



# Whangārei Heads School Newsletter

Term 2 - Week 1 - April 23, 2026

## KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU,

It was with great sadness we heard of the passing of Laurence Berry last week. Laurence was very active at Whangārei Heads School during Lil Craigs tenure as Principal.

During this time he wrote our school waiata - Kua Tae. He met with Lil and discussed the schools values and gained a sense of the kaupapa of the school at that time.

He then collaborated with Cathy Ross and Danny Tuato'o to create the words, and Te Reo. His wife Ellie and daughter Billie choreographed the actions.

What is really special is that the lyrics are still very much a match to what we feel is still important to who we are as a school community today. Even though they were written 20 years ago!

A copy of the lyrics is on the next page for you to enjoy.

His daughter Billie also gifted the school community the video as she left as a Year 8 students Here is a link if you want to have a watch. It will be a wonderful trip down memory lane for some of you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DC5kjpzqwHg>

Thank you to Laurence and his whanau for their contribution to our school!

## Coming Events:

### TERM 2

#### Week 2 - Apr 27-May 1

Apr 27 - ANZAC Day - No School  
Apr 29 - Y5/6 Winter Sports  
Apr 30 - Mihi Whakatau to welcome our new whanau

#### Week 3 - May 4-8

May 5 - Board Meeting 6pm  
May 6 - Backyard Kiwi visit

#### Week 4 - May 11-15

May 11 - Jumping June Begins  
May 13 - Y7/8 Winter Sports  
**May 15 - Pink Shirt Day**

#### Week 5 - May 18-22

May 21 - Kiwi North Trip  
~ Piwakawaka, Tui, Ruru & Kotare



**Our Place to Grow and Learn together**

Ko tātou kura, kia tipu, kia ako ngātahi

# Kua Tae - Lyrics

Manaia ko te maunga  
Whangārei ko te moana  
Tēnei tātou katoa  
Ko te kaitiakitanga  
te mea nui  
Ki a tātou e.

## TRANSLATION:

Manaia is the mountain  
Whangarei the harbour.  
We take our guardianship  
of this place seriously.

Kua tae kua ū  
Ki tēnei rohe  
Ko te whenua  
ataahua e  
Ko te whenua  
Papatūānuku e

We have come here  
(by sea)  
To this beautiful place,  
To this land of Papatuanuku.

Ngā manu  
Te whenua  
Ngā Rākau  
Te moana  
Ngā maunga  
Te tāhuna  
ko ngā kai o Tangaroa

The birds  
The land  
The trees  
The sea  
The mountains  
The beach  
The gifts of Tangaroa

Manaia, our home  
On the coast of Whangārei  
Honour those who've gone before  
Care for our environment  
Leave for the future  
The places and the treasure  
We enjoy.

(Rpt v2 under chant)  
(BOYS)

Taiharuru, Parua Bay  
Munro Bay, McLeod Bay  
Reotahi, Little Munro Bay  
Taurikura, McKenzie Bay  
Urquhart Bay, Ocean Beach,  
Papatūānuku e

(GIRLS)

Kua tae kua u  
Ki tenei rohe  
Ko te whenua  
ataahua e  
Ko te whenua  
Papatuanuku e

## Our Values | Ngā Mātāpono

We are all guided by our four core values:





# Jumping June Friday



*Each Friday in June we will have a special school wide event to help promote Jumping June.*

## **Friday 5th June (Week 7) Jumping June Launch**

Children will rotate around jumping based activities in a Whanau team. We ask that all children wear their Whanau colours.

This wonderful morning of fun will run from 9:40-10:40am.



## **Friday 12th June (Week 8) Hot Chocolate Friday**

Love hot chocolate and marshmallows? I do!

Get jumping as a class from 10:25 and then at morning tea, grab your hot chocolate to enjoy after jumping away and working up a sweat.

Children will need to pre-order their hot chocolate on the google form and pay \$2 to the office.

## **Friday 19th June (Week 9) Dress in Yellow & Lemonade**

To support the role that Harold and the Life Education programme has in our school, dress up in yellow and bring in a gold coin. We will also have lemonade for sale at morning tea, to quench your thirst from skipping.

At morning tea we will also take a whole school photo.

I wonder if a special guest might turn up??



## **Friday 26th June (Week 10)**

### **Pancake Breakfast & Jumping Activities**

Start the day in the right way, with a pancake!! Available from 8am until the bell at 9am, come get your hot pancake smothered in your choice of toppings. Pay \$2 on the day.

