



Newsletter

Wisdom begins with Wonder



Week 4 Term 2 2025

Friday 25th May

Principal Korero - Learning Support Budget

The lead up to a Budget is always interesting, and for education this Budget had been signalled as a *Learning Support Budget*. Principals have been voicing for some time that there needs to be a significant boost in the resourcing of learning support to meet the needs of the increasing number of diverse learners in schools. And, this budget is a step in the right direction.

Without diving into all the nitty gritty, one of the key positives for me is the substantial boost in Teacher Aide hours across the country. At Pukehou we are blessed with two pretty amazing Teacher Aides, Laura and Michelle, who support our learners so that they can access the curriculum. Support is quite a bland word for what they do. They care for and nurture our learners academically, socially, and emotionally.

Often though, we are reliant on grants for funding to ensure our learners' needs are met. This is inconsistent and any funding received is generally much less than the actual amount needed. With over 2,000,000 extra Teacher Aide hours promised (growing to this amount by 2030) across all sectors, this has the potential to make a real difference for many learners.

There will still be challenges as in the past it has felt like a lottery obtaining support. Ensuring support is provided equitably and in a timely way is essential. The focus on early intervention in this budget is long overdue, as often students had to wait until they met a certain criteria or threshold for support. For some, this meant that they missed out on the required support for months, if not years. This is especially so for students who need ORS funding; Ongoing Resourcing Scheme funding and support which is long term and remains with the student for a large chunk of their schooling journey.



Sadly, there have been some casualties in the budget juggling act. It was very clear early on that Kāhui Ako - Communities of Learning - were in the firing line, and so it proved with the announcement to disestablish them from 2026.

Personally, I have been involved with two extremely well functioning Kāhui Ako. In CHB, our two Kāhui Ako, Ruahine and Te Angiangi, have been highly effective in helping improve outcomes for learners. They have fostered collegiality and collaboration from Early Childhood through to Primary, and on to Secondary, creating a more coherent pathway for learners in CHB.

Likewise, the Kāhui Ako have been at the forefront of developing teacher efficacy and pedagogy. They have facilitated and provided professional learning opportunities for our teachers which, as a small school, we would be unable to provide. This has been especially invaluable with all the changes and curriculum refreshes that we have had to navigate. Through our times of crises too, they were there, supporting schools across the district.

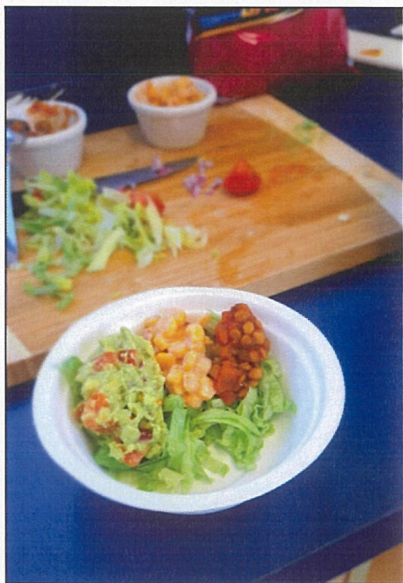
However, nationally, not all Kāhui Ako have operated at the same level, so I can understand why the Government has made the decision. It would have been nice to judge each Kāhui on its merits though. So, I will be sad to see Ruahine and Te Angiangi go. That being said, I know that they will continue to support our learners and teachers through the remainder of 2025.

Technology

This term saw the start of 'Technology on the Road' for our Year 7-8 students, after the closure of the CHB Technology Centre at Waipawa School last year. The plan is for Technology to be delivered from CHB College starting next term. I really hope that there is some urgency shown from the Ministry to ensure that the learning spaces generously provided by the College are refitted and ready to go in time!

We will have three sessions this term. The CHB Technology teaching team of Rachel Smith and Ben Philpotts are fantastic. They are trying to provide a meaningful programme under pretty challenging circumstances. This group of learners are missing out and it's not equitable.

Luckily for us we have great resources in our hall. Our Year 8's were able to make some delicious and nutritious Mex Bowls and our Year 7's created some personalised photo frames. I'm looking forward to seeing (and tasting!!) what is on the menu this week!



Pukehou Bubs!!

Some of our parents and whānau with bubs have started catching up here at school as a way to connect. It has been lovely to host them and provide a place and space for this to happen. It is open to the wider community, not just our school parents. If you'd like to know more, please give the Office a call and we can put you in touch with Michelle.

Pukehou Bubs

For mums, dads, and grandparents
with their babies & children under 5

Thursday 9:30am

During school terms

In the library at Pukehou School

All welcome



Outdoor Learning Space

We are pretty excited around the development of a proposed outdoor learning space which should happen this year. As can be seen by the concept design, it will be a great space for collaboration, story telling, presentations and performances!!





Sports Reports for the last couple of weeks:

Bobby played his first game of Rippa rugby for Otane Rippa 1 on Saturday 17 May and did an amazing job. Bobby followed the ball up and down the field with great enthusiasm, and he scored his first try! His impressive performance earned him the 'player of the day'. It was such a proud moment for him, and I'm sure there will be many more to come.

Henry and his Hockey team (Tikokino) have had a win two weeks in a row. They played Flemington on Thursday 15 May and it was 1-0 in favour of Tiko!

Such a lovely, welcoming and encouraging group of kids, coaches and parents.



On Thursday 8 May Cleodie, Maja and Leo had their first Kiwi sticks hockey game, in a combined team with Tiko and Onga. Cleodie put her hand up for goalie this week and earned herself a well deserved 'player of the day'.

LEO got 'player of the day' for Waipawa Black, scoring 6 tries for his rugby team on Saturday 10 May.

A great first Netball game on Saturday 10 May for the Kea team vs The Terrace Ruataniwha team. 2/0 to The Terrace.

Great defence from Lilly, Eva and Miley
Frankie tried centre for the first time and did a great job!



Pukehou Kwik Sticks, Kayla, Alice, Stella and Mackenzie, joined Waipukurau for winter hockey this year. Our first game on May 7 was a fun game, learning to play with each other. 0-1 to Takapau with a runaway goal with two minutes left. Our team will only improve as we get to know each other.
Kayla



Intercity Football started on Saturday 3 May. Archer and Jaxon are in the CHB/Hibernian 13th grade "Thunder" team. Their first game was against Western Rangers who won 6-2. On 10 May the team played against Hereworth @ Hereworth. Last week they played Napier Marist. It was their toughest game yet! Considering the team are a combined team and don't get to practice together, they are still getting to know each other. This week they'll be playing at Russell Park - come along and support them!