



# Tokomaru School Newsletter

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026



## Principal's Pen

Kia ora koutou,

One of the things that makes our Tokomaru School community so awesome is the way we come together to support important causes and events. From Daffodil Day to our upcoming Crazy Hair Day, these charity days provide opportunities for our students to have fun while also learning about kindness, empathy, generosity and the importance of supporting others. It is fantastic to see our students and families support these days, as these shared experiences help build a strong sense of belonging and remind our students that they are part of a caring and connected community.

A couple of weeks ago, we saw a dip in attendance as influenza A and other illnesses made their way through our community. It was good to see so many families making the decision to keep their children at home when they were unwell. This is an important way we can all help to reduce the spread of illness and look after the wellbeing of our wider school community. Thankfully, as we move into Spring, it feels like we are coming out the other side, with attendance now improving and more of our students back at school.

Thank you to our families for helping us to look after one another. There is also some useful information in this newsletter about public health services and where to find support and advice if needed.

**Mel Ryan, Principal.**



## Term Dates

First Day: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July  
Last Day: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September



## Upcoming Dates

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

- Crazy Hair Day
- Cuba St Pie Delivery
- School Assembly 2:20pm

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September

- EPIC Music

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

- Year 7&8 Technology

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September

- St John in Schools
- Board of Trustees meeting 6:30pm

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September

- St John in Schools
- EPIC Music

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

- Year 7&8 Technology

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September

- Cluster Kapa Haka & Ki o Rahi
- Production Raffle Tickets Due

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September

- School Production





# Sports

*Cluster Kī-o-Rahi is coming up in Week 9! This exciting event will be hosted by Linton Camp School on Friday 18 September. All whānau are welcome to come along and support our students. We will be selecting the teams attending this fantastic day very shortly, so please keep an eye out for permission slips coming home in Week 8.*

*Tomorrow is the final day to return summer sports notices. Some of our teams are currently looking a little low on numbers, so please return these notices as soon as possible. This will allow us to begin organising teams and, if necessary, arrange for players from other schools to join us.*

*Thank you to everyone who has returned their slip promptly and to the parents who have volunteered to help. We still need parent volunteers for our senior teams, so please let Miss T know if you can support us.*

**Our Colour Fun Run is back!**

*We will begin our fundraising in the coming weeks as we prepare for our awesome Colour Fun Run in Term 4. More information will be coming home shortly—watch this space!*

**Miss T & Matua Murray**

# Movie Night

It was lovely to see so many of our students come along to our recent Movie Night and enjoy watching Shrek together. With our whole-school production of Shrek coming up, it was also a great way to get everyone excited and familiar with the story! We were happy to raise \$241 towards next year's Year 7/8 camp, as we endeavour to keep our annual camp free for all our senior students.

A big thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the evening such a fun and successful event, and to Whaea Torah for her organisation of all the treats, as well as our staff who helped make up lolly bags and to Matua Murray and Room 5 for setting up.





# Staff Professional Development

## Cultural Capability:

Our teaching staff recently had the opportunity to learn with Ann Milne, who challenged us to think deeply about how well our school reflects the identities, cultures and experiences of every learner. We reflected on the importance of knowing each child and their whānau, and making sure Māori perspectives, te reo and local knowledge are a natural and valued part of everyday learning – not something we only focus on for special occasions. While we are proud of the progress we have made through kapa haka, waiata, karakia and events such as Matariki and Pae Tamariki, we recognise there is more we can do.

Our next steps are to strengthen our relationships with whānau, make greater use of our local stories and knowledge, and more consistently integrate Māori perspectives and te reo Māori through our learning. We are also looking at how opportunities such as our marae experience can become richer learning experiences for all our tamariki. Most importantly, we want our learners to feel seen, valued, connected and proud of who they are. We'd like to extend our thanks to the Cloverlea School team for hosting us all – absolute legends!



## Maths:

As we continue our second year of Learner First PLD, we are finding new ways to help our students become confident and capable mathematicians. In Week 4, Whaea Torah and Whaea Gabi shared their learning from the latest workshop, which focused on giving students time and space to think, explore and problem-solve. Rather than focusing only on getting the right answer, we are encouraging students to explain their thinking, try different strategies, learn from mistakes and listen to how others approach a problem. By giving students rich and sometimes challenging maths tasks, we are helping them develop the confidence and perseverance to tackle unfamiliar problems – skills that are valuable both in mathematics and beyond the classroom.

## Teacher Aides:

Two of our teacher aides have been accepted into Poipoia te Kākano, a professional learning programme designed to build teacher aides' knowledge and skills in supporting young learners. The programme provides practical strategies to better understand learner behaviour, respond to individual needs and support positive engagement in learning. We look forward to seeing this learning strengthen the support our teacher aides provide to our tamariki.



