



Tokomaru School Newsletter

Friday 24th July 2026



Principal's Pen

Kia ora koutou,

Our mid-year reports have now been shared with all of you. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback - it has been great to hear that many of you appreciated having the reports available both through Hero and as a paper copy, making them easy to access for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Learning Conversations in Week 4. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to celebrate your child's progress, discuss their learning so far, and work together to identify their next learning goals. We encourage all parents and caregivers to attend alongside their child to meet with their teacher and be part of these important conversations about learning and future goals.

I continue to be incredibly proud of our tamariki and the many opportunities they embrace to showcase their learning, skills, creativity, and confidence. Seeing our students take to the stage at the Regent Theatre last night, performing in front of their whānau, friends, teachers, and support staff, was a truly special moment. Their enthusiasm and commitment shone through, and it was wonderful to celebrate all they have achieved together as a rōpū.

Ngā manaakitanga,

**Mel Ryan,
Principal.**



Term Dates

First Day: Monday 20th July
Last Day: Friday 25th September



Upcoming Dates

Friday 24th July

- School Assembly 2.20pm

Monday 27th July

- Term 4 Out of Zone Ballot applications open

Tuesday 28th July

- Book Battle
- EPIC Music for enrolled students

Wednesday 29th July

- Year 7&8 Technology

Friday 31st July

- Commonwealth Games House Event

Tuesday 4th August

- EPIC Music for enrolled students
- Kind Heart Junior Event

Wednesday 5th August

- Year 7&8 Technology
- Kind Hearts Senior Event
- Home & School Meeting 3:15pm

Tuesday 11th August

- Book Fair Dress Up Day



Sports

Welcome back to another exciting term of sport! We hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing holiday break. Term 3 is a quieter term on the sporting calendar as our winter sports season begins to wrap up. Our Tokomaru School hockey teams have just two games remaining, and we would like to thank all of our players, coaches, managers, whānau, and supporters for their commitment throughout the season.

With the Commonwealth Games beginning this term, we will be celebrating by holding a Commonwealth Sports House Event on Friday of Week 2, starting at 11:30 am. Students will take part in a range of fun Commonwealth-inspired sporting activities while earning valuable house points. We encourage everyone to come dressed in their house colours and show plenty of house spirit!

Our main sporting event later this term is the Cluster Kī-o-Rahi Tournament, which will be held at Linton Camp School in Week 9. We look forward to seeing our students represent Tokomaru School while demonstrating teamwork, sportsmanship, and resilience.

During PE lessons this term, all classes will be developing their Kī-o-Rahi skills in preparation for the tournament, as well as building their racquet skills through a variety of fun and engaging activities.

We look forward to another fantastic term of sport!

Miss T & Matua Murray

Welcome

We're delighted to welcome Gabi Venter to our school as the new teacher in Room 3 for terms 3 & 4 while Mrs Sarten is on maternity leave. Gabi brings valuable early childhood experience and is looking forward to getting to know her students, their whānau, and our wider school community. We're so pleased to have Gabi join our school whānau.



Having taught at Tokomaru School about 20 years ago, only leaving to be a fulltime dad to 3 of his children, Mr Bennett has rejoined us as a release teacher. Formerly a scientist working in the area of Electron Microscopy, then becoming a teacher, Mr Bennett has wide-ranging interests, including his "side career" of rally car driving, lots of travelling, photography, poetry, and spending time with his family. He is looking forward to getting to know the learners across Tokomaru School!

Matariki 2026

Thank you to all who contributed to our 2026 Matariki celebrations. As always, a huge thank you to everyone that donated or contributed to the hāngi, those that ordered, and to those that got up with the birds this morning to get the fire started - Justin, DC, Matt, Cooper, Murray, and Damo. We hugely appreciate your support. Together we raised just over \$750 towards our turf project that will now begin when the weather improves.



Special Visit!

Our students had a special visit from AOPA (Aircraft Owners' and Pilots' Association) Aviation Ambassador, Mike Elston.

Mike shared some awesome stories about his adventures flying helicopters and planes - including what it's like to have his very own helicopter!

Our students learnt about the many exciting careers in aviation, how helicopters actually fly, and our junior students even had the chance to learn the basics of flying one themselves! A huge thank you to Mike and the House of Science team for making this fantastic opportunity happen.

We loved seeing our students so engaged (did you know that humans cannot tell if they're upside down while flying in a cloud?!), asking great questions, and getting excited about the amazing world of aviation!



From the Office

Over the school holidays, ICAS 2026 information was sent home via Hero and Facebook.

Our students are encouraged to achieve excellence and be recognised for their achievements, and this year we are giving them the opportunity to showcase and celebrate their talents in the world-renowned ICAS competition.

ICAS is an online academic competition that gives students the opportunity to challenge their higher order thinking and problem-solving skills in English, Mathematics, Writing (years 4-8) and Spelling Bee (years 3-8).

