



# Muritai Beacon

'Be The **Best** We can be'

Rāmere 21 o Poutū-te-rangi,

Kia ora koutou Muritai whānau,  
Term 1 has continued to tick along nicely here at Muritai School! We've had a busy and productive few weeks, and we're excited to share some updates with you.

## Swimming Sports Success!

Last week, our Kererū and Kāhu students participated in our annual Swimming Sports at the new Naenae Pool. It was fantastic to see such strong house spirit and healthy competition on display. A huge thank you to Jon Mackie for coordinating such a successful event! Results can be viewed below.

Our overall swimming champions are as follows:

Girls Y5 - First Juliette McMahon, Second Sadie Scott, Third Mia Moodie

Boys Y5 - First Ted Fahey, Second Theo Morwood, Third Rhyann Hoy,

Girls Y6 - First Cashel Cross, Second Evie Phillips, Third Poppy Bonifant,

Boys Y6 - First George McIntosh, Second Charlie Montague, Third Denver Gilbert,

Girls Y7 - First Tess Hayward, Second Mahinarangi Barker, Third Darlene Smith,

Boys Y7 - First equal Fraser Halman and Will Christiansen, Third Finn Anderson-Budd

Girls Y8 - First Tess McIntosh, Second Lucy Sherwin, Third equal Flora and Agnes Noergaard

Boys Y8 - First Theo Longson, Second Tinkura Wong, Third Johnny Claridge

## Personalised Learning Goals & Reporting to Parents.

Our teachers are currently gathering information from student assessments conducted in Term 1. This information will be used in collaboration with students to identify personalised learning goals for the year ahead. You will receive these learning goals via the Caregiver App at the end of Term 1. In Term 2, we will offer an opportunity to connect with your child's teacher to discuss these goals further.



We have made adjustments to our reporting schedule this year to reflect our goal of sharing information with you in 'real time'. We will keep you updated on upcoming events and reporting throughout the year. You can also view our year overview on our website: <https://www.muritai.school.nz/reporting-to-parents>

## 2025 Curriculum Changes

As you may have seen in the media, 2025 brings significant changes to education, particularly with the implementation of the new English and Maths Curriculums. This will require our teachers to understand and implement these curriculums effectively.

This process will take time, and we have developed our own comprehensive implementation plan to ensure a smooth transition for both teachers and learners.

It's important to note that the new curriculums have differing expectations at certain levels. As we transition, some students may not meet previous end-of-year expectations. Our goal is to keep you well-informed throughout the year so there are no surprises at the end of the year.

## Staffing Update

We are sad to announce that our Associate Principal and Team Leader of Tūi, Jamie Power, will be leaving at the end of this term to take on a new role as Deputy Principal at Raumati South School. While we will miss Jamie at Muritai, we wish him all the best in this wonderful leadership opportunity.

We are currently recruiting for a new teacher for Room 13 and hope to have someone in place for the start of Term 2.

## Kererū Camp.

Our Kererū teachers are putting the finishing touches on planning for the Year 5 and 6 Makahika adventure next week! This weekend is a great opportunity for Kererū tamariki to double check they have everything they need for the week ahead and complete a trial pack to ensure everything fits in their bag! This is a very exciting adventure for them all and provides great opportunities to grow independence, resilience, self-management and have a whole lot of fun!

## Orchard Developments

You may have noticed developments in our school orchard. Willie Davies and his team have kindly constructed a new fence to define the space. Our enviro team is now focused on preparing the soil for planting. James Marsh has built collection bins by the orchard for community donations of organic material, including:

- Cardboard, newspaper
- Compost, worm castings
- Leaf mulch, grass clippings, straw or hay, comfrey, seaweed
- Pea straw, wood chips, shredded paper or cardboard
- Coffee grounds, eggshells, wood ash (untreated)

Please ensure all materials are bagged and tightly secured. We also welcome donations of vegetable plants, fruit trees, grape vines, berry canes, native trees and shrubs, or bee-friendly perennials. It is exciting to see this initiative take shape! A huge thank you to our Muritai whānau who have helped out so far. Keep a look out for a date for a working bee in the upcoming school holidays.