# Home & School

## Cuba St Bakehouse

A big thank you to everyone who ordered delicious pies, savouries and sweets from Cuba St Bakehouse. Your orders will be available for collection on Friday 4 September from 1.00pm. We raised a total of \$452.

## Turf Installation

You may have noticed our new turf installation getting underway this week! We're very excited to see it taking shape and look forward to having this fantastic new space ready for our students to enjoy. The turf will provide a great area for PE, sports practice, games and plenty of fun. Thanks to the awesome support you have given through our many Home & School events, we have been able to fund this project, with an additional contribution from our School Board.

This is a fantastic addition to our school facilities, and we know it will be well used and enjoyed by our students for years to come.

## Happily Ever After Production Raffle

With our school production coming up, we're also getting ready for our Happily Ever After Production Raffle! Please send along a raffle prize/donation if you are able to help - something that would make you "happily ever after" - maybe a yummy treat, a book, a stationery item - we're looking forward to putting together some fantastic prizes for our school community to win, with the school holidays just around the corner!

# Cluster Speeches

Today our school speech finalists - Artemis, Praneet, Bonnie, and Liam B - took part in the Cluster Speech Competition, sharing persuasive speeches on a fantastic range of topics - from removing the Union Jack from the New Zealand flag and stopping eating Oreos, to climate change and viral influences. They also had to tackle impromptu speeches, which is always a big, but fun challenge!

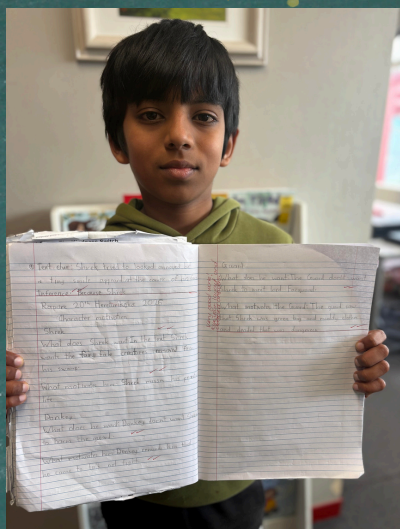
A huge thank you to Turitea School for hosting, and to all the students who participated today. You should all be very proud of yourselves - well done!



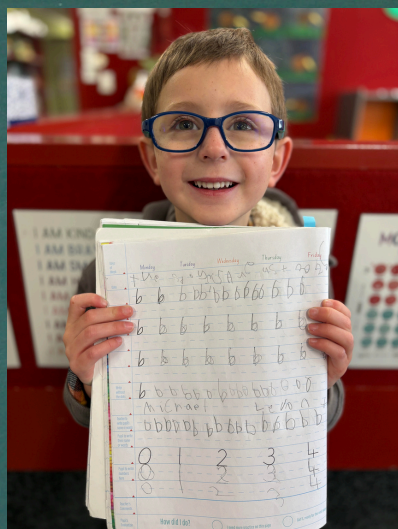


# Student Stars

Te Tutuki i te kairanga



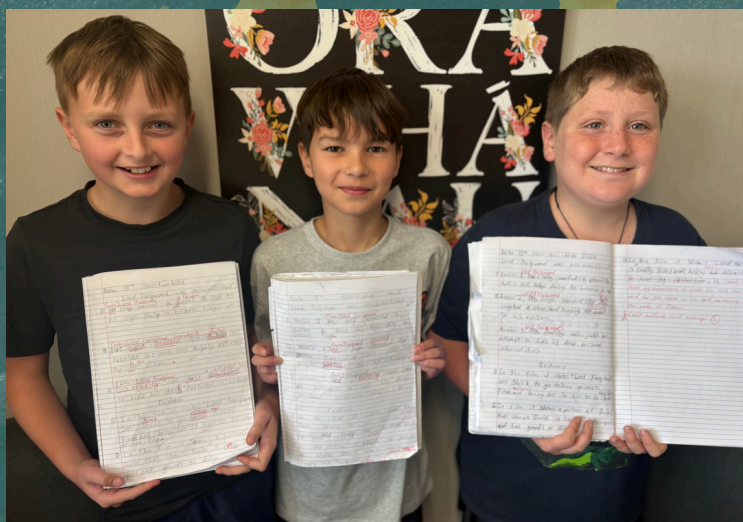
Praneet's inferences about Shrek!



