to and from the event - much appreciated.



Board of Trustees

Exciting News for Term 3!

The Board of Trustees is delighted to welcome Gabi Venter to our teaching team from the beginning of Term 3, where she will be covering Mrs Sarten's maternity leave until the end of 2026.



Gabi is a fully registered teacher with 12 years of teaching experience and brings a wealth of enthusiasm, care, and expertise to the classroom. She is passionate about creating positive relationships with learners and their whānau, nurturing each child's unique strengths, and encouraging curiosity, independence, and a love of learning.

We are excited to have Gabi join us in this role and know she will be a wonderful addition to our teaching team. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome to our Tokomaru School community.

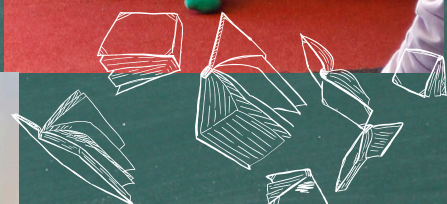
Library

Winter Library Book Hunt!

As the weather gets cooler and everyone is snuggling up with a good book, we're wondering if any of our library books have decided to hibernate at home for the winter?!

Could they be hiding under a bed? Tucked behind the couch? Snoozing in the car? Or buried in a pile of blankets? We'd love families to have a quick winter book hunt and return any school library books that may have wandered off on an extended holiday.

Every book returned helps keep our library shelves stocked and ready for the next keen reader. Happy hunting, and stay warm!

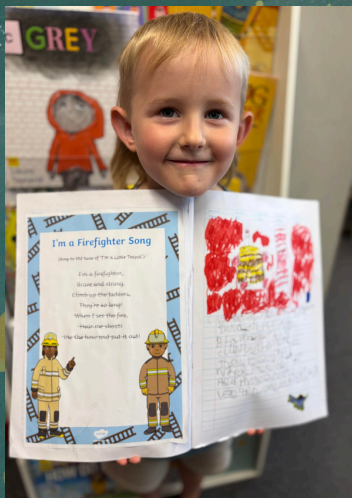


Student Stars

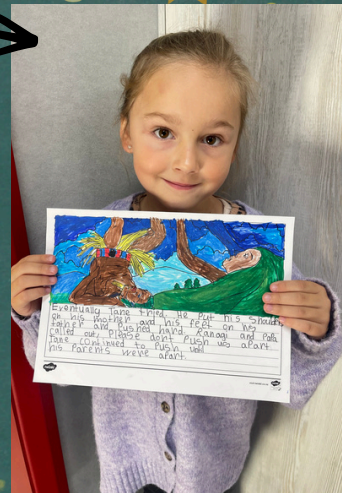
Te Tutuki i te kairanga



Fox drew a fab firefighter picture of Whaea Torah!



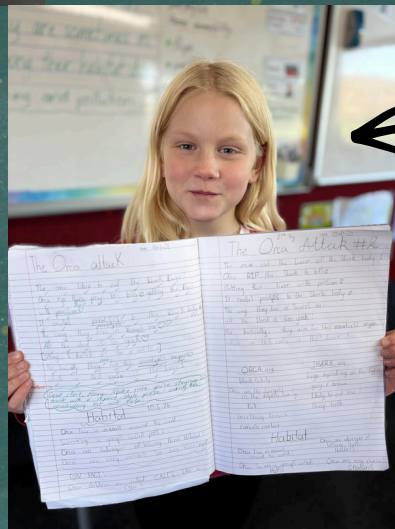
Ruby B's mighty Maori god writing!



Kate spun the Principal's Award Prize Wheel - winning a game of her choice with her class and a voucher from the Tokomaru RSA!



Travis & Molly's amazing artwork!



Rory's rad report about orcas!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Next week is national volunteer week!

A big congratulations to our Whaea Torah on completing her firefighter training course!

He mihi nui ki
ngā kaipatuahi tūao
katoa o te motu

A massive thanks to
every volunteer firefighter
throughout the land

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK



A fantastic example of setting a goal, putting in the work, and achieving it.

We are so proud of you (and your husband Bernard) for this awesome accomplishment!



True or False?



Frozen vegetables can be just as nutritious as fresh ones?

True. They're often frozen at peak ripeness, retaining their nutrients.



Ngā Tau Miharo
The Incredible Years Aotearoa

FREE

PARENTING PROGRAMME

Do you have children between the ages of 3 - 8 years old?

Why a Parenting Programme?

- Support with Fuel and Childcare costs if required
- Learn new skills to manage challenging behavior.
- Encouragement, support and resources for PLAY.
- Morning Tea Provided



SIGN UP

Come in and speak to Sam at:
538 Queen Street East, Levin

or call:
022 691 2297
or 06 367 0680

Tokomaru ECC

www.tokomaruecc.co.nz | (06) 329 8730 | info@tokomaruecc.co.nz |

Tokomaru RSA and Country Club

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

LET'S LEVEL UP TOGETHER



SPECIAL GUESTS | LIDO | MINI GOLF
13TH JULY | YEAR 3 & 4 14TH - 15TH JULY | YEAR 5 & 6 16TH - 17TH JULY | YEAR 7 & 8

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Excavation, Demolition and Civil

Tokomaru School Staff



Shayla Treleaven
(Miss T)
Deputy Principal & Room 4
Teacher
streleaven@tokomaru.school.nz



Mel Ryan
Principal
principal@tokomaru.school.nz
06 329 8780



Roxanne Eastham
Office Manager
officemanager@tokomaru.school.nz
06 329 8780



Renee Cameron
Room 1 Teacher
rcameron@tokomaru.school.nz



Torah Toney
(Whaea Torah)
Room 2 Teacher
ttoney@tokomaru.school.nz



Gabrielle Venter
(Whaea Gabi)
Release Teacher
gventer@tokomaru.school.nz



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



Chante Lennon
Teacher Aide



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