### **Movin' March Success!**

We are halfway through Movin' March, and it's fantastic to see the enthusiasm continuing despite the changing weather! Our bike and scooter racks are full each day. A reminder that bikes and scooters must be walked out of the school gate at the end of the day. Please refrain from biking or scooting within the school grounds at drop-off and pick-up times. It would be great if you can support us with this message at home.

### **Muritai Memories #2**

Further down the newsletter you'll see the second edition of our Muritai Memories. This outlines highlights of some of the cool teaching and learning that has been happening across the school over the past fortnight. The majority of the writing has been submitted by students. I encourage you to have a read of what has been happening. If you'd prefer to listen, rather than read, plug in your headphones and click on the link below to listen to the podcast version! So fancy! [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kVPiw7V\\_QYHshrmB7RDaDZzHvPXGi7zp/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kVPiw7V_QYHshrmB7RDaDZzHvPXGi7zp/view?usp=sharing)



### **Rob Cope - 2 minute Parent Video**

#### **Understanding our Kids Triggers and Responses**

Every child experiences the world differently—what deeply affects one may not even register for another. Their reactions to challenges vary just as much. Our job is to help them navigate those moments, transforming overwhelming emotions into manageable ones, so they feel empowered instead of helpless.

Click below to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1z8d2marCpw>



### **Congratulations to our Swimming Champions**

Ngā mihi nui,  
Stu Devenport





This term we are learning about **Me in My World**, a Social Sciences unit learning all about knowing yourself and your place in your family, class, Eastbourne, NZ and the World, so you can offer better outcomes. Each team is finding how to contribute to their world! In Kororā they are busy creating a positive learning environment within their classes and across the whole team. We have visited each other's classrooms with a variety of children and been learning about what makes us great learners. In Tūi they are exploring our local spaces and revitalising the Fairy Door walk in Days Bay. In Kererū the tamariki are learning about how to positively contribute and model our living and learning values in different environments, for example camp. In Kahū they are learning all about ANZAC and contributing to the annual ANZAC day celebrations and RSA ANZAC art competition. By Mr Power



#### GOTCH Awards

Each team celebrates the children that gets **Gotch** by doing a draw every 2 weeks. Children's names are pulled from their class House boxes and can choose a fun prize! It's a great way to celebrate all the great living and learning values happening around Muritai School! By Joey & Jack

## ANZAC with Kahū

On March 12 Ernie Gartrell from the RSA came to talk to Kahu (Year 7 & 8) about the Gallipoli campaign. This was the ignition for our inquiry about ANZAC Day, and inspired us to do more research, and find out more about the soldiers who fought bravely in WWI.

We were compelled by Ernie's incredible talk, and the fascinating information that we learnt from him. He told us about how the war started (the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand), how the war ended, and what happened throughout it. We learnt about the soldiers who fought, the techniques they used, and how the death toll affected New Zealand, setting off a domino effect all through Aotearoa. We were surprised to learn that most of the soldiers that were not killed in war brought the Spanish Flu back to NZ, and suffered from the illness before eventually passing away. He shared with us the compelling and tragic story of Gallipoli, and we now know about the history behind the red poppy.

We are all very grateful to Ernie for taking time out of his day to teach us about the Gallipoli campaign, and we all learnt something fascinating about the history of Aotearoa and what was one of the defining factors of our nation. It was amazing to have an insight into what it would have been like to be the soldiers, and that gave us a new understanding of the war that we will hold onto for the rest of our lives. Lest We Forget.

