



## NEWSLETTER - TERM 1 - WEEK 3

# Tahuna School



**Learning For Life**

### Our School Pepeha

*Pepeha is a way of introducing yourself in Māori. It tells people who you are by sharing your connections with the people and places that are local to our area.*

***Ko Tainui te waka***  
***My canoe is Tainui***

***Ko Mangawara te awa***  
***My river is Mangawara***

***Ko Hapuakohe te maunga***  
***My Mountain is Hapuakohe***

***Ko Waiti te marae***  
***My Marae is Waiti***

***Ko Ngati Paoa te iwi***  
***My tribe is Ngati Paoa***

***Ko Tahuna te kura***  
***My school is Tahuna School***



**Kia ora Tahuna School parents and whanau**

### Principal's Message

Welcome to our 1st newsletter of the 2025 school year! I hope you all enjoyed time spent with family and friends. Our tamariki are settling into their learning routines quickly and re-connecting with their friends. Our aspirations for all our tamariki are through our School Vision 'Learners for Life' and our mission is 'To develop dynamic learners who make a positive contribution to our community.' Our vision and mission is underpinned by our Rural ICARE Values of Integrity, Challenge, Ambition, Respect, and Encourage.

### Introducing Our Proud Tahuna Team

Principal - Mr Phillip Otto  
Deputy Principal - Miss Leasa Craw  
Endeavour - Miss Jaime Herkes  
Endurance - Mrs Holt-Pedersen  
Maungaturoto - Miss Caron Purvis  
Adventure - Miss Sophie Lewis  
Discovery - Miss Leasa Craw  
Release Teacher - Gill Constantine and Alana Simmonds  
Learning Assistant - Ms Julie Shewry  
Learning Assistant - Mrs Kimberly Slooten  
Office Administrator - Mrs Farida Davis  
Van Driver - Mr Martin Foster  
Cleaner - Mrs Racquel Dela Cruz

I would like to welcome Miss Purvis who is new to our team this year teaching in Maungaturoto room for 2025. She has made an awesome start with her tamariki.

BSLA - known as the Better Start Literacy Approach for Yr 0 - 3. Our teachers are implementing an enhancement to our reading curriculum called the 'Better Start Literacy Approach' (BSLA). This approach has been developed in New Zealand by a team of experienced researchers from the University of Canterbury, following years of research on the best ways to support children's early reading, writing and oral language success. Our teachers look forward to implementing BSLA and growing our tamariki's reading knowledge and skills.

INTEGRITY NGAKAU PONO	CHALLENGE EKE PANUKU	AMBITION PAI TAWHITI	RESPECT MANAAKITANGA	ENCOURAGE AWHINA
<b>ENSURE</b> I will do what I say I will do <b>TAKE RESPONSIBILITY</b> For my decisions and actions <b>MAKE</b> Good decisions to achieve success <b>TAKE OWNERSHIP</b> Of my mistakes and learn from them <b>DO</b> The right thing even when it's hard. <b>ROLE MODEL</b> Integrity Being honest to myself and others	<b>SHOW</b> I have respect for others' mana <b>MANAGE</b> Conflict & different points of view <b>BE COURAGEOUS</b> In learning & keep trying when it's hard <b>COMMUNICATE</b> Collaborate and be a problem solver <b>APPROACH</b> Things with a positive mindset <b>TRY</b> New things and give things a go Try new things and not/never give up	<b>WORK</b> With lots of different people <b>COLLABORATE</b> And share my ideas <b>STRONG</b> Desire to aim high and achieve success <b>IDENTIFY</b> My next steps and make a plan <b>BELIEVE</b> And back myself to be successful <b>DESIRE</b> To take on new challenges Be the best I can be	<b>ACCEPT</b> Others ideas and differences <b>TAKE CARE</b> Of myself & others <b>TAKE PRIDE</b> In my work <b>I AM</b> A Tahuna proud student <b>ICAN</b> Model & respect our ICARE Values <b>RESPECT</b> Life long learning Respect yourself, others and the environment	<b>BUILD</b> And keep relationships by encouraging others <b>ENCOURAGE</b> Others to do their best <b>TAKE ACTIONS</b> That support the learning of others <b>TAKE ON/ACCEPT</b> Encouragement from others <b>ENSURE</b> Everyone is included <b>CELEBRATE</b> The success of others Support others and celebrate each other's successes

## Our ICARES Pathway

### ICARES Values Cards

Our values focus for Term 1 is 'Ambition' to us this important value means - Be the best I can be.

Already this week we would like to share some examples of our children displaying our school values:

Aaron (Challenge) Giving it his best go at swimming.

Jurous (Ambition) Diligently completing his classwork the first time he is told.