From 1:30-2:10pm, children will rotate around jumping based activities in a Whanau team.

We ask that all children wear their Whanau colours. This is the final event.

Jumping June is a school-based skipping event that gets kids moving, have fun and learn about heart health, while raising funds for a life-saving cause! Proceeds raised from the hot chocolate and pancake events will support the Heart Foundation's goal to help everyone in New Zealand keep their hearts fit for life.

# Writing Professional Development

This year the kaimahi are unpacking each part of the new Writing Curriculum; and aligning it to what we know is best practise here at Whangārei Heads School. In Term 1 we first looked at the importance of Handwriting and how to write sentences at each Phase and Year level.

## Rationale: Why do we teach Handwriting at WHS?

We can remove a lot of the cognitive load in writing if we can support students to be able to form letters automatically. If taura do have this automaticity then it can free up working memory as they don't have to recall how letters are formed.

Handwriting is important because research has shown that if we write by hand, during phonics or structured spelling lessons then this activates and strengthens the pathway used for spelling and decoding. It also helps to deepen our understanding of concepts across the curriculum.

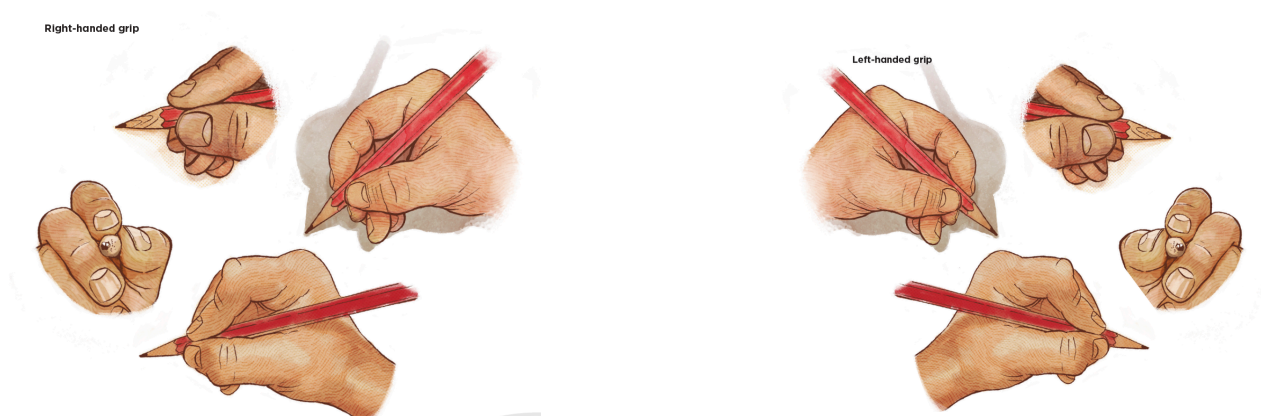
We write for a purpose; and that is to communicate our ideas, or to entertain or persuade others. For taura to be successful at writing for purpose, the audience must be able to read the writing, so legibility is essential.

We believe the key parts to successful handwriting are;

- Automaticity
- Fluency
- Speed
- Legibility

## How can you help at home?

The key to helping at home is to ensure that you are helping your child to form the letters in the correct direction, and size. It is important to ensure that capital letters are only used for proper nouns and at the start of the sentence, that they don't appear in the middle of words.



The lowercase letters of basic script are:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m  
n o p q r s t u v w x y z

The capital letters of basic script are:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M  
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



KAMO & NGUNGURU FIRE STATION PRESENTS

# KAMO TOUCH-A-TRUCK

MAY  
**2**

SATURDAY

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
**PORT NIKAU**  
325 PORT ROAD, WHANGĀREI



FAMILY & COMMUNITY EVENT | **GOLD COIN ENTRY**

**FIRE, AMBULANCE, POLICE**

**TRACTORS, DIGGERS + MORE**

**FOODTRUCKS & ICE CREAM**

SUPPORTING  
THE **KAMO**  
AND  
**NGUNGURU**  
VOLUNTEER  
FIRE BRIGADES

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Port Nikau

[UNCLASSIFIED]

## DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR CHILD?

Term 2 2026

Te Manawa Tahī is a learning support hub where you can talk to educational professionals about your child's learning needs. **This is a free service.**

If you have a concern about your child's language development, learning progress, social and emotional well-being or behaviour, Te Manawa Tahī has specialists available so you can discuss your concerns directly with them.

All hubs are open from 9:00am until 12:00pm unless otherwise stated.

