



Newsletter

Wisdom begins with Wonder



Week 9 Term 2 2025

Thursday 26th June

Principal Korero

I love that we celebrate Matariki across Aotearoa New Zealand. It has become an important part of our school calendar and learning programmes too. We had a fantastic celebration last week capped off by an activity day, shared lunch, and our PWF Matariki Disco.

There were highlights galore as students worked together in their houses, Kahuranaki, Kauhehei, and Pukenui, with the focus on our values, especially manaakitanga - respect and whanaungatanga - relationships. Students made Matariki stars, cooked kumara scones, and worked in our gardens tidying and planting for the season ahead. They were phenomenal and it was a fantastic day.

Our senior students showed outstanding leadership throughout the day, and a number of students were recognised for how well they showed our values throughout the day. Ka rawe!!



We were grateful for the kai supplied by whānau for our shared lunch and hakari (feast)! And it was certainly a feast. I thought we had significantly over catered, however, our students showed a real 'can-do' attitude to persist as they worked their way through all the delicious goodies!!

Traditions are important, and our Peace Path walk at the end of our disco is always a highlight for me. It's special, and I get the warm fuzzies seeing students and their whānau taking a quiet moment to walk together and share this time. A core group of senior students take it upon themselves to prepare the path, and the lanterns that students create always look spectacular at night.

This year we introduced something new that is an integral part of Matariki, and I hope this becomes a tradition too. Students designed and made 'remembrance stars' and hung them on our avenue of trees at the school entrance. To share in their stories, and see the pride they took in hanging them, was humbling.

A huge thanks also to our tireless PWF volunteers for all their work organising the Disco and to the teaching team for their time too. It was a lovely way to lead into the Matariki Holiday. A special shout out to DJ Teagan who had the unenviable task of being the DJ for the night. She was fantastic, and it's great when past students want to come back and give back to school.

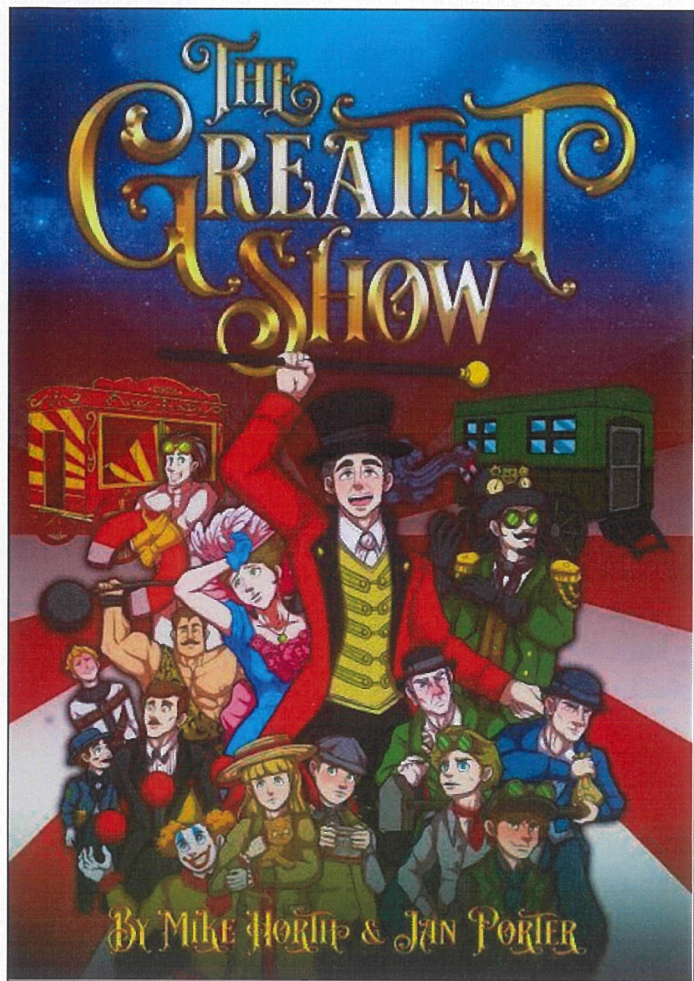
Kea and Kererū Conferences

Last night we celebrated the progress of students in Kea and Kererū classes with learning conferences. Our teaching team loved the opportunity to talk with whānau about their child's learning and progress, making plans for the remainder of the year. Partnership between home and school is hugely important when it comes to a child's learning, so thank you!! And, please remember that teachers are always willing to meet and discuss your child's learning, not just at conferences.

Kāhu reporting and conferences will be held in the second week of Term 3 when Mrs. Strong is back on deck!

Looking ahead to Term 3

Staying with the theme of Matariki and setting goals for the future, it will be wonderful to welcome Rachael back after her sabbatical. I know she has missed us all, especially her students, and has found it hard to stay away! She is super excited for the term as it will be a term full of drama...literally! Scripts have gone out for our production which will premiere in Term 4 of "The Greatest Show."



