Tokomaru School Newsletter

Thursday 26th November 2026



Principal's Pen

Kia ora koutou,
As we reach our final newsletter for 2026, it is hard to believe how quickly this year has flown by! Over the past couple of weeks, it has been wonderful to see our tamariki having so much fun and our community generosity shining through. Our Colour Fun Run was an unforgettable day, raising a whopping $5,721 for our students! The fundraising race came right down to the wire, with Room 5 edging out Room 4 by just $2 to earn the honour of choosing which staff member got slimed - and our Miss T took it like an absolute champ, joining in on the fun with the students!

Our Home & School Association also had a fantastic night at the Tokomaru Bonfire & Guy Fawkes event at the Domain, raising just over $680 for our next school project. A massive thank you goes out to our Home & School volunteers for their hard work behind the scenes and on the night, to our generous local supporters for lending us the BBQ trailer, to the Tokomaru Volunteer Fire Brigade for putting on such a brilliant community event, and to all of our whānau who stopped by to support us.

We have an action-packed finish to the term lined up! Tonight we are looking forward to hitting the dance floor for our school disco, followed straight away by our Sports Day tomorrow. Next week brings the Cluster Touch Tournament, our formal School Prizegiving, and a very special Year 8 Leavers' Dinner and Celebration Day as we prepare to farewell our senior students, before we wrap the entire year up on Monday, 7 December, with our annual Fun Day. Thank you once again for your ongoing support throughout 2026 - let's make these final weeks memorable!



Ngā manaakitanga,
Mel Ryan
Principal/Tumuaki

2027 Dates - Term 1

First Day: Thursday 28th January
Last Day: Friday 9th April

Upcoming Dates

Friday 27th November
- Sports Day
- Term 1 2027 Ballot Drawn

Monday 30th November
- Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30pm

Tuesday 1st December
- EPIC Music Lessons
- Year 8 Leavers' Dinner - 6pm, Tokomaru RSA & Country Club

Wednesday 2nd December
- Tokomaru School Prizegiving - 6pm, Tokomaru Hall

Thursday 3rd December
- Cluster Touch Tournament

Friday 4th December
- Year 8 Fun Day

Monday 7th December
- Whole School Fun Day!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Sports

Our new Gaga Ball pit has been a huge success, and our tamariki are absolutely loving it! It has been awesome to see the children already developing their skills, discovering new strategies and finding creative ways to outplay their opponents. It is a fantastic addition to our playground, encouraging physical activity, strategic thinking and friendly competition. A massive thank you to Damo and our Year 8 students who helped build the Gaga Ball pit. Your hard work is greatly appreciated, and it is wonderful to see our tamariki getting so much enjoyment out of it!

A few final reminders:

- *Please return permission slips for our Cluster Touch Tournament, happening next Thursday at Monrad Park.*
- *There are still a couple of weeks of soccer and touch remaining.*
- *Our Year 5 & 6 soccer team will not have a game on the day of our school prizegiving.*

A massive thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who have helped coach and manage our sports teams, and to all the whānau who have come along to support and cheer on our tamariki. Physical activity is a huge part of life here at Tokomaru School, and it is so awesome to see our tamariki share that same passion and enthusiasm.

And that's a wrap for our final sports newsletter update of 2026! What an incredible year it has been, filled with sporting opportunities, achievements, teamwork and plenty of fun. I am incredibly proud of all our tamariki who have stepped outside their comfort zones, tried new sports, developed their skills and demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship throughout the year. Thank you for another amazing year of sport at Tokomaru School. Bring on 2027! 🏅

Miss T and Matua Murray - Sports Coordinators

Players of the Day!



Player of the Day: Eve - Summer Hockey



Players of the Day - Touch: Travis & Ali. Summer Soccer: Praneet



Players of the Day: Ruby I & Octavia - Summer Hockey



Players of the Day for Touch & Soccer - Ali, Cooper, Max, and Travis

2026 FUN RUN

What an awesome event! Thank to Miss T for all of your work arranging this day, to Nathan Mooney Real Estate for donating each of our students a white t-shirt to wear, to all of our school community for your support and to the Tokomaru Fire Brigate for the hose down! Together we raised just over $5700 for our turf!













Going Gaga!

Big thanks to Damo and the team of Year 8 students that worked together to complete the pit, ready for some great Gaga games!





Christmas Service

A big thank you to St Aidan's Church for inviting us and hosting a lovely school Christmas celebration. We enjoyed singing some lovely Christmas songs and carols, decorating the Christmas tree with decorations we had made at school, and watching five of our students perform a fantastic play.
Thank you to Christine, Anton, Deirdre, and Pam for their organisation and the lollipops at the end!