By Lililana

#### Sea Week

This week in Room 12 we read a book called Sea Shells and we learnt about the many different sea shells. After this we all went to the beach and collected some cool rocks and shells to make a 'Beach Buddy'. A Beach Buddy is a little creature that's made of a rock and shells stuck on it. We loved planning these, building them and being really creative. By Ollie



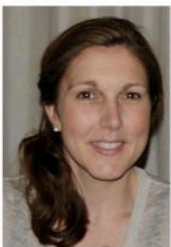
#### Fleas

In Room 11 we watched a video of fleas and what happens when you put them in a closed glass jar for 3 days and then take the lid off. The fleas have learnt not to jump higher than the lid. We learnt that when people give up, it's like we have a lid on us. We learnt to be 'lift the lid kids' and not listen to other put down and jump higher than this lid. By Eva



#### STAFF BIO - Mrs Maritz Room 21

Kia ora e te whānau! 2025 is my fourth year teaching in the Kāhu syndicate, and prior to this, I was lucky to work in the Kororā syndicate. Previous to my time at Muritai, I taught at Hurlingham School, an independent private school in London, for twelve years, with eight of those years as part of their Senior Leadership Team. I am passionate about developing self-esteem and resilience in young people, and in my spare time, help coach the QMC Rowing squad. I love watching many sports, but my favourite sport to watch is rugby! Despite my husband's South African heritage, we are staunch Hurricanes and Wellington Lions supporters in our household. Let's go the 'Canes! Up the Lions!



BE KIND RESPECTFUL RESILIENT TOGETHER - EXPLORE CONNECT CONTRIBUTE





## Year 5-8 Swimming Sports

Last Friday year 5-8 children went to the Muritai School Swimming Sports at Naenae Pool. The pool has recently been updated and looked really cool. Once we got there we put up all the school House signs and sat in our Houses. Then the events started. I did 4 events, 25m Freestyle, 25m Breaststroke, 50m Freestyle and the class relay. Everyone was cheering for their friends and their Houses! In the House relay 1st was Cooke, 2nd was King, 3rd was Charters and 4th was Sanson. The winning Korerū class was Room 9. By Evie



## Kapa haka

Tua tīmata a Kapa Haka! Kapa haka has started at Muritai for 2025. We have over 160 students who have signed up to our performance rōpū and we also have a huge number of tamariki and their whānau attending every Wednesday morning in the hall from 8:30am for community Kapa which has been great to hear and see! There are two performance rōpū and these groups are now working hard on learning new material - waiata, poi and movements to prepare for the upcoming Hutt Fest performances in Term 2. Our Kororā team are the lucky syndicate that get weekly Kapa times at the moment on a Wednesday and they have been having a fabulous time! Here are some words from our wonderful akonga about Kapa haka and their thoughts on it.



"You get to sing really loud." Emma - Rm6

"We get to use the poi. I love the poi." Max - Rm 6

"You get to be fierce in the school Haka" Keanu - Rm 6

"I love the school Haka the most" - All of room 6.

"I love that it makes me feel excited. You use a lot of energy there and you get to try your best. It is a place where you can be free and sing with everyone." Arlo Rm 8

"It's really fun and, I learn lots of Te Reo from it. I also meet new people from other classes and syndicates." Caius Rm 8)

"Every Wednesday is always a treat for everyone, because we get to learn waiata, haka and poi at Kapa Haka, with the amazing Whaea Hilary who teaches us everything we need to know. We always have the best time at Kapa Haka, it makes us relaxed and ready to take on the day! We all are so lucky to have Whaea Hilary, our guitarists Rupert Mackintosh, Dan Stemp and Carmen McDonald, and everyone who works behind the scenes. So come and enjoy some waiata in the hall on Wednesdays, and remember you don't have to know the words when you first come, that just takes some practice and learning. Kia pai tō rā." Tessa Rm 21



BE KIND RESPECTFUL RESILIENT TOGETHER - EXPLORE CONNECT CONTRIBUTE



**NED's Resiliency Ride**, is a character education program that centers around three important messages that have lifelong relevance: Never give up, Encourage others and Do your best. During the assembly, students will learn about the importance of these three life skills while also enjoying storytelling, magic, humor and yo-yo tricks.

