



Whangārei Heads School Newsletter

Term 3 - Week 7 - Sept 3, 2026

KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU,

What a busy month! There have been so many exciting adventures for our taura to enjoy. Take a look at the pictures that Courtney has added to the newsletter.

We sadly said goodbye to Matua Rueben a fortnight ago. Matua Rueben came to us through the Mana Ake programme as an additional support staff member on Thursdays. He shared with us his talents in drama (yes he did once be a member of the Shortland Street TV programme), as well as passion for Sports and PE, Kapa Haka and Enviro learning. We really enjoyed having Matua Rueben in our kura, and he will be sadly missed! The children said a "Ka Kite ano" or "See you soon!" to him as he moved on to be a Real Estate Agent. We hope this isn't the end of our connection with Reuben.

We have also sadly received the resignation for Fiona Ellis, for the end of this school year. Fiona's whanau is moving to the top of the South Island, so they have some exciting adventures awaiting them! We will miss Fiona immensely in the Whangārei Heads School whanau. She has been an incredible teacher in her 5 years with us. She has taught across the entire school, including being the CRT release teacher for a period of time. She is such a passionate teacher who thinks deeply about how to engage her learners and makes such strong connections with whanau. We will farewell her properly at the end of year events.

On the good news front, Jamie Love, has completed her training and is now a fully registered teacher! This is an intensive 8 term process with support and guidance provided by her mentor teachers; Sharon/Emily and then Tracey. We congratulate her, and her mentors, on this achievement.

We have noticed that some whanau are slipping away early at the end of each day. We come together as a school whanau to say Karakia and share important notices at the end of each day. I am aware that some people do have to get to sports practices and tutoring in town, but where possible can you please stay for this, we usually have this complete and ready to load first bus by 2.50pm. It is part of our whanaungatanga (belonging) and manaakitanga (kindness).

Coming Events:

Week 8 - Sept 7-11

AIMS Games Students Away
Good luck team!

Sept 7 - Term 4 Ballot Closes

Sept 8 - Board Meeting 6pm

Sept 11 - School Assembly 2pm

Week 9 - Sept 14-18

Week 10 - Sept 21-25

Sept 25 - Last Day of Term 3!

TERM 4

Week 1 - Oct 12-16

Oct 13 - Cricket Sessions

Oct 15 - School Photo Day

Week 2 - Oct 19-23

Oct 22 - Cricket Sessions

Week 3 - Oct 26-30

Oct 26 - Labour Day - No School

Kelly

Our Place to Grow and Learn together

Ko tātou kura, kia tipu, kia ako ngāhahi

2026 Cross Country



A big thank you to Ken and Maureen for opening their paddocks to the school again for our annual cross country. It was a great day on the hillside, watching our students (and some parents!) give their all as they raced around Matua Dane's cross country circuit. And thank you to all the parents who walked with our classes from the school down to the farm. We appreciate you!



School Waste Audit

On Thursday the school had Eco solutions in to run a waste audit. Each class had a session at identifying all of the materials that have been going into rubbish bins. Each class got to talk about the materials and how they relate to renewable and non-renewable, and how we should be recycling and reusing a minimising as much as we can.

To see all the rubbish laid out gave us a good visible idea of what we could do as a School to improve our systems. The waste warriors will produce a report and we will let you know the findings once that is completed.



Term 2 Attendance

Term 2 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?

Regular Attendance

60%

Compared to 61% in Term 2, 2025

Irregular Absence 27%

Compared to 22% in Term 2, 2025

Moderate Absence 4%

Compared to 9% in Term 2, 2025

Chronic Absence 8%

Compared to 8% in Term 2, 2025

What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

- (M) Illness / Medical Absence 63%
- (G) Holiday 17%
- (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 11%
- (I) Explained and Approved 9%
- (U) Stood down / Suspended 1%

How many students were on time to class?

91% of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time)

Here is the MOE Everyday Matters report for Term 2.

You can see that we have maintained our Regular Attendance figure at 60%.

The MOE goal is for 80% so we still have a way to go. Thanks to all those who are more mindful about attending school regularly.

We do still have a group of children who arrive late each day. It would be nice to see this number drop.