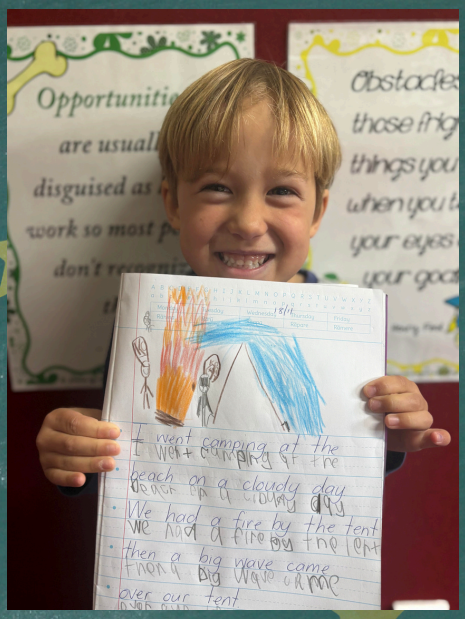




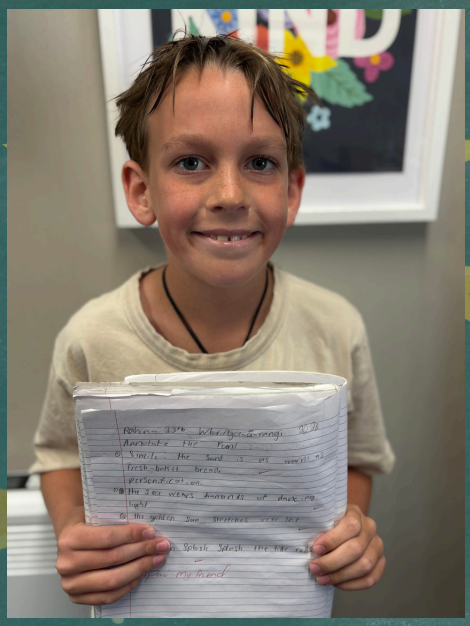


Student Stars

Te Tutuki i te kairanga



Koa's cool camping story!



Bodhi's super similes!



A Tokomaru School welcome to Daniel, who started last week! He has joined his big brother Aka here, and we're stoked to have him as part of our school community!



Week 6 Assembly - Value Awards

Room 1

Eli (Perseverance) & Ruby I (Responsibility)

Room 2

Eve (Responsibility) & Sydney (Perseverance)

Room 3

Maddox (Perseverance) & Harper (Responsibility)

Room 4

Kylah (Perseverance) & Charlotte (Perseverance)

Room 5

Andrew (Responsibility) & Nathan (Perseverance)



Hazel & Nyla's Kapa Haka Awards!

Let's Help Harold!

Life Education Trust Kāpiti-Horowhenua is running our 'Get Harold a Glow Up' raffle, raising funds towards a brand-new Harold puppet!

For so many tamariki, Harold is more than just a giraffe. He's a familiar face, a friend and a special part of their Life Education experience. After years of creating memories, sparking big conversations and sharing a little magic across our local communities, it's time for Harold to get a well-deserved upgrade!

We'd love your kura to get involved in whatever way feels manageable. We understand purchasing tickets may not be possible for everyone, but every bit of support is genuinely appreciated. You could help us by:

- Purchasing raffle tickets and being in to win some fantastic prizes!
- Sharing our social media posts with your school community (https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1KUdat5VP9/?mibextid=wwXIfr)
- Sharing or displaying the attached raffle poster in school publications, noticeboards or other shared spaces.
-

Every ticket purchased and every share brings us one step closer to our goal!

A heartfelt thank you for your ongoing support of our kaupapa. We're incredibly lucky to work alongside such wonderful schools, kaiako and communities. Your support helps us create opportunities for tamariki to learn, grow and thrive, and we genuinely couldn't do what we do without you.

Thank you for being part of the Life Education whānau and helping us keep Harold's magic alive!

Ngā mihi nui,

Phoebe, Harold and the team at Life Education Trust Kāpiti-Horowhenua





Mentors Needed

Big Brothers Big Sisters Manawatu is a nationwide youth mentoring organisation that pairs community volunteers (mentors) with young people (mentees) who are in need of a positive, reliable role model in their life. A mentor does not need experience with children/youth, or have superpowers, they simply need a kind heart, be reliable, and willing to show up for one hour once a week and have some fun with their mentee! Matches can spend time in the community or school-based setting doing relationship building activities such as arts and crafts, building lego, going for a walk, baking, playing games or cards, and so much more! Matches are professionally supported by mentor coordinators who onboard mentors with an interview, training, police vetting and ongoing supervision.

You can support Big Brothers Big Sisters Manawatu by:

Becoming a volunteer mentor: https://form.jotform.com/212218196875059

Sharing the information with others: posters, flyers and social media @bigbrothersbigsistersofmanwatu

Visit their website for more information: https://www.bigbrothersbigsisters.org.nz/manawatu





Weird but True...

Crickets hear through their knees!



Thanks to our supporters!

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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/Tumuaki: Mel Ryan
Secretary: Rachel Wilson
Minute Secretary: Roxanne Eastham
Staff Representative & Treasurer: Roxanne Eastham
Parent Representative: Haley Dell