The Ned Programme is coming to Muritai School on Tuesday 8 April

[www.theNEDshow.com/ned\\_program.html](http://www.theNEDshow.com/ned_program.html)

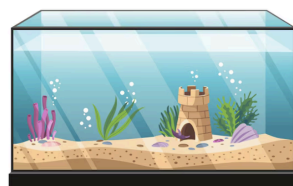
## PRINCIPAL AWARDS - Term 1 Week 7

Congratulations to the following students who received a Principal Award at our assembly today. We are so proud of you all!



Gabe Shaughnessy, Raffa Seruvakula	Room 1
Jude Melville, Leo Cornforth McGregor	Room 2
Emily Abbott, Ash Thomsen	Room 4
Sienna Voller, Fionn Good	Room 5
Maca Blair, Saskia Taylor	Room 6
Cashel Cross, Caius Martin	Room 8
Lucy Young, Schuyler Dear	Room 9
Xavier Adsett Gibson, Eddie Evans	Room 10
Tamatia Barker, Jeremy Machet	Room 11
Skye Paulsen, Maxwell Fleming	Room 12
Juno Calder, Isobelle Bargiachi	Room 13
Charlie Sumner, Lachie Blair	Room 15
Frankie Lovell, Emily Halley	Room 16
Barney Bourke, Tessa Hayward	Room 21
Mila Kereopa, Finn Anderson Budd	Room 22
Cooper Ellwood, Flora Noergaard	Room 23

The following children will be having a Fish & Chips lunch with Mr Devenport soon: Emily Halley, Frankie Lovell, Leo Cornforth McGregor and Mac Blair.



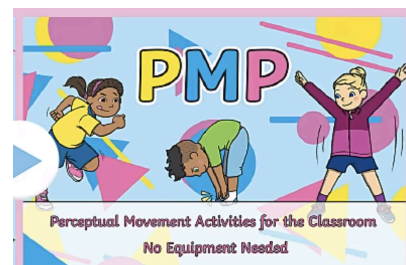
## We're looking for a Fish Tank

Is there anyone out there who might have a spare fish tank for Room 2's frogs?? Please let the office know if you have one spare.

## PMP Programme

We are still looking for helpers for our PMP

programme this year. We would love to open this up to all members of our school community as a way to connect with, and support, the youngest learners at our kura.



Please use this link to complete the google form if you are able to help us.  
<https://forms.gle/MGj1eKBryDyyzo6K7>

Important Dates	
Date	Event
24 Mar	Pizza Monday
26-28 Mar	Kererū Camp Makahika
31 Mar	Pizza Monday
2 Apr	BOT meeting 6.30-9pm
7 Apr	Pizza Monday
8 Apr	Year 3-8 Cross Country
10 Apr	<b>Last day of term for students</b>
11 Apr	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> and our last day of Term 1

## 2025 Term Dates

**Term 1** Tuesday 4 February – Friday 11 April

**Term 2** Monday 28 April – Friday 27 June

**Term 3** Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September

**Term 4** Monday 6 October – Wednesday 17 December



## Wharf to wharf

On Sunday I completed wharf to wharf. Wharf to wharf is a race that takes place at days bay wharf and you have to swim to rona bay wharf . Lots of different ages compete. I came 1st for local junior girls and I got a prize. I felt nervous at first, but then I got very excited and happy at the end. It was really fun. At the end of the race my friends started cheering for me and when I got out of the water they sprinted to me and said 'you did amazing, I could never do that!' I said - 'If I can, you can, I will do it with you next year - we better start practicing!'

*By Cashel Cross*

**COMMUNITY NOTICES - Please Note - the following notices have been requested to be published and are not necessarily endorsed by us as a school. In the spirit of community we include these digitally for you to peruse.**



## Eastbourne Junior Rugby

**Registrations are now OPEN for 2025!**

There are options for everyone!

