



Principal's News

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

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to launch the new parent portal released by the Ministry of Education this term. This online resource is designed to help you understand what your child is learning at school, how they are progressing against the curriculum, and what you can do to support them at home.

Tē Tāhū o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

Te Poutāhū
Curriculum Centre

Understand your child's learning

Information and resources for parents, caregivers and whānau

A new webpage on education.govt.nz houses practical videos, activities and resources for supporting learning that are easy to understand, empowering you to take an active role in your child's education. An introductory video that walks you through the content is available [here](#).

With the launch of the 'parent-friendly' versions of both our national curricula, you will know exactly what your child is learning, why it's important, and when they'll be learning it, so that you can actively support and complement your child's learning at home and have meaningful conversations with your child's teacher or kaiako.

To navigate the website, you can choose which curriculum you want to learn more about and then go to your child's year level.

1 Tē Tāhū o te Mātauranga
2 Tē Poutāhū
3 Tē Poutāhū

www.education.govt.nz

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There are practice activities for each year level that you can do with your child, and 'tips and tricks' to support learning at home. Phonics cards come with parent guidance with audio files to model the correct sounds.

Parent tip
Practise is important when learning sounds and letters. Repeating the sounds your kaiako has learned, for up to 10 minutes a day, will help your child learn them. If your child has been learning to read, you can practise them by having them read a book or a page of text. Select the 5 dots at the bottom of the slides and then select 'Turn full screen'.

Fish likes to swim and have fun in the waves.

There is also a guide on how to prepare for the first day of school, and tips for parent-teacher interviews.

Preparing for the first day of school

In Years 0 to 3 (these) it is good for children to thrive in environments rich in literacy and maths. For information on what they will be learning, go to [New Zealand Curriculum](#) [http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz](#).

Things to discuss

- With your child's teacher, you may wish to discuss:
 - your child's phonics check (Years 0 and 1) – if your child has not yet had a check, ask when they will
 - how you can support your child with structured literacy – if you are not sure what this is, talk to the teacher and ask them to explain it
 - how you can support your child with maths

The webspace also houses important information about how children will be assessed in the early years of schooling through the new Phonics Checks and Hihira Witeoro. It describes how parents and whānau can access additional support that their child or tamaiti might need.

Learning in the first 6 months of school or kura

Kura: Hihira Witeoro 20 weeks test check: Te Mātauranga

As the national curriculum continues to be updated and implemented in all schools and kura over the next few years, more resources and supports will become available for parents, caregivers and whānau. We encourage you to visit the new webpage and check out the current resources, guides and videos available. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email us at tepoutahu.Engagement@education.govt.nz

www.education.govt.nz

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Ngā mihi,
Michelle Dibben
Principal

Introducing 'Ted'

Our new resident at MCS.

A sculpture by local Clevedon artist, James Wright, has kindly been gifted to the children of Manurewa Central School by Dr Laurie Thew, School Principal 1983 to 2018.



To start the term, we've been delving into ANZAC stories to gain a deeper understanding of this important part of our history. Some of our whanau groups have been especially captivated by the tale of Tortsy the Tortoise, our oldest veteran. We've been reading various articles about Tortsy and tortoises, which has been a great way to practise our report writing skills. But that's not all! We're thrilled to introduce our new school pet, Contented, or "Ted" for short. This sculpture has quickly become a beloved member of our school community, and he's been receiving lots of pats and attention in the playground. Ted is bringing smiles to everyone's faces!

Tī Kōuka

"Pūriri are having a lot of fun learning about plants. We've looked at some different seeds and we have planted them. So far, we have a few little seedlings that are growing in the school greenhouse so we're hoping they'll keep growing! We're looking forward to our trip to the Botanic Gardens on May 21st where we'll learn even more from the experts!"

Friday 9 May 2025

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

Totara	Kowhai	Tikouka	Nikau
Viraaj	Honor	Arya	Shyロン
Mahalia	Valentina	Harry	Evelina
Charandev	Zakiyus	Kali	Aliyah
Puriri	Titoki	Rimu	Kauri
Seneti	Mantej	Dejahzan	Eden
	Imyra	Indie-Rae	Onicah
	Ruby	Genevieve	Armeen



Kōwhai
Welcome back to another term in Kōwhai! A maths challenge has been set for our pod which is learning our bonds to 10. Everyday we have been revisiting this to remember and retain! On Tuesday we had a wonderful day at the Botanic Gardens. Kōwhai's little gardeners had a fantastic day learning about gardening and the life cycle of a flower. Each student had the opportunity to observe squiggly, wriggly worms by picking them up with a popsicle stick, or for the brave ones, their hands. We planted our own pea seeds and learnt what plants need to grow. We also replanted a seedling from its pot to a soil bed. Kōwhai took their first step to creating their own garden. We can't wait to see how our pea seeds grow.

Tōtara
We had a fantastic trip on Tuesday to the Botanic Gardens! We had wonderful weather and lots of fun digging and planting seeds. We dug soil, looked at wiggly wriggly worms - some of us were even brave enough to hold them! We learnt about what seeds and plants need to grow and planted our own seeds. We can't wait to see our seeds start growing.



Rimu
Last week we started our first swimming lesson at the pools on Sykes Road. The children were respectful on the bus and at the pools, and we were very proud of them. Swimming lessons will continue for the next 6 weeks! To start the term we are learning about well known New Zealand people and we will be writing a Biography about one of our own choosing. In Maths we are learning how to tell the time - with analogue and digital clocks. We are learning our times tables and some of us are now learning the matching division equations.

As the weather gets cooler we are also reminding children to dress in layers so that they are warm in the morning but also able to remove a layer when they are playing outside during lunchtime.

Nikau
The students in Nikau have wasted no time in getting back into their learning. We've started experimenting with sound and measurement. Everyone is enjoying our new fitness rotation which helps warm us up on these chilly mornings. We look forward to digging deeper into Aotearoa history and how people like Dame Whina Cooper brought people together and made change.

Important Dates

Pink Shirt Day

Friday, 16 May

King's Birthday

Monday 2 June - No School

Matariki

Friday, 20 June - No School

End of Term 2

Friday, 27 June

Term 3

Teacher only day

Monday, 14 July – No School

Return to School

Tuesday, 15 July



Titoki

Titoki have been learning about Anzac Day over the last two weeks during our writing times. We have had a particular focus on rhyming words. Here is the poem that Miss Lamb's whanau group came up with, isn't it fantastic!

ANZAC Day Poem

We wake up early at the dawn,
To see the light as day is born.
The rising sun begins to shine,
And people gather in a line.

We watch the ANZAC Day parade,
With soldiers marching unafraid.
They wear their medals proud and neat,
As clapping echoes down the street

We wear a poppy red and, bright,
To remember those who went to fight.
Each soldier fought to keep us free,
Their courage means a lot to me.

We stand in silence, still and true,
To show respect in all we do.
We hope all battles now will cease,
And live our days in love and, peace.

Kauri

Kauri Ngahere has had a fantastic start to Term Two, and we are thoroughly enjoying getting back into our learning. Our new inquiry topic, based around conflict and resolution, has been particularly engaging. In Maths, we are focusing on Statistics and Measurement while also practising a lot of number work. We have also started singing lessons on Wednesdays and are enjoying learning fun new songs. Last week, we had a great first session at the pools at the Manurewa Rec Centre, and we are eagerly looking forward to our upcoming lessons over the next five weeks.