



# Principal's News

Friday 22 August 2025

*Kia ora, Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Ni Hao, Namaste, Bula Vinaka, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Kia orana, Mauri, Greetings.*

I am writing to you today with a mix of emotions as I announce my medical retirement from my role as principal of Manurewa Central School. This decision was not an easy one, but due to recent health challenges, it has become necessary for me to focus on my well-being and recovery.

My time at Manurewa Central has been the most fulfilling chapter of my professional life. I am incredibly proud of the work we have done together - from our academic achievements to the strong, supportive community we have continued to build. I will cherish the memories.

I would like to acknowledge the staff, senior leadership team and the School Board for their commitment to ensuring the very best for our tamariki. This great work continues whilst the Board begins the appointment process for a new principal.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your principal. I will be cheering for you from the sidelines and look forward to hearing about the continued success of Manurewa Central School.

With sincere gratitude,

Ngā mihi,  
Michelle Dibben  
Principal

The School Board would like to thank Michelle for all she has done for our school, and wish her all the best in her recovery from her health issues that have necessitated her medical retirement. We will miss you Michelle.

The board would also like to reassure everyone else that we have begun the process of finding the best person we possibly can to pick up where Michelle has left off, and we know the school is in Sandy and Jan's capable hands while we go through that process.

Nga mihi nui  
Manurewa Central School Board of Trustees



## NZEI PAID UNION MEETING

*Tuesday 26 August*

## Book Week – Week 8

### Book Character Dress-Up Day

*Thursday 4 September*

## Junior School Cross Country

*Thursday 11 September*

## Whānau Kemu & Kai

*Wednesday 17 September*

## End of Term 3

*Friday 19 September*

## Term 4

*Monday 6 October*

## NZEI PAID UNION MEETING

Tuesday 26 August 2025. Member teachers will not be available for class instruction on the afternoon of Tuesday, 26 August 2025. The school will remain open, and children remaining at school will be supervised on-site. Students will be able to be picked up by parents or caregivers from their classrooms between 12 noon and 12.30 PM on this day. Please note that no children will be sent home. Children not picked up by parents/ caregivers will remain at school until 3.00 PM.



## Whānau Kemu & Kai.

For our Māori Whānau, join us for an afternoon of Games & Kai.  
Wednesday 17th September 2025 from 3:15 - 4:30 PM. More information to follow.

## Lost Property

We have LOTS of unnamed items of clothing in our Lost Property Box outside the staffroom and in and around classrooms and pods which we would love to return to families. Naming clothing items helps us return them to the children.

Please take the time to name all clothing items your child may remove during the day.



The Lost Property will be outside the staffroom on sunny days. Please browse at 3pm and take the items which belong to you.

These students have been recognised by their class teachers for displaying our school value Diversity

*“You are unique, just like me.*

*We are different and we all matter.*

*It is who we are, what we are and how we think*

*that matters”*



<u>Totara</u>	<u>Kowhai</u>	<u>Ti Kouka</u>	<u>Nikau</u>
Zane	Amaya-Lee	Jade	Peter
Aania	Gurpahul	Evaan	Jett
Naija	Kahlo-Jay	Kaia-Ross	Rona
Brooke			
<u>Puriri</u>	<u>Titoki</u>	<u>Rimu</u>	<u>Kauri</u>
Mariafatima	Gurveer	Imelia	Kyan
	Zhané	Deijahzan	Seerat
	Ekveer	Gurshan	Charlotte

## Tōtara & Pūriri

Pūriri have been enjoying learning about some basic physics. The children have enjoyed being scientists and learning about electricity, sound, light and magnets. Next up we'll be learning about push and pull forces, solar energy and friction!

We have also just had our first gymnastics lesson, which was fun and exciting and challenged the children to do some things that were a little bit scary. They felt so proud of what they were able to do! We are very grateful to the team at the Bruce Pulman Recreation Centre for giving us the opportunity to do gymnastics for free - we are so lucky!

## Kauri

Kauri Ngahere has been very busy over the last few weeks. We had a visit to Greenmeadows Intermediate School last week to learn about their specialist programme, which was very exciting! On Thursday, around 40 students attended an open day at Manurewa Intermediate School. It's a really exciting time for the Year 6 students! Speeches are a big focus for us at the moment, as we are writing persuasive speeches on different topics. Kokako Kohanga is incorporating the inquiry topic of climate change into speeches, trying to persuade our audience to think the way we do about this important environmental issue. We are all learning how we can make small changes to our everyday lives to help the environment for our future. Today, we enjoyed our Hoodie and Oodie Day! It was so nice wearing our comfortable and snuggly hoodies and oodies, especially since it is quite cold at the moment. Book Week is coming up quickly, and we are looking forward to dressing up as our favourite book characters and seeing what our friends and teachers dress up as.

We are very proud of Benny from Nikau, who represented Manurewa Central School at the Rehu Tai Manurewa Speech Competition held at Reremoana School on Friday 15 August.

Benny competed in the Speech Category, with the topic Whenua. He spoke with great confidence and mana, sharing his ideas with clarity and pride. Benny did himself, his whānau, and our school proud through his effort and presentation.

Ka rawe, Benny – we are very proud of you!

## 2025 Calendar Art

Our students are working hard on producing an art piece that makes for uniquely personal, treasured keepsakes. Cost-effective, quality Christmas gifts - ideal for sending overseas. A professional visual record of each child's development, which can be displayed all year. We can't wait to have these available for you to view online next term and purchase for your whare or to gift to families and friends. Information on costing and ordering will be available before the end of the term.



## Ti Kōiuka

In Ti kōiuka, we've finished up our science unit on how amazing plants are and are on to our new topic all about energy. We'll be exploring where our power comes from, looking at both non-renewable sources like fossil fuels and renewable sources like wind, hydro, thermal and solar power. It's a great way to help our students understand where things in their world come from and how and where New Zealand gets our power sources from. Over the last few weeks the students have also been working on creating small pieces of art that could be turned into diaries, notebooks, or cards at a later date with our upcoming school fundraiser. We are so excited to see their creative ideas come to life. These will be available to see in the next few weeks.

## Kowhai

We have been super scientists in Kōwhai this week, exploring friction, magnetism and electric circuits. Magnets are so much fun! We experimented with many different materials and found out that magnets attract and repel depending on which poles are facing each other. Connecting our own circuits made the light bulb glow and the happy birthday tune play. We've learnt lots of new words such as conductors, friction and force - ask us about it! We have also been training for our cross country race later this term by running everyday to improve our stamina, endurance and fitness. We hope you'll come and cheer us on!

## Rimu

In Literacy we are reading about Myths and Legends and how they relate to Aotearoa and the surrounding Pacific Islands. They have also been great as they have helped us learn about our Language weeks for the Cook Islands and Tonga. We have now started the new spelling programme called 'The Code' as part of Structured Literacy introduced in the New Curriculum this year. In Science we have been learning about the different Types of Extreme Weather and what affects it has on nature and people. We are also working hard to complete our Calendar Art before the end of term so that it can be ready for fundraising in Term 4.

## Nikau

Nikau has been very lucky to welcome three student teachers into the pod. Mr Tiqatabua is with Mr Chin. Mrs Kajal with Mrs Lynch, and Mr Pederson with Mrs Sauni. These student teachers will stay with Nikau until term four. Term three, our focus is on climate change and natural disasters. As part of this, we are learning about fire safety and working with the fire department. As part of our EOTC, we will be visiting Vector Wero to learn about river crossing and also white water rafting. Finally, we have harvested some of our beetroot and cooked them three different ways. Children really enjoyed trying different recipes and we hope they try the recipes at home.