If you wish for your child to participate in ICAS this year, a Parent Portal is available to register your child for your chosen subjects. If you would like more information on how to register your child, please contact Roxanne at the office on officemanager@tokomaru.school.nz or 06 329 8780.

ICAS
Registrations
close 27th July.

ICAS
assessments

Board of Trustees

On Tuesday 28 July, we will be sending out a community consultation survey via Google Forms as we begin developing our 2027-2029 Strategic Plan.

As part of this planning process, Boards are required to seek feedback from their school community. This is an opportunity for parents, caregivers, and whānau to share your thoughts and ideas for Tokomaru School.

Your feedback will help us celebrate what's working well, identify areas for growth, and set the priorities that will guide our school over the next three years. As we continue to implement the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum, it is important that our Strategic Plan reflects the values and aspirations of our Tokomaru School community.

The survey will be available online through Google Forms. If you would prefer to complete a paper copy, please contact the school office, and we will be happy to provide one.

We encourage all families to take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your voice is important, and your feedback plays a valuable role in informing the Board's planning and decision-making for the future of our school.

Thank you in advance for your support and participation.





Pae Tamariki



Our incredible Tokomaru School Kapa Haka rōpū were on stage at the Regent Theatre for Pae Tamariki last night. Our tamariki were just incredible, performing with so much confidence and pride, and we could not be more proud of them.

A sincere thank you to those that made it all happen! To our teachers Matua Murray, Whaea Torah, and Mrs Sarten, who have all dedicated time and effort to ensure our tamariki could shine on stage. To our ever-supportive whānau who came along to support with cheering and beautiful words of encouragement (as well as some proud tears). And finally to our students - each one amazing on their own, together stronger and looking and sounding so beautiful. He mītharo koutou!

We would also like to shoutout and give thanks to KaniKani Kids who made our Kapa Haka uniforms, and to Te Pae Oranga o Ruahine o Tararua Charitable Trust for their generous funding grant, allowing us to purchase them - simply stunning!

We're looking forward to our Cluster Kapa Haka event later in the term, so keep an eye out for details.

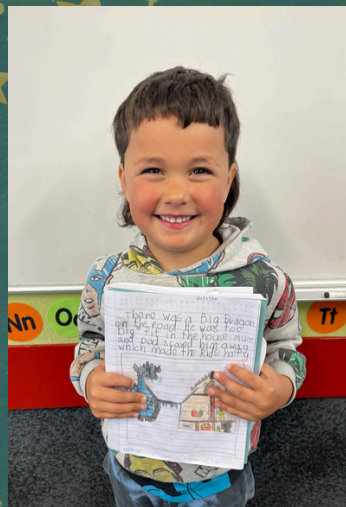


Student Stars

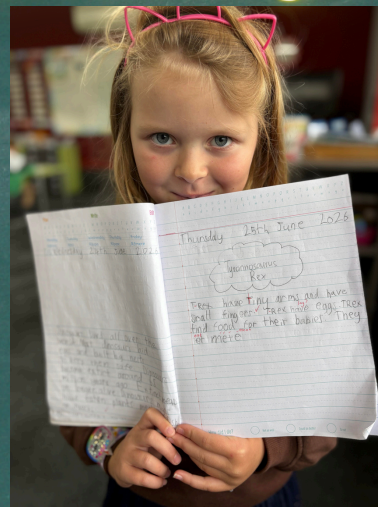
Te Tutuki i te kairanga



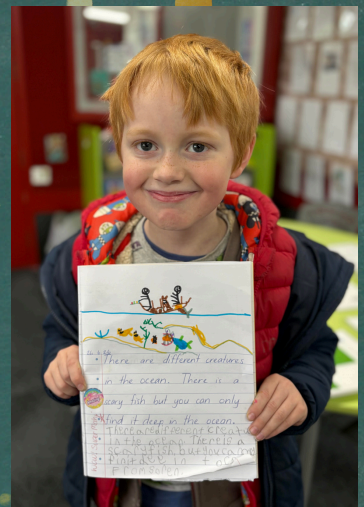
Octavia's Principal
Award Morning
Tea!



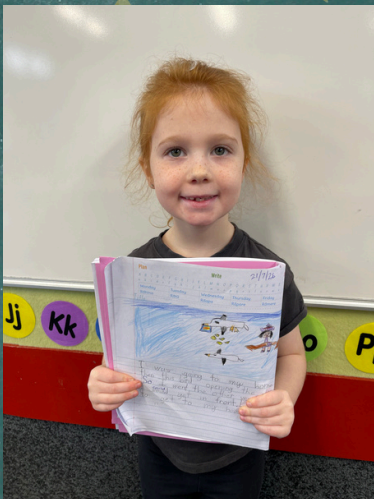
Arlo's awesome
writing!



