



Whangārei Heads School Newsletter

Term 3 - Week 6 - August 22, 2025

KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU,

What a busy fortnight! The Teina team had an incredible visit to the Town Library and Whangārei Art Museum as part of their "Our Stories" inquiry. At the library, they went behind the scenes, completed a scavenger hunt, and even created their own book covers. At the Art Museum, they explored stories from Northland's past, including a fascinating whaling exhibition.

On Wednesday afternoon, the School Cross Country at Vinson Farms was a great success. Despite the windy weather, it was a fantastic display of our Ngā Mātāpono in action—resilience, kindness, and a strong sense of belonging. It was wonderful to see so many whānau supporting the runners, and the parent race was a real highlight!

Friday was all about books! Our Library Celebration Day included a Book Character Parade and Book Swap. During the assembly, we shared the rich history of our library building, from its origins as the Waikararaka Church to becoming our cherished school and community library. There is a wonderful sign created to share this story; please come visit the library and have a read!

NZ teachers and principals are in the middle of contract negotiations with the government. This week, our union members met to discuss the government's latest offer. The offer includes a 1% pay increase (which is less than inflation) and some changes to our working conditions, like more "call back days." The current workload is already unsustainable, especially with all the changes from the Ministry of Education and the lack of funding for our special needs students. We're in a teacher shortage crisis, and to keep the amazing staff we have and attract new people to the profession, we need a work environment that's genuinely supportive.

We were able to remain open on Wednesday, for these meetings, thanks to non-union teaching staff and other teachers covering each other. Thanks to the entire team, who enabled this to happen.

The teaching shortage is very much a reality and we are finding it near impossible to find relievers to cover sick staff. To date we have managed to shift planned release days, or combine classes to cover. I hope to avoid having to ask classes to remain home, as other schools are needing to. If you know of a teacher in our community who might like to help out in these emergency times, please ask them to get in touch.

Kelly

Coming Events:

Week 7 - Aug 25-29

Aug 27 - WPSSA Cross Country

Week 8 - Sept 1-5

**Conservation Week
& AIMS GAMES**

Wishing our AIMS students all
the best this week!

Sept 2 - Board Meeting 6pm

Sept 3 - Matuku Evening 7pm

Sept 4 - Enviro Opt-In

Week 9 - Sept 8-12

Sept 10 - WPSSA Inclusive
Sports Day Event

Sept 11 - School Photos
& Enviro Projects 1pm

Kaimahi Only Day

Friday 12th September

No supervision on this day



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

2025 WHS CROSS COUNTRY



Congratulations to the runners who have been selected for the Cross Country at Barge Park next Wednesday.

| 8 year olds | | 9 year olds | | 10 year olds | | 11 year olds | | 12 year olds | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys |
| 10:00 | 10:20 | 10:35 | 10:50 | 11:10 | 11:30 | 11:45 | 12:00 | 12:20 | 12:35 |
| Flo Daisy Maddie | Max Bodhi Fletcher | Lucy Macenzzy Harper | Mac G Niko F Mikki S | Kaia Primrose Cheye | Josh Ziggy Otto | Gemma Nina | Tim Shai Zeke | Poppy Tilly Ella | Eli Arlo B George |



It was great to have so many families turn up and cheer on our students (in the icy cold wind!) last week.

Our top runners, listed above, make up the Cross Country team who will be running at Barge Park next week. They have been training hard over the last few days back on the Vinson's farm. We wish them all the best in their events against other local Whangarei students in the WPSSA Cross Country.

A special mention and big Thank You to Ken and Maureen Vinson, who open up their picturesque paddock to us each year and let us run all over it. Our school must have one of the best Cross Country settings nationwide!

MATHEX!

Last week, our Mathex teams took on the challenge of competing against 40–50 other teams from around the region. With only five minutes to go, two of our teams were sitting in or close to the top ten—a fantastic effort in such a tough field! More importantly, every team represented our school with enthusiasm, determination, and great sportsmanship. We're proud of the way they encouraged each other, worked together under pressure, and showed a love of maths. Ka pai, everyone!

In Year 5 we were represented by: Flo, Max, Hunter K, Noah, Mikki, Banos, Lenny, and Baxter.