Rowell (Challenge) For making paper planes for his class.

Zak (Challenge) Trying very hard to dive in the pool, without giving up.

Pippa (Ambition) For having a strong desire to be good across all her subjects.

Leah S (Ambition) Focusing and ignoring others to get her work done.

Aurora (Ambition) Working hard to get your mahi completed.

Bruno (Respect) Caring and helping Ralph when he is hurt.

Arthur (Ambition) Showing determination in writing on day 1 of the new school year.

Savija (Ambition) Achieved success in the swimming pool! He was scared but stuck to it.

Sabian (Challenge) Trying new things in the class that can be hard.

Marty (Respect) Taking pride in your mahi.

Charlie (Challenge) Challenging yourself at swimming.

Florence (Challenge) Working hard in Maths!

Cooper (Respect) Cooper found an old hammer in the grass and brought it straight to the duty teacher.

AJ (Respect) Super tidying.

Jackson (Ambition) Working hard with your writing by making sure it is readable and makes sense.

Lucas (Encourage) Encouraging other people at swimming.

Paige (Challenge) Learning some new activities.

Navada (Ambition) Joining into group conversations even when unsure of the answer.

Ron (Respect) Opening the gate for everyone.

### Swimming

Swimming is an important focus in Term 1 and our classrooms will swim most days. Our tamariki will be developing both their swimming and water safety skills. Therefore it is important all our tamariki bring their togs and a towel to participate in their class swimming lessons. Please ensure that your child brings their togs and towel each day (named) regardless of the weather. If your child is unable to swim please notify your child's teacher. A massive thank you to the FOS who have funded a pair of swimming goggles for EVERY child and some red caps for our Interschool Swimming team!

### Court Shade Cover

The court cover celebration will be on Thursday the 27th February starting at 5pm. A flyer will be coming out soon with more details.

### Thank you

Outstanding work by the Lehmann's and Ashby's doing some awesome work around our school - weed spraying, painting, and spreading bark. Much appreciated by us all!

### Ultimate Frisbee

Thanks to Tony Fransen, whom last term volunteered his time to teach Discovery Class some Ultimate Frisbee! New skills were learned and hopefully some confidence to play this sport when they get to Intermediate were instilled.

### Year 5-6 Camp

Juicie Thirst-Days are back! This time we are fundraising for the Year 5&6 Camp at Finlay Park. Camp dates are Sunday 23rd March-Tuesday 25th. Our Tamariki will have the opportunity to participate in many activities including visiting glow worms via boat, rock climbing, the blob, water slides, a confidence course, top team games, animal survival and more. On the last day we will visit Sanctuary Mountain to consolidate our learning about pests, our native animals/birds and conservation.

Summer League Soccer kicked off last Friday. We have 3 teams entered again. This 5-side competition runs for 6 weeks and is a great preseason warm up for our soccer players or an opportunity for first timers to try the sport out.

Thanks to Amy Shewry, Miss Craw and Sally & Geoff Moore for managing the teams.

### Communication

Teachers work incredibly hard to support and nurture our tamariki every day. To ensure we can continue to bring the best to the classroom, we encourage whaanau to be mindful that teachers are not available 24/7. Emails and messages will be responded to during school hours from Monday to Friday, but teachers will not be expected to reply in the evenings or on weekends. Just like you, they need time to rest, be with their families, and recharge.

If your enquiry is urgent, please reach out to the school office, and we will do our best to assist you. Thank you for your support in helping us create a balanced and positive school environment for all.

Ngaa mihi, Phillip and Staff



### The Big Little Sponsorship

Help our school win  
**\$10,000 worth of sports gear - head to**  
**<https://www.aainsurance.co.nz/big-little> and fill in the form, share with your friends and family too!**



## Dates to Remember

### Term 1

- **24th February (Mon)**  
Board of Trustees Meeting
- **25th February (Tue)**  
Swimming Sports
- **27th February (Thurs)**
  - Swimming Postponement date
  - Court Cover Opening 5pm
- **4th March (Tues)**  
Postponment date for Swimming
- **5th March (Wed)**  
Inter-School Swimming Sports
- **6th March (Thurs)**  
Inter-School Swimming Sports Postponement
- **17th March (Mon)**  
EPRO 8 Classroom Week (Years 4-6)
- **23rd March (Sun) - 25th March (Wed)**  
Year 5-6 Camp
- **9th April (Wed)**  
EPro8 External Competition
- **11th April (Fri)**  
Term 1 Ends
- **18th April (Fri)**  
Good Friday
- **25th April (Fri)**  
ANZAC DAY