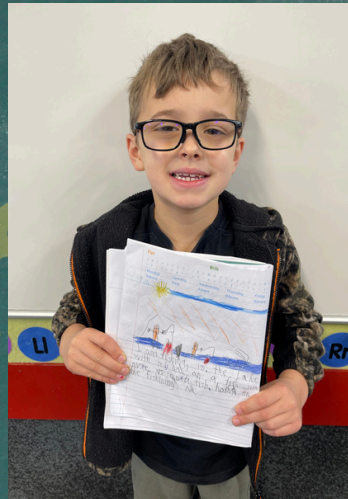
Octavia's dino-
rific T-Rex
writing!



Soren's super
ocean writing!



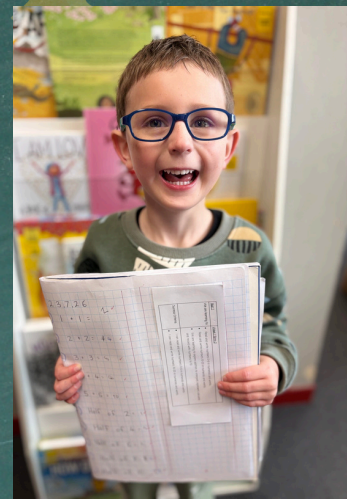
Ruby I's super
story writing!



Vinnie's fun
fishing story!



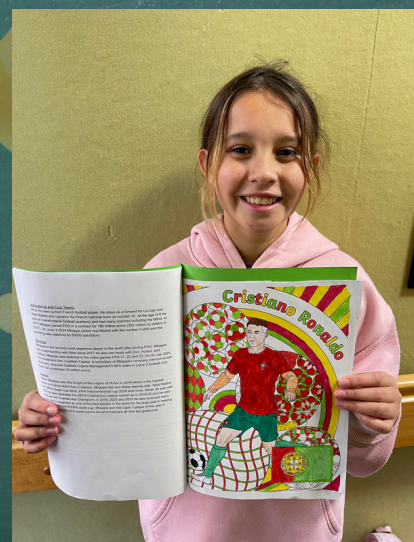
Ruby & Mason's
FIFA World Cup
research!



Michael's
marvellous
maths!

Welcome

Welcome
to Odin
who has
joined us
in Room 1!



Sienna's
FIFA
World
Cup
research!

College Open Days!

MANAWATŪ COLLEGE OPEN EVENING



WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2026
5.30PM - 7.30PM

This invitation is extended to any prospective students and their whānau who would like to learn more about the educational opportunities on offer at Manawatu College in 2027



Freyberg
HIGH SCHOOL



OPEN
NIGHTS

WEDNESDAY 5th
& THURSDAY 6th
AUGUST
5.30PM

Waiopahu College Open Evening



Nga mihi nui kia koutou
A special welcome to you all from
Guy, Alison and Kirsten
PLEASE JOIN US!

- 5.30pm Refreshments available in the foyer
- 6.00pm Welcome from our head students
- 6.05pm Principal's welcome and presentation
- 6.20pm Tour of the school
- 8.00pm Principal and senior leaders available for further questions in the library

QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE

OUR OPEN DAY

Date Wednesday, 29th July 2026

Time 9:30am- Guided tours, see the school in action! - Main Office
6:00pm- Presentation and department visits - School Hall

Location 354 Rangitikei Street, Palmerston North

Ready to join our whānau in 2027?
<https://qec.school.nz/enrolment>

Scan here

Have questions?
Please contact us
Ph: 06 358 9033
E: office@qec.school.nz
W: qec.school.nz

PALMERSTON NORTH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

ESTABLISHED 1902

OPEN DAY

Thursday, 30th July 2026

MEET AT SPIERS CENTRE
9.45AM | 5.30PM | 7.00PM
Followed by an optional guided tour

COLLEGE HOUSE
Housing the values of yesterday and the men of tomorrow

HOSTEL TOURS
11.30AM & 4.30PM

TO ENQUIRE ABOUT COLLEGE HOUSE
Mr Matt Davidson | chmanager@pnbhhs.school.nz | 06 358 6704

AWATAPU COLLEGE

WHAI MANA, WHAI ORANGA

PALMERSTON NORTH

Pursuing progress and becoming our better self

OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 28 July - 5:30pm - School Gymnasium
434 Botanical Road, Palmerston North

Thanks to our supporters!



6 Admiral Place,
Palmerston North, Manawatu

027 276 2121

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BAILEY BUILDS

Tokomaru RSA and Country Club

Tokomaru School Staff



Shayla Treleaven
(Miss T)
Deputy Principal & Room 4
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Room 2 Teacher
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Gabrielle Venter
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Release Teacher
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Murray Te Huki
(Matua Murray)
Room 5 Teacher
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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