Year 6: Lucy, Kaia, Jennifer and Sofia

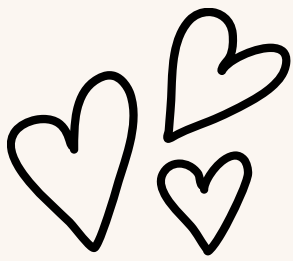
Year 7: Tim, Otto, Zeke, Shai

Year 8: Gemma, Poppy, Eli, George, Nina, Arlo, Phoenix, and Ella.



Before/After School Care Opportunity

The School Board is considering the different options for Before and After School Care here at school. We have surveyed whanau who would use the service and it seems there is enough interest to set this up. We are now seeking expressions of interest for managing and running the programme - whether that be through the school or independently. This could be a good business opportunity for the right person. If you, or anyone you know, are interested, please contact the office to arrange an appointment with Kelly and Rebecca to discuss this further. The hours we are considering are 7.15-8.15am for Before School Care, and 3-5.30pm for After School Care.



Thursday
September 11
(Week 9)
12:50-2:50



Enviro Project Afternoon

Can you share some of your passion and enthusiasm?

Jump on board to support our journey around Enviro Education.
Work with a teacher to run an Enviro based activity, or go all out and run one yourself. Or, identify a part of the school that could do with some love and work with a small group of tamariki to make a difference.

Contact Dane Higgison for more information or to discuss.

dane.h@whangareiheads.school.nz

We thank you for supporting us!



Te Mahau

Term 3 2025

Te Manawa Tahī Community Timetable

WHANGĀREI
BREAM BAY & KAIPARA

Do you have concerns
about your child?

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.

| DATE | HUB LOCATIONS | Term 3 2025, Weeks 6 to 9 |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Wed 20 th Aug | Bream Bay Community Trust, 9 Takutai Pl, Ruakākā | |
| Thur 21 st Aug | Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo | |
| Thur 21 st Aug | Te Kura o Otangarei School, William Jones Drive, Otangarei, Whg | |
| Thurs 28 th Aug | Hikurangi School, 4 Swan Avenue, Hikurangi | |
| Wed 3 rd Sept | St John Ōtamatea Ambulance Hall, Maungaturoto | |
| Thurs 4 th Sep | Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside | |
| Wed 10 th Sep | Early Years Hub Dargaville, 28 Hokianga Rd, Dargaville | |
| Thur 11 th Sept | Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo | |
| Thur 11 th Sept | Ngunguru School, Te Maika Road, Ngunguru 0173 | |

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.

School Council Announcement

We are pleased to announce the winning nominations of the school council for 2025!

Karearea - Josh and Ella

Kotare - Kaia and Jimmy

Korora - Max and Daisy

Ruru - Rose and Herbie

The student council has already had their first meeting with the Presiding Member of our School Board, Rebecca Brown, discussing the school's strategic plan and how to align this with the students' vision.



Leo &
Asher!

**WANTED:
BIG ROCKS
& LITTLE
PLANTS**

Our school sign has been resurrected on the corner of School Road, and we are ready to create a rock garden around it. Do you have surplus rocks on your property that we can use? We will also be looking for a few small self-sufficient native plants to grow in between the rocks, or even a few succulents or bromeliads. If any keen gardeners want to help bring it all together we would love to hear from you. Please contact the office if you can help in any way.





Holiday Programme



Build Your Own Bug Hotel

Dates: 22 September & 1 October

Ages: 6-12

Price: \$15 per child per workshop

Booking link: [Build Your Own Bug Hotel Workshop - Hundertwasser Art Centre](#)

Get creative with recycled materials and materials from nature and build your own Bug Hotel.

A Bug Hotel is a manmade structure created to provide shelter for insects.

Crayon Creations

Dates: 24 & 29 September

Ages: 9-14

Price: \$15 per child per workshop

Booking link: [Crayon Creations Workshop - Hundertwasser Art Centre](#)

Crayon Creations is a kid's workshop where you get to test and experiment with different crayon techniques including rubbings (frottage), crayon batik (textile art form), melted crayons and sgraffito (crayon etching).

Happy 100th Birthday to this special Building

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And ready for the next generations

Book Day Parade

In honour of our Library building's 100th birthday we dressed up as our favourite book characters for the day!