Science Fair Awards

Congratulations to our amazing Science Fair Award Winners

We had 3 of our Central North Island Science Fair entries receive a prize at the Prize Giving on Wednesday evening.

1. Tim Barr - Shared the Matauranga Maori Special Award for his project; From Rakau to Remedy; Mānuka, Kānuka Me te Harehare
2. Macenzy Langdon - Judges Award Best Year 7 Technology for her project; Bloom in a Bottle
3. Kaia Bellamy - Highly Commended Year 7 Technology Award for her project; Nip it

Beginners Guide to Parihaka Mountain Bike Park

Hi! Our names are Otto and Zeke (Year 8s) and we both love mountain biking. Our local park is Parihaka and we want to spread the word about it and give you some great tips for when you next want to ride there.

The most important thing you need to know is that Parihaka is clay based so when it's been wet or if it's currently wet most of the trails will be really slippery. There are definitely some loam (soft and grippy dirt) based trails that ride well in the wet like: F Finger, Fish Finger, Middle finger, Stick Man and some other ones you will definitely discover the more you ride there. So if there's been lots of rain lately either wait a few days or just stick to the tracks listed.

There is a good variety of trails there from green trails for beginners, blue for intermediate riders and black/double black trails for advanced and confident riders. There are some great jump trails like Vendetta and recently re-done Drop Track, but there are also some super fun, techy and steep tracks as well. Our favourites are Fish Finger, F Finger, The Chute and J pin.

Another thing we really like about Parihaka is that it has lots of great chutes. A chute is a very steep section of trail often carved out between rock faces or dirt banks. There are some super steep chutes and also some really long chutes as well. The progression on the chutes is really awesome too. The smaller ones are fun for beginners/intermediate riders but there are some crazy ones to really test you, if that's what you're after.

Hopefully you've learnt heaps and will be all set for your next ride at Parihaka.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

at Whangarei Heads School

Mon 28th, Tues 29th
& Wed 30th Sept
and

Mon 5th, Tues 6th
& Wed 7th October

8.30-3pm = \$55

Extended hours available at an extra cost
Snacks included

FUN activities in a small group

Contact: Karen Parr
karen_parr@hotmail.com
021507111

Ruru Visit Whangarei Heads Fire Station

We had a fantastic trip today to the fire station. What a great adventure. I want to thank the parents who could come and make it possible to walk there back and back safely. We had a great presentation around fire safety and your child will have a few things to discuss with you, including an escape plan and organising a meeting place. Bill and Jesse got to choose a friend each to ride in the 🚒. A massive thanks to the Whangarei heads fire crew as well as Greg and Jake who lead the session. ~ Matua Dane





Whangārei Heads School

OUT-OF-ZONE ENROLMENTS

OPEN FOR TERM 4, 2026

2 places available Year 6
2 places available Year 7&8

Ballot closes Monday, Sept 7, 2026
Ballot drawn Thursday, Sept 10, 2026

For more information regarding the ballot, please
contact our school office via email
office@whangareiheads.school.nz
<http://www.whangareiheads.school.nz>

Our Place to Grow and Learn Together
Ko tātou kura, kia tipu, kia ako ngātahi



What's On!

By Juno, Yr 8

From festivals to shows, there are lots of cool activities for you and your whanau to go to on the weekend or free afternoons to attend and spice up your life!

1. **The Pilot And The Bird** a two person circus for all ages ONEONESIX, 116a Bank Street, Whangārei Friday 2 October 2026 11:00am and Sunday 4 October 2026 4:00pm
2. **Kitchen Chaos!** When two messy performers accidentally squish a surprise party cake, they must use circus tricks, magic, and slapstick comedy to quickly learn how baking works. Designed for kids ages 3 to 8 and their families. ONEONESIX, 116a Bank Street, Whangārei Wednesday 7 October 2026 11:00am and 1:30pm
3. **Roller Disco** Whangarei Roller Skating Club, dust off your skates tie the laces and get ready for a fun night out at McGill Road, Portland, Whangārei Saturday 26 September 2026 5:30pm and Saturday 24 October 2026 5:30pm
4. **Quilt & Textile Art Show** The Whangārei Patchworkers & Quilters Club presents a showcase featuring handmade quilts and textile art. Visitors can view the "Intertwined" challenge, browse vendor stalls and sales tables, enter raffles, and buy refreshments. Event date: Friday, 11 September 2026 | 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM Forum North, 7 Rust Avenue, Whangārei, 0110



Fantastic Gymnastics
Physical Preparation for Life

**PARUA BAY COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

Gymnastics provides incredible fun and fitness
opportunities for children, ranging from
preschool through high school.



