



# Newsletter

Wisdom begins with Wonder



Week 8 Term 4 2025

Thursday 27 November

## Te Tiriti o Waitangi



As many of you are aware, there has been a lot of talk in the media about the government's move to remove the obligation for school boards to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Pukehou School recognises Te Tiriti o Waitangi as our founding constitutional document and values its principles of partnership, protection, and participation.

We celebrate our unique place in Te Aute on the shores of what was once the beautiful Roto-a-Tara. We cherish our relationship with mana whenua and with Pukehou Marae, holding close the knowledge and understanding that has grown over many years. It is a privilege that many schools don't share and one we don't take for granted.

We believe in delivering equitable outcomes for Māori learners, for all learners. The Pukehou School Board takes this responsibility seriously.

Prior to this, planning had begun to hold a Māori Consultation Hui with the intention of building connections, focusing on improved outcomes for our ākonga - learners. However, this has been postponed to early in Term 1 next year. It will be an ideal forum to discuss not only this issue but also how we move forward in the future and provide an engaging, equitable education experience where tamariki can achieve success. We will advise you of the date once confirmed and invite you to come along. In the meantime, nothing we do will change here at school. It is business as usual.

Mā te kimi ka kite,  
Mā te kite ka mōhio,  
Mā te mōhio ka mōrama.

*Seek and discover.  
Discover and know.  
Know and become enlightened.*

*Rob Pratt* (Principal)





## Hall Construction Start Date

Wow, it's finally happening. After the long wait, I can confirm that 'all systems are go.' The team from Atkin Construction will start work next **Monday, the 1st of December.**

The initial phase will revolve around the site set-up to comply with Health and Safety requirements. However, next week will see many of the trees at the front and side of the hall removed as these have contributed to the weather-tightness issues. The great news is that our beautiful cherry trees will remain.

The majority of the tree work will occur during school time (between 9am and 3.00pm). There will still be controlled access to the school and the car park. And after finally getting the large container moved from the front, we'll be replacing it with a smaller one (sigh). This will be used to store hall equipment, so it will only be onsite until the end of May.

## Welcome Back Mr. G

Mr. G loved his time here so much, he's coming back next week! With myself and Mrs. Strong away on camp with our Kāhu learners in Wellington, Mr. G has agreed to come in and lend a hand at this often busy time of the year. I'm sure he'll be made to feel welcome again.

## PRIZEGIVING & CELEBRATION

Our end year 2025 prizegiving and celebration will be on **Monday 15th December** (time tbc). Please pencil this in your calendars. Traditionally, the Board have hosted a sausage sizzle prior with festivities following.



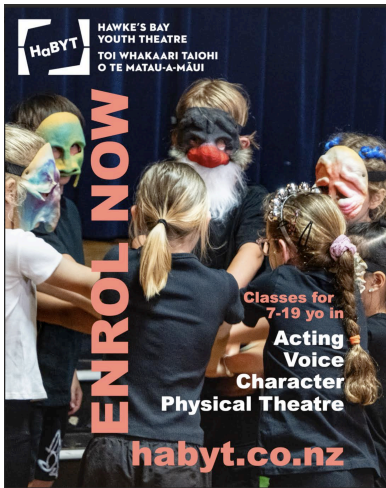
With the hall being out of commission we are still finalising what the format will be. We'd love to keep it at school where we'd lean towards an outdoors event. While this could work, it does leave us at the mercy of the elements, so we'll need to have a contingency plan!!

## Year 7-8 Whakairo - Carving

Last week, our Year 7-8 students had the opportunity to create their own pounamu taonga under the tutelage of master carver Aaron Greaves. Aaron unpacked tikanga and shared the pūrākau (stories) that explained how rocks were formed, where they can be found, and their different uses. A huge thanks to our Pukehou Whanau & Friends group for supporting this initiative. The group were excited to take them home that night, and it's been fantastic to see them wearing them proudly around school.







**IMPORTANT DATES:**  
(Check updates on the HERO Calendar)

**DECEMBER**

Mon 1st - Fri 5th Kāhu Class in Wellington

Sat 6th - Wonder Market @ Tōmoana Showgrounds 9am-3pm

Mon 15th Final Assembly / Prize Giving (venue & time tbc)

Wed 17th Last day of term - 12 midday finish!

### January 2026 Holiday Hockey Program

Registrations are open for the **Quality Coaching Services** Summer Holiday programme happening in January at the Hastings Hockey Stadium

Monday 12th/Tuesday 13th/Wednesday 14th January

9am - 3pm

\$50 a day

Register here - <https://www.playhq.com/hockey-new-zealand/register/d29bbf>

### Our Kids Online

2-Minute Tuesdays -

Parenting Tips and

Tricks! with Rob Cope

How Much Tablet

Time Is Safe for

Growing Brains?

With developmental delays in

children skyrocketing, this

video asks a crucial question every parent needs to consider: how much tablet time is actually safe for our children's young, developing brains? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdYE3CaVLYY>

**ONLINE SAFETY**

Did you know that a child's brain doesn't fully mature until their mid-20s? The prefrontal cortex — responsible for decision-making, impulse control, and assessing risk — is still developing, which makes young people especially vulnerable to the influences of social media. The constant exposure to likes, comments, and filtered realities can impact self-esteem, mental health, and even sleep.

**Fun Fact:** The average teen spends over 7 hours a day on screens — not including homework! That's almost a full-time job!

It's never too early (or too late) to start conversations about healthy digital habits. For expert advice, helpful tools, and real stories, check out [Our Kids Online](#) — a fantastic resource for keeping our tamariki safe in the digital world.

Together, we can raise resilient, informed, and tech-savvy kids!

**What's on top?**

**Kāhui Ako**  
Ruahine ■ Te Angiangi

**Hawke's Bay Christmas Market**

Sat 6th Dec  
9am - 3pm  
Waikoko Gardens,  
Tōmoana Showgrounds.  
\$5 entry. Koha for Kids under 12.  
Stalls. Food Trucks. Bar. Live Music.

**wonder**

**Visit the Pukehou School Stall selling lilies and YUMMY! Cookbooks**

Sat 6th Dec 2025 - 9am-3pm  
Waikoko Gardens, Tōmoana Showgrounds

Experience the magic of the Wonder Christmas Market — a festive blend of local craftsmanship with over 90 creative stalls, food trucks, live music, and a bar with sensational cocktails. Join us for a joyful community celebration, a Christmas event you won't want to miss!

Proudly Supported By **Harcourts** Hawke's Bay



# Thank you for supporting Pukehou School



What a day amongst the blooms of Central Hawke's Bay! Thank you to everyone that supported the Pukehou School Garden Tour 2025 - our incredible hosts who generously opened their gardens, the PWF team and volunteers, sponsors and all our wonderful guests who helped make it such a success. See you again in 2026!



**YUMMY!** The Pukehou School and Community Cookbook makes the perfect Christmas present! Available at Paper Plus Waipukurau, The Paper Mulberry Cafe, Wardinis Havelock North and the School Office. Just \$40 for this gorgeously illustrated 'Yummy' book!



Beautiful potted lilies are still available; \$8, \$10, \$12, \$14 ~ depending on the number of stems per pot. Another fantastic gift idea!

Support us at the Wonder Market or pop into school before Saturday 6th December.







There were so many recipients of certificates at assembly yesterday. Ka pai! Keep up the good work!