Students have taken scripts and are already busy learning lines for the parts they wish to audition for in Week One of next term!! It's been great to see small groups getting together and rehearsing with each other. I'm glad I won't be part of the judging for auditions because it's not going to be easy.

And then there's all the other activities that make Term 3 such a busy term such as the Onga 7's, Cross Country, Rippa and this year the Science Roadshow! With all these amazing things happening, I'm already feeling a wee bit of FOMO (fear of missing out) as I plan my sabbatical.

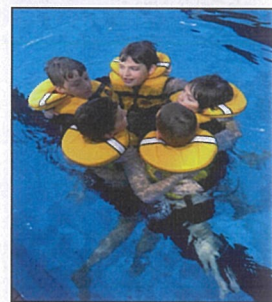
Principal Sabbatical

My sabbatical won't start until after the first week of next term which is great. This will allow myself and Rachael to complete a hand-over before Mark Gifkins comes into the hot seat!! Mark retired from Parkvale School in 2024 and is currently the Acting Principal at Pukehemoamoa School while their Principal is on sabbatical. What he doesn't know about principalship isn't worth knowing! But what's more, he's a genuinely good guy who loves kids and loves teaching. He's excited to be heading our way.

From my perspective, I've been tentatively working out what my sabbatical will look like. I've been inspired (thanks Mace and Erin!) to complete a small cycle trek running through the central North Island. It will be a challenge, especially in mid to late August where there is a chance of some pretty chilly weather. But, challenge is good!! As part of this, I will visit schools enroute and look at how they incorporate their local stories or narratives into the culture of the school and what their graduate profiles look like i.e. What skills, knowledge, capabilities, competencies, and values they aspire to have their students graduate school with.

CHB Swim4Lives

Our last session was held this week, and we are hugely grateful for this opportunity to take part in this programme. The last session, for our older students, was focused on 'safe boating' which is hugely important in New Zealand.



Building Updates

It has been great to see some shedding construction begin this week, and hopefully it will be completed by the end of the term break. Our Outdoor Learning Space has been provisionally approved by the Ministry too, and we should be able to action this project sometime in the near future!

However, we are still waiting on our Hall and Administration block project which has been with the weather tightness review panel for sometime now!!

IMPORTANT DATES:

(Check updates on the HERO Calendar)

JUNE

Fri 27th

End of Term 1

Happy Holidays - stay well and safe!

JULY

Mon 14th

Start of Term 2

Wed 23rd

Onga 7's Tournament



TOTS TO TEENS

CHILDHOOD IN AOTEAROA

FOR YOUR PARENTS

MŌRENA,

Winter is upon us, and our latest issue is jam-packed with content to help Kiwi parents: issue2506.totstoteens.co.nz

What's in this issue for parents?

- » The ultimate winter getaway list — epic family spots across Aotearoa
- » Why your child *needs* to rewatch that same video (yes, really)
- » How to tell if it's fussy eating or undiagnosed coeliac disease
- » Neurodivergence isn't a weakness — it's a different kind of brilliance
- » Starting school: is your child actually ready, or just the right age?
- » Plus: messy rock play, sweet + savoury bakes, fab printables, and prizes galore!



Get on board!

Nominate yourself or someone you know to be a school board member

Contact Jacqui for more information
office@pukehou.school.nz
068568169



Parenting Tips and Tricks!

Rob Cope

This week -

Kids Learn Through Consequences

One of the most valuable ways our kids learn is through natural consequences.

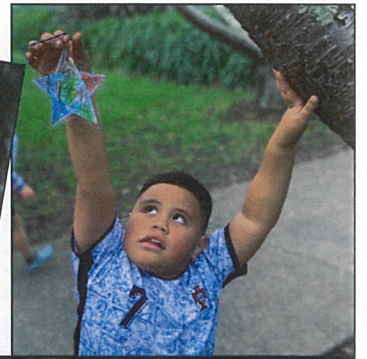
Every action has a result — some good, some not so good. Eat well, feel well. Eat crap, feel crap. Act silly and break something? There's a consequence for that too.

In our house, the rule is simple: if you break it, you fix it. If you spill it, you clean it. If you leave a spade in the driveway and a car runs it over, you save up and replace it.

Parenting isn't just about keeping the peace — it's about preparing our kids for the real world. Teaching responsibility when young gives them a head start on life. It builds resilience, accountability, and the kind of character that will serve them for years to come.

(Disclaimer - The videos in this series are created by Rob Cope from Our Kids Online and may not reflect the school's views. Use what's helpful and skip the rest!)

Find us here <https://www.ourkidsonline.info>



Matariki Day Activities