### Te Manawa Tahī COMMUNITY TIMETABLE Whangārei, Bream Bay & Kaipara

Date	Hub Locations	Term 2 2026, Weeks 1 to 5
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Bream Bay Community Trust, 9 Takutai Place, Ruakākā	
Thur 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Onerahi Community House, 130 Onerahi Road, Onerahi	
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Early Years Hub, 28 Hokianga Road, Dargaville	
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	

Drop into a hub or to see a Speech Language Therapist make an appointment by phoning 0800 524 842 or emailing [TT.Support@education.govt.nz](mailto:TT.Support@education.govt.nz)



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# Whangārei Bricksibition



**\$3 ENTRY PER PERSON**

COMPETITIONS

IMPRESSIVE DISPLAYS

LEGO® PLAY AREAS RAFFLES

SECOND HAND LEGO® SALES

Hurupaki School Hall  
20 Dip Road, Te Kamo  
Saturday 9th May  
10am- 4pm



Disclaimer: LEGO® is a protected trademark of the LEGO® Group of companies which does not in any way sponsor, authorise or endorse this event. This event and associated sponsors/supporters are not affiliated with, endorsed by or licenced by any of the LEGO® Group of companies.

## WHANAGREI TRI CLUB

# KIDS DUATHLON SERIES 2026

SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO ENTER



24<sup>th</sup> MAY Pohe Island

28<sup>th</sup> JUNE Kauri Coast MTB Park

26<sup>th</sup> JULY Pohe Island

<https://events.mygameday.app/event/kidsduathlonseries2026>

SUPPORTED BY PAK'N SAVE WHANGAREI **PAK'nSAVE**

# WHANGAREI CIRCUS

with CIRCUS KUMARANI

## CIRCUS CLASSES

Learn, play and make new friends, all while improving coordinaton and confidence!



**FREE TRIAL CLASSES!**

Discounts for families and full term

### Thursday

Whangārei  
Kamo Hall

3:30 - 4:30pm

**Kids Circus**  
Ages 8+ yrs

4:30 - 5:30pm

**Minis Circus**  
Ages 4 - 8 yrs

### Friday

Whangārei  
Kamo Hall

3:30 - 4:30pm

**Tumbling**  
Ages 12+ yrs

4:30 - 6:00pm

**Youth Circus**  
Ages 12 - 24 yrs

## CIRCUS JAM

A time to practice and play where all brains, bodies, ages and abilities are welcome!

Visit our website to enrol



6:00 - 8:00pm

**Fridays**  
All ages

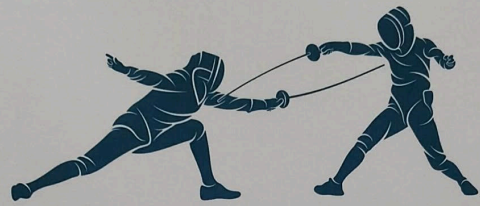
Whangārei  
Kamo Hall



[www.circuskumarani.co.nz/classes](http://www.circuskumarani.co.nz/classes)

## FENCING LESSONS

For 7-10 year olds



Learn the amazing discipline of Olympic sword fighting

Golden Church Hall 149 Kamo Road  
Mondays - 2 sessions

3.30 - 4.30 and 4.30 - 5.30

All equipment and coaching provided

Taught in small groups of 10 students

\$20 a session (fees paid per term)

### INFORMATION & ENROLMENT SESSION:

Monday 20th April 3.30pm at  
the Golden Church Hall

Any queries or pre enrolment  
email: [katrinaf00@hotmail.com](mailto:katrinaf00@hotmail.com)  
Katrina 02102725210

Love our community? Enjoy driving? Thinking of what to do in 2026?

SCHOOL BUS

# We Need You!

RitchiesWhangāreiiislookingforSchoolBusDriversto help get our Tamariki and mokopuna to school safely every day.

#### This is the perfect role if you:

- Enjoy being out and about in the community.
- Want work that fits around school hours.
- Like the idea of FREE school holidays (except the odd training day)!
- Take pride in keeping our kids safe on their journey to and from Kura.

#### What you'll need:

- Class 2 license (minimum).
- P Endorsement.
- A calm, friendly attitude.
- Reliability — our kids are counting on you!

#### What you'll get:

- Supportive team.
- Uniform.
- Fortnightly pay.
- Chance to drive extra charter trips if you want them.

Join us — the community will thank you, and so will the next generation!  
Apply online today - [www.careers.ritchies.co.nz](http://www.careers.ritchies.co.nz)

**RITCHIES**