**Bookings
open now**

TERM 3
20 July – 25 Sept

Class Timetable

Thursday Only

3.00 – 3.30 PlayGym

3.15 – 4.00 New Entrants

3.30 – 4.30 GymSkills 1

4.00 – 5.00 GymSkills 2

4.30 – 5.30 Extension 1

5.30 – 6.00 Extension 2

Phone 027 66 59 174

hannah@fantasticgymnastics.co.nz



Manaia Kindergarten

A nurturing environment that values a connection with te taiao. Experienced, qualified teachers encourage, extend and support tamariki, 2-5 year olds.

Open Monday to Friday 8:30am – 2:30pm
48 weeks per year, 30 hours per week, **FREE!**



Northland Kindergarten Association
Te Kura Kōhanga hūmā Tōpū o Te Taiohenu

09 436 1292 manaia@nka.org.nz



Barge Park Cross Country!
More photos on ClassDojo

5. Black Ferns v France The Black Ferns return to play in an inclusive, family-friendly women's rugby match. The event features a 3:05 PM kickoff, live music, fan flags, temporary tattoos, and a post-match signing session, with \$5 kids' tickets available until September 6, 2026. Event date: Saturday, 24 October 2026 | 03:05 PM to 04:45 PM

6. Beatlemania On

TourBeatlemania On Tour is a live tribute concert celebrating the music of The Beatles. The show features their greatest hits performed live with authentic costumes, replica instruments, period lighting, and classic sing-along tracks like "Hey Jude," "Let It Be," and "Here Comes the Sun." Event date: Wednesday, 28 October 2026 | 07:30 PM to 10:00 PM Wednesday, 28 October 2026 | 07:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Have fun and enjoy!



SAVE THE DATE

PREDATOR FREE HAPPY HOUR

10 September 2026
Manaia Club
5:00–7:00pm

Join us for updates on local achievements and national momentum.

Predator Free Whangārei
Tōke te henua, tōke te tangata

PREDATOR FREE NZ

Free community event - Join us for a cuppa, some kai and a kōrero

Our Predator Free Whangārei team will share updates about our mahi in Whangārei Heads, milestones and innovations, while the PFNZ Trust will present on the national momentum and New Zealand's support for the Predator Free movement.

Limited spots.
RSVP through the QR code



AIMS Games 2026

Kia ora, this article in the Newsletter is brought to you by Tim and Shai. We will be talking about AIMS Games and interviewing some students who are traveling down, Zeke (check out his youtube channel @ZekeMTB1) and Shai. AIMS Games is an intermediate sporting competition that has more people than the Olympics. It is based in Tauranga but has competitors from all around Aotearoa. It goes on for a full week and even has an opening ceremony. It is a great experience, I would highly recommend it to anyone in Year 7 or 8. There are 27 different sports including Yachting, Surfing, Hip Hop, and all of the team sports you can imagine. There is so much bonding you get to do with your friends because you aren't competing in your sport the whole time. When we went down last year me and my friends went skating, riding around on bikes, hanging out around Tauranga, going to malls, the hot pools with everyone and fighting over Arlo Benge's squishy sausage dog. Last year we had some athletes that did exceptionally well. An example is Ben who came 2nd in Rock Climbing.

Zeke's Interview:

Shai: Are you excited to go to AIMS Games?

Zeke: Yes I am very excited to go to AIMS Games.

Shai: What is the sport you are competing in?

Zeke: I am mountain biking in both categories.

Shai: What are you most excited about?

Zeke: I am most excited to do the Enduro category at AIMS Games which is where you pedal up the hills in your race but you don't get timed while you're doing so, and then when you go downhill you get timed.

Shai: What else are you going to do when you're down there?