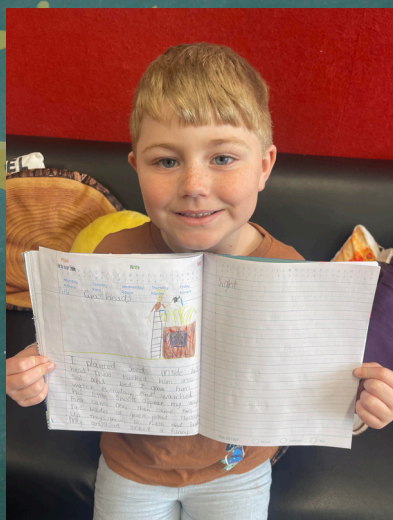
Michael's fab handwriting!



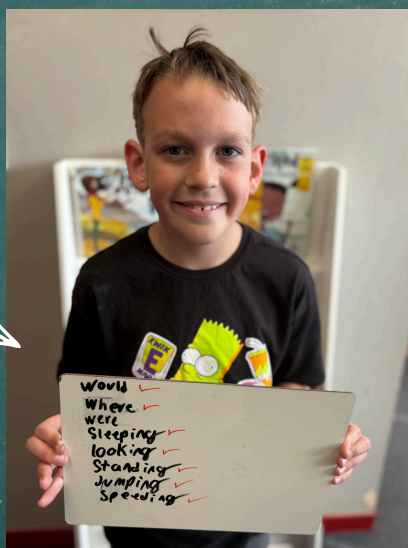
Thank you to all our students, staff and families for getting behind Daffodil Day, wearing yellow and donating a total of \$144 to support the New Zealand Cancer Society's efforts



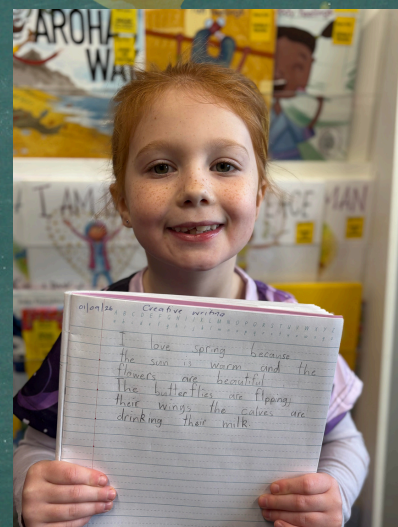
Travis, Ali and Max, worked together on their persuasive writing!



Jax's great grass-head writing!



Bodhi's super spelling!



Ruby's super creative writing about Spring!



# Healthcare

Online GP Care now free for ākonga/students 13 and under:

With health services experiencing high demand, online GP care is an option for accessing care and the service is now free for all ākonga/students up to, and including, the age of 13.

Appointments usually take place through a video app or a phone call and the service can prescribe medicine and send prescriptions to your nearest pharmacy. It also provides another care option for rural communities.

To learn more visit Online GP care - Health New Zealand:

<https://www.healthnz.govt.nz/online-phone-healthcare/online-gp-care>

Health New Zealand  
Te Whatu Ora

July 2025

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## CHILDHOOD & ANTENATAL IMMUNISATION

HOROWHENUA | PALMERSTON NORTH | FEILDING | TARARUA

Getting our tamariki and hapū māmā immunised is one of the best ways to protect their health and set them up for a healthy future. In addition to receiving vaccinations at your General Practice, we also provide the following **FREE** drop in clinics in the MidCentral area.

### PALMERSTON NORTH

MONDAY 9am - 4pm  
Plunket Family Centre  
42 Albert St, P.Nth Central

TUESDAY 10am - 4pm  
Palmerston Central Clinic  
Te Aroha Noa 14 Brentwood Ave, Highbury

WEDNESDAY 9am - 12pm  
Te Wakahuia Clinic  
Te Aroha Noa 10-28  
Brentwood Ave, Highbury

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY HAPŪ MĀMĀ  
930am - 4pm, Te Papaioea Birthing Centre  
117 Rushine St, Terrace End

THURSDAY 9am - 1230pm  
THINK Hauora Offices  
200 Broadway Avenue

### DANNEVIRKE/WOODVILLE

**CALL TO BOOK**  
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua  
49 Vogel St, Woodville OR  
173 High St, Dannevirke  
Phone: 027 3007344 or 06 3749227

**THURSDAY**  
Te Kete Hauora o Rangitāne Manawanui -  
Rangitāne Square, 91 High St  
Call Keshan Te Waaka on 027 933 0044

### PAHIATUA

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua  
SECOND THURSDAY of the month  
11am - 2pm  
Tararua Community Centre, 43 Main St

### FEILDING

FRIDAY 9am - 3pm  
Plunket Rooms  
120 Fergusson St, Feilding

### LEVIN

MONDAY 9am - 12pm & FRIDAY 11am - 3pm  
Raukawa Whānau Ora, 152 Bath St

MONDAY 930am - 1230pm  
Plunket Rooms, 74A Cambridge St  
Muaupoko Tribal Authority Inc. Call Shaye  
on 06 3673311 or 306 Oxford St

### ŌTAKI

FRIDAY 9am - 12pm, Te Puna Oranga o Ōtaki  
51 Main St, Ōtaki



Te Wakahuia Manawatu Trust,  
Raukawa, Raukawa District



Raukawa Whānau Ora Ltd  
Te Rau Whānau Ora Ltd o Te Rau Whānau Ora



Ngāti Kahungunu  
ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua

## Care options for you and your whānau

There are a range of healthcare options available if you can't see your regular GP. Many are available after hours and at weekends.