Friday Night Pre-School Gold - Ages 3 - 5 years old  
Friday Night Rippa Rugby (Like touch but with tags) - School Years 3 - 8

Saturday Morning Rippa Rugby - School Years 1 and 2  
Saturday Morning Tackle Rugby - School Years 3 - 8



Check out our website: [www.eastbournerrugby.co.nz](http://www.eastbournerrugby.co.nz)  
for more information  
or email Kirsty at [eastbournerrugbynz@gmail.com](mailto:eastbournerrugbynz@gmail.com)

## FREE After-School Nature Play Event!

Calling all curious kids aged 4-13 and their families! Everyone Out is coming to the Hutt, and we'd love to meet you!

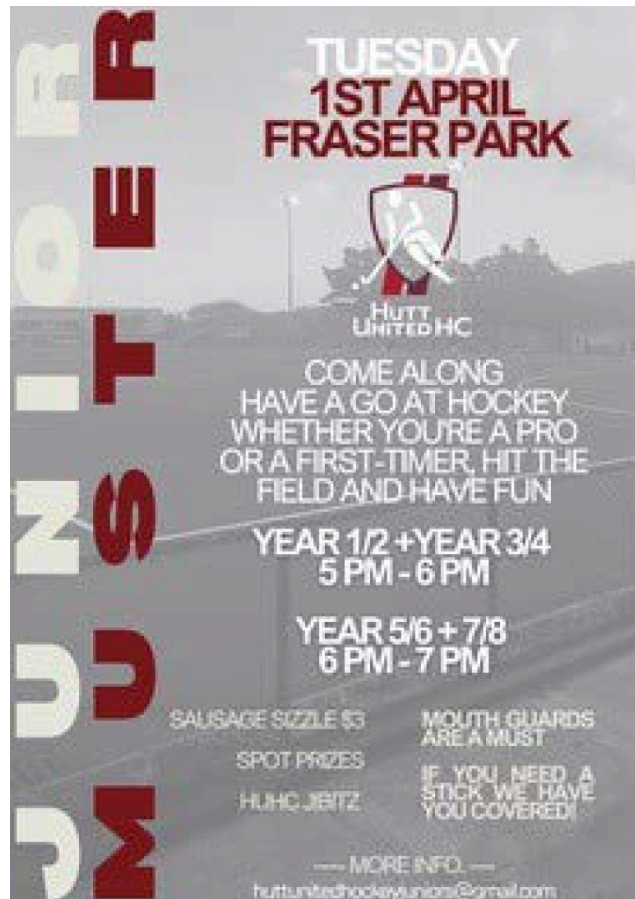
Join us for a FREE nature play session at Belmont Recreation Reserve on Wednesday, 26th, from 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM. Experience the magic of outdoor learning and play—just like we do in our Holiday Programmes, Nature School, EOTC and Family Events.

### What to expect?

- ✓ Hands-on nature activities
- ✓ Fire and Marshmallows
- ✓ Outdoor physical fun
- ✓ Meet the team & learn about our programmes

Come and get a little wild with us!

✨ Belmont Recreation Reserve |  
Belmont Scout Hall, Norfolk Street, Lower Hutt



## EASTBOURNE COMMUNITY FITNESS - PILATES CLASS

Eastbourne Community Fitness have spaces in their Pilates Class which is held on a Wednesday night above the Library. This class will make you feel stronger, leaner, and more flexible. This safe, effective system improves posture, tones muscles, and boosts balance.

If you want to have a free trial class, please contact Margo on 022 010 9592.




## Get creative at Katherine Mansfield House & Garden!

Are you a 10-14-year-old who loves writing? Find inspiration and learn new tools for getting creative at our April School Holidays creative writing workshop.

Morning session: 14 April, 9.30am to 12.30pm  
Afternoon session: 14 April, 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Or make a day of it and register for both! \$25 per session, includes snacks, writing materials and a qualified tutor.

Find out more and register at [www.katherinemansfield.com](http://www.katherinemansfield.com)

## FUN French for children!

Boost your child's brainpower!

**FUN French language lessons after School in Eastbourne on Tuesdays - we speak French from the first lesson!**

Lessons in the village  
After school pick up available



For more information message me, Stefi on 021 178 2099 or email me [stefi@lcclubs.co.nz](mailto:stefi@lcclubs.co.nz)