Zeke: I am going to go riding at Whakarewarewa forest, the Chinese Buffet, and I am going to go to the skatepark with my mates.

Shai: What are you least excited for?

Zeke: I am not looking forward to driving down and back because the drive is long and boring.

Shai's Interview:

Tim: Are you excited to go to AIMS Games?

Shai: Yes I am very excited to compete.

Tim: What sport are you competing in?

Shai: I am competing in golf while I am down there.

Tim: What are you most looking forward to?

Shai: The thing I am most looking forward to is competing in my sport with my friend Josh.

Tim: What stuff other than golf are you going to do?

Shai: I am going to go to the skatepark, go to the Chinese Buffet and hang out with my mates.

Tim: What are you least looking forward to?

Shai: Driving there and back because the drive is 5 hours and 6 minutes.

We really recommend going to this amazing experience when your child is in intermediate. It is so fun because you can try out your talent against people who are really good and you wouldn't normally play against and you learn so much stuff. During AIMS you make new friends easily while competing because they have the same interest as you. Go ahead and go to AIMS Games for either an individual sport, or gather some people and play a team sport.





Farewell Matua Reuben



Te Tai Tokerau
MANA AKE
STRONGER FOR TOMORROW
Visit: www.northlanddhib.org.nz/mana-ake

Enhancing wellbeing and
positive mental health for
tamariki in school years 1-8
across Te Tai Tokerau



Trapping Club
Every Wednesday - 1pm
with Matua Dane
Open to all students!



**come get
your
seedlings**

in single or
packs of 6

bring a
gold coin
donation!

new stock
weekly

DONATED TO WHANGAREI HEADS
SCHOOL BY PAT



AFTER SCHOOL TENNIS AT TAURIKURA!

The Manaia Tennis Club presents a chance to learn more about tennis.

-  **Ages: 10, 11 & 12 year olds** & casual tennis at Whangārei Heads
-  **Numbers:** Maximum of 10 students
-  **Starts Tuesday, 1 September**
-  **When:** Tuesdays, after school for 1 hour, as soon as you can get there (Finish time 4:15pm)
-  **Organised by regular members, play with & encourage children** (not coaches)
-  **Older (smaller) rackets available if needed**
-  **Cost: FREE!**
-  **Bring a drink bottle and after-school snack!**

Phone Jan Boyes 0212965447 with names. Need contact parent, number, & medical conditions. Comments welcome, Thursday could be alternative afternoon.

Rules: No leaving courts until 4:15pm, Sneakers to be worn, Players play 'at own risk.'



Could WHESI help you?

W.H.E.S.I. (Whangarei Heads Educational Support Initiative) puts people in the community who have backgrounds in education in touch with students experiencing difficulties in the education system. It hopes that by working in a one-to-one situation, or small group situation, it can help them overcome their challenges.

If you are experiencing problems with topics, other than reading and writing (which require specialist knowledge of the current pedagogy), then maybe WHESI could help?

If so, please do get in touch by sending an e-mail to WHESI.NZ@gmail.com.

We would also love to hear from anybody in the community who would like to join us as a tutor, at any level primary through to tertiary.

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR CHILD?

Term 3 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 have 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 Whangarei, Bream Bay and Kaipara

Date	Hub Locations	Term 3 2026, Weeks 6 to 10
Wed 26 th Aug	Bream Bay Community Trust, 9 Takutai Place, Ruakākā	(10am – 12pm)
Thurs 3 rd Sep	Hikurangi Primary School, 4 Swan Ave, Hikurangi	
Wed 9 th Sep	St John Ōtamatea Ambulance Hall 172 Hurndall Street East, Maungaturoto	
Thurs 10 th Sep	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
Mon 14 th Sep	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wed 16 th Sep	Early Years Hub, 28 Hokianga Road, Dargaville	
Thurs 17 th Sep	Ngunguru School (9am - 10.30am) Te Maika Road	

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



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHĪHĪJŌ TĒ MĀTAURĀNGA



WANTED



TE TAI TOKERAU GROMS

NORTHLAND PRIMARY SURF CHAMPS

12TH OR 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Hosted by the Northland Scholastics surf team
Fundraiser for the 2026 Scholastics Comp
Entry forms on Northland Surfing Facebook