### Healthline 0800 611 116



- Free over-the-phone health advice 24/7 from nurses and paramedics.
  - Māori clinicians are available from 8am to 8pm weekdays.
  - You can send photos or videos to help explain your symptoms.
  - Option to ask Healthline to call you back.
- Visit [healthnz.govt.nz/healthline](https://healthnz.govt.nz/healthline)

### Online doctor



- Online or over-the-phone appointment with a doctor any time, including after hours and weekends.
- **Free for children aged 13 and under.**
- Low-cost appointments for ages 14-17 and Community Services Card holders.

Find an online doctor at  
[healthnz.govt.nz/OnlineGP](https://healthnz.govt.nz/OnlineGP)

### Pharmacy



- Advice on medications and minor concerns including colds, rashes and itchy skin.
- Many can also help with eye infections, urinary infections, emergency contraception, vaccinations and more.
- May be able to provide a few days of medication if you run out and need a new prescription.

Find a pharmacy at  
[healthpoint.co.nz](https://healthpoint.co.nz)

### After hours and urgent care clinics



- After hours or urgent care if your GP isn't available and you need to see someone in person.
- For urgent medical issues including breaks, sprains, bad cuts, head knocks, minor burns, eye and ear issues, and if you feel really sick.
- Free appointments for children and low-cost appointments for Community Services Card holders at some clinics.

Find your nearest urgent care clinic at  
[healthpoint.co.nz](https://healthpoint.co.nz)

Visit [healthnz.govt.nz](https://healthnz.govt.nz) for health advice and information on services.

# Check out the turf progress!

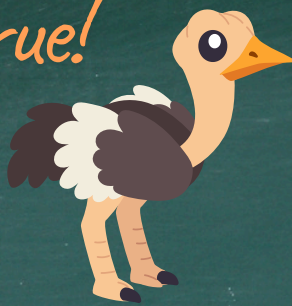
## We can't wait for the final reveal!





*Weird, but true!*

An ostrich's  
eye is larger  
than it's brain!



## Crazy Hair Day

Want to come to school with the craziest, wackiest, most creative hair?  
And do you want to show kids and grown-ups going through a tough  
time right now that you care about them?

Then you should join in with the Crazy Hair Day at your school!

### What is Crazy Hair Day?

One day, a group of very crazy and very  
hairy people came together to create  
Crazy Hair Day, as a way to show Kiwis  
going through blood cancer that we care  
about them.

### What is blood cancer?

There are eight grown-ups and kids  
diagnosed with blood cancer each day in  
New Zealand.

You might know someone going through

blood cancer right now – they can have  
strange names like leukaemia, lymphoma  
and myeloma.

It can be a really difficult and painful thing  
to go through.

And, often when people go through blood  
cancer, they will lose their hair. Can you  
imagine how sad and scary that would be?  
They might even feel really alone. BUT –  
you can show them that they're not alone,  
by doing a Crazy Hair Day and making your  
hair look as wacky and weird as possible!

For more information contact the  
Shave Team on 0800 15 10 15  
or [shave@bloodcancer.org.nz](mailto:shave@bloodcancer.org.nz)

[shaveforacure.co.nz](http://shaveforacure.co.nz)



## TOKOMARU HALL SPRING QUIZ

**Tickets \$15 per person**  
**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2026 6pm**  
**Kitchen Roof Fundraiser**

Any questions or to book a table, contact us via facebook  
@TokomaruHall or email [tokomaruhall@gmail.com](mailto:tokomaruhall@gmail.com)

Tokomaru ECC

| [www.tokomaruecc.co.nz](http://www.tokomaruecc.co.nz) | (06) 329 8730 | [info@tokomaruucc.co.nz](mailto:info@tokomaruucc.co.nz) |

Tokomaru RSA and Country Club

## Cuba St Pie Collection

Pick up your Cuba St Pie  
order at the school office  
**Friday 4th September**  
**from 1pm - 3:15pm**

Please bring along a bag  
to collect your order.



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supporting  
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School!



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BAILEYBUILDS



# Tokomaru School Staff



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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