**School Policies – SchoolDocs**  
Our school policies are on a website called School Docs. School Docs provides us with policies, which have been researched and follow the Ministry of Education guidelines.  
The website is: <https://tahuna.schooldocs.co.nz>.  
The username is: tahuna and the password is: cares

## Student Councillors 2025

On Tuesday we held our student councillor speeches where we listened to 14 speeches, from our Year 5 & 6 students who wanted the opportunity to be a leader in our school! The time, effort and practise they had put into their speeches was obvious. To those who missed out this time, there will be other opportunities as house leaders and at the beginning of Term 3 - we will elect 2 more student councillors, so keep striving! Congratulations to our new student councillors. We look forward to your positive contribution to our school. It is a great privilege to be a student councillor at Tahuna School. Our awesome team is as follows; Megan, Alex, Zane, Leah, Jane, Indie, Ruby and Isiah.



## Welcome back to Endeavour

**ABOUT ME**

This is my 3rd year at Tahuna in Endeavour. Sixth year of teaching in Primary school. Early Childhood trained. Very passionate about what I do and building relationships with the kids in my class and across the school.

**TERM 1, 2025**

Swimming season is here! Please apply sunscreen to your child in the morning and ensure they bring their togs, towel, and a change of clothes, just in case. Starting the term: We'll begin by getting to know one another, exploring how our class operates, and building independence as learners

**THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO**

- Starting our count to 100 days of school (with a celebration on day 100 🎉)
- School trip this term - Stay tuned! 🌈
- New literacy to learn 📖
- Swimming sports 🏊
- Having the best year 💖

**THINGS TO NOTE**

- Hats are provided at school.
- We have sunscreen to reapply
- Reading together is the main focus of our homework.

**Something New for 2025... Childrens Calf Club Section**

The Morrinsville A&P show now has a Childrens Calf Club Section open to all students up to Year 9 that participated in their schools 2024 Livestock Day. The Committee would love to see you join them to share all the hard work you did with your calf. Please see entry details below, or entry can be made on the day.

Morrinsville Show Schedules are now online at [maine-events.co.nz](http://maine-events.co.nz)

### Saturday 1st March 2025

Gates Open 8am

Morrinsville Recreation Grounds

Adults \$10 - Children (12-Years) \$5 - Under 12 FREE - Family Pass \$25

- Live Music, Highland Dancing & Wal Talko
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- Strongman Competition
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# Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL

From Mrs Holt-Pedersen



## ENDURANCE - TERM 1 2025

Hello! I hope you have all had a safe, restful, and enjoyable break. I am looking forward to seeing all the children back at school this coming Monday the 3rd of February. Swimming starts the first day back, so please send your child with togs, towel, and bag for wet gear. Goggles only if you have them.

### WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT

- The first couple of weeks will be spent **getting to know each other**, and **building our classroom culture** so that everyone feels **safe, happy**, and in the **right mindset to learn**.
- We will focus on being **sun smart** and the reasons why. Hats are provided by the school and all children must wear them when outside.
- Term Value - **Ambition** - be the best I can be.
- There will be a **field trip** later in the term with a focus on **Ecology and Conservation**. More details to follow.
- We will also focus on **time management** and being **Organised**.

### REMINDERS

- Stationery Packs.
- Named **Water Bottle**.
- Waitangi Day is a public holiday, so **no school on Thursday 6th of February**.
- School Assemblies** are every second Friday at 1.50pm starting in week 2.
- Meet the Teacher - Monday the 10th 5.00pm**
- Swimming sports - week 4
- Reading logs** will be given out shortly. Please read with your child at home and fill in the reading log.
- Children need their **book bag** to take home library and reading books.
- Term Dates **Mon 3.2.25 - Fri 11.04.25**

# Discovery Class Newsletter

Kia Ora Koutou, welcome back to a new year! I hope each of you enjoyed your summer holidays and are looking forward to all the interesting and exciting learning and events we have planned for Term 1 2025!

## This term in Discovery--

- During this Term our core kaupapa (topic) will be learning based around 'Sanctuary Mountain'. We will visit this Wildlife Sanctuary on the last day of camp so we will be doing some prior learning around pest control, native trees, native birds and conservation. This will largely be read about and written about as part of our Literacy.
- Prime Maths, our structured maths programme will be up and running promptly. All groups, no matter which book they're on will begin with a large focus on number and place value - reading and writing larger numbers, breaking them apart, putting them together, and developing rounding and estimating skills.
- Weeks 3-4 will see some formalised testing as I get to know children further and set some learning goals for the next part of the year.

## Camp!

Camp notices will start coming out thick and fast - most weeks there will be a new notice (on Monday's) so please be vigilant checking bags and Seesaw (I will also load it on here for safe keeping). We do leave on a Sunday on Week 7. On the Monday of Week 2 (10th February) we will hold a Camp Information Evening in conjunction with our Meet the Teacher night. We will go over the camp guidelines and the programme of activities.

We will be having many, many discussions and camp meetings in class as we prepare for this exciting adventure. It is perfectly normal for your child (and you!) to feel anxious about camp. However, they will have an amazing time, creating lifelong memories! Not to mention the skills, experiences and independence they will have gained.

## Communication & Homework

Homework will consist of our Tahuna Mahi Tah Reading Logs, in time I may also send home some spelling lists and maths number practice for those who would like additional work. Online platforms that we use within class can also be accessed at home. ALL children have a StepsWeb account and the incredible results we see from this Literacy Programme make it well worth it. I am happy to see this time at home on StepsWeb recorded as reading in their Reading Logs also.

The main communication platform that both myself and tamariki will use to share learning and last minute notices is Seesaw. This app is free, please see me if you are having trouble connecting.

Your ongoing support at home is vital to the success of your child's learning and accomplishments while at school. Please ensure your child comes to school on time, refreshed and ready to learn. Please read the newsletter on School Stream to keep informed of events, activities and opportunities happening during this term.

# NEWSLETTER

*Maungaturoto*

### Kia ora whānau,

Welcome back to school! I hope that you have all had a relaxing summer and are looking forward to a fun year. Thank you for being so welcoming over the last few days!

Ngā mihi, Caron

caron@tahunaschool.school.nz

### Our Learning

#### Literacy

We will be growing our skills as readers and writers over the year. This supported by our Tahuna Mahi Tah Reading Logs to help you track reading at home.

#### Numeracy

We follow the structured Prime Maths programme across the school. I will share some resources to support numeracy learning at home over the next few weeks.

#### Inquiry

Our focus for the first few weeks of Term 1 will be getting to know each other. We will then begin to learn about our environment.

#### PE and Health

We will be swimming every day. Our focus is on building our confidence and skills in the water. Please support your child with remembering their togs!

### Reminders

#### Book Bags

Please help look after our books! Library books and readers can not be sent home without a book bag.

#### Wheels Wednesdays

Children can bring drift trikes, roller blades, skates, scooters etc to ride. Don't forget a helmet and shoes!

#### Sunsmart

Hats are compulsory in Terms 1 & 4. We will also be reminding children to apply sunscreen regularly.

#### Seesaw

Please let me know if you have any problems joining Seesaw!

### Coming Up

10th Feb - Meet the Teacher

25th Feb - School Swimming Sports

11th April - End of Term 1

# ADVENTURE NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2025

Kia ora all and happy new year! Hope you've had a fantastic summer break with your family. We have an exciting term and year coming up, so check out what we are up to below.

## WHAT WE WILL LEARN

This term we are diving into the kaupapa (topic) of conservation of our NZ native birds, trees. We will also look into how we control pests to protect our species. This will be integrated into our reading and writing.

Writing - recounting experiences, report writing on our kaupapa (topic) and poetry

Maths - Ordering, reading, writing numbers up to 1,000. Addition and Subtraction with and without carrying a 10. Multiplication of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10s where we will be working hard on our skip counting.

From week 3, I will begin testing to then set personal learning goals alongside your child for the term.

Swimming - we will be focusing on becoming confident in swimming all three strokes (freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke). Our swimming sessions will be happening everyday, if your child is not swimming please provide a note or send me a message as to why. I also suggest that goggles are to be worn, it provides confidence when swimming and helps with being in a good swimming position.

## REMINDERS

- Library** - is on Wednesday. This year, due to the conditions some of our books are being returned in, children **MUST** have a book bag or a waterproof bag to bring books to and from school in. Please let me know if your child is not bringing books home and I can help them find some appropriate books for their reading level and enjoyment. Reading to them, talking with them about what they are reading and encouraging reading for sustained periods of time have many positive benefits to their learning.
- Reading logs** - Please remind your child to bring these to school each Wednesday so I can see the awesome progress that your child is making with their reading.
- Prime books** - if you still have last years Prime book at home can you please bring it in by the end of this week so children can complete their books this term, before beginning a new one.
- Wheels Wednesday** - Children can bring drift trikes, roller blades, skates, scooters etc to ride. Don't forget a helmet and shoes!
- Summer Terms** - As per our Sunsmart Policy, potae (hats) are compulsory in Terms 1&4. These are provided by the school and will be allocated to each child for the term. Most children self manage this well with little reminders needed. Sunscreen is also required to be applied. School supplies this, but children are welcome to use/bring their own.
- Drink bottles** are a great idea and easy way to keep hydrated both in the classroom and when outside. Being hydrated sets the brain up in the right state to learn and be able to concentrate!



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