



Newsletter

Wisdom begins with Wonder



Week 4 Term 3 2026

Tuesday 11 August

Principal Chat

It's definitely been a memorable winter so far. The crisp frosts and bluebird days have been invigorating. Snow on the hills behind school and in the surrounding district certainly added to the chill last week, but it just highlights what a beautiful wee spot we have to learn in!

While the weather may have played a small part, it has been a lovely, calm start to the term here at school. Our tamariki are relaxed and settled in and out of class. There is a lovely 'vibe' in the air punctuated by the sound of happy children playing and learning.

As a small school, there are challenges, but there are advantages too. Our small class sizes mean that we know our students well, their strengths and needs, and they get lots of 1:1 attention and explicit teaching. It has been refreshing to see the wholesome play where our kids get to just be kids.

On that note, we'd like to warmly welcome Juniper, Olive, and Sage to school, along with their family and parents, Elyse and Darren. They have fitted in beautifully from day one, and are welcome additions to our school whānau.

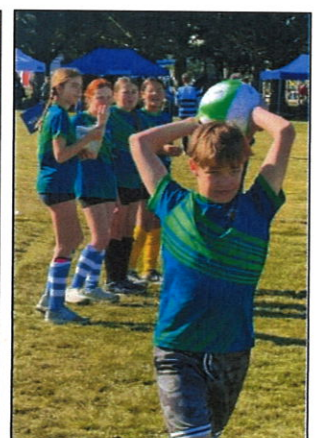


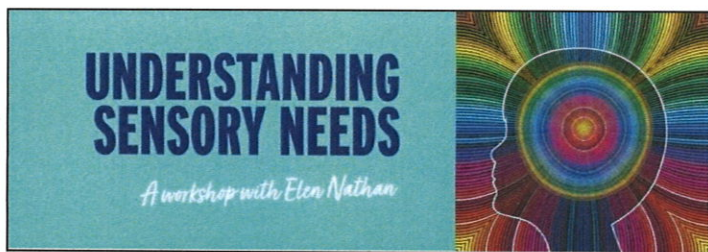
We believe we've got a pretty cool little school, and the Board have put together a pretty detailed Marketing Plan. We hope to set up a **Marketing Team** to implement some of these initiatives and we'd love your help!! If you have a passion or skills in this area, and want to be part of a small team, please contact me to discuss what this might look like,

Onga 7s Winter Sports Tournament

Onga 7's certainly looked and felt different this year with the tournament being played under a blue sky with balmy temperatures, rather than the wet mud fest of last year!! It was a hugely enjoyable day. Our students were on point, showcasing our values throughout the day and having a ball!

We had a senior football team and a hockey team, and they both played well across the day. Our football team - who were defending champions - missed out on the final after a goal countback, having drawn one and won two games. Unfortunately, entries were down, making for a small pool. Our hockey team performed well with some players new to the game, picking up a couple of good results. A huge thanks to Laura and Emma, our supercoaches!

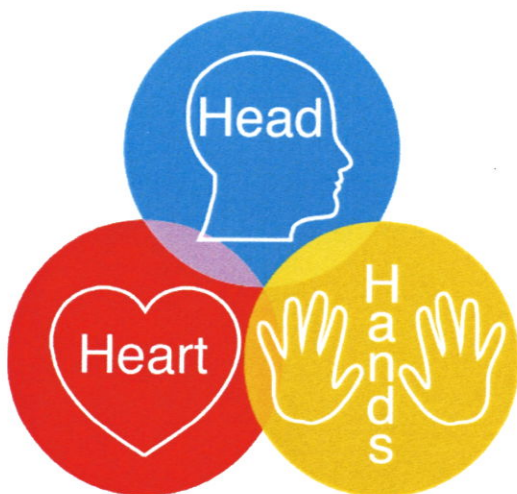




Neurodivergence and its prevalence consistently make headlines and drive educational discourse across the country. Neurodiversity acknowledges the fact that the brain is different in every individual, and **every brain processes information differently**. Studies suggest that up to 20% of the population is diverse, with diagnoses increasing markedly.

To name a few, neurodivergence can include ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia (reading), Dyscalculia (math), Dysgraphia (writing), and Dyspraxia (movement), or combinations, and interestingly they can be innate (from birth) or acquired.

I am currently attending workshops with Ellen Nathan from [GROW](#) focused on a sensory approach to support neurodivergence. The sessions have been enlightening. For our neurodivergent students, a sensory approach is to take a breath, slow it down, and meet them where they are using a 3H approach:



Heartfelt - provides connection and emotional safety through belonging, co-regulation and affirmation.

Headfelt - provides flexibility and intellectual respect through universal design for learning (UDL), adapting curriculum and the environment.

Handfelt - integrates physical movement, sensory regulation, and tangible creation into the learning process.

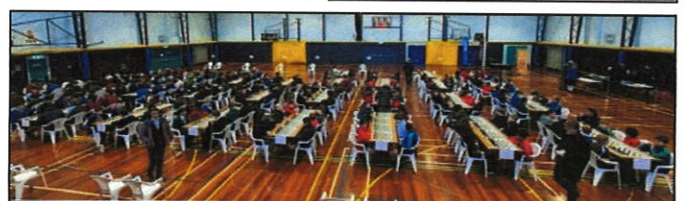
Thought Provoking Considerations

These are not my ideas, and some may find them controversial; however, the following key points that Elen raises are definitely worth considering:

- 1:9 children are born premature, and in NZ we stop tracking these children after 3 years old. Prematurity can affect development, and schools must be aware of this, especially in the current educational environment with year-level expectations and progress descriptors.
- Many children are coming to school with sensory processing difficulties such as visual challenges due to screen time and time spent indoors. Elen also added that the ability to fixate develops in the first year of life, particularly during feeding. This is being impacted by the advent of cellphones, where parents are 'scrolling' rather than fixating on the eyes of their bub. This can manifest in schools as difficulties attending to text in books.



On Friday, Alex, Jaxon, and Lucca participated in the HB Intermediate Championship in Hastings. It was a huge day with the boys playing six games of chess against students from schools across the region. They all played exceptionally well. Alex placed 14th, Lucca 17th, and Jaxon 35th. There were over 50 entrants!! Alex and Lucca both had four wins, placing them 7th equal but their placing is calculated by their Sonneborn-Berger score (higher ranked players beaten).





CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY LIBRARIES

Winter Warmers Reading Programme

A huge thanks to the CHB Libraries for providing the Winter Warmers Takurua Āhuru Reading Programme again this year and to the Friends of the Library sponsors for their generosity, inspiring students to become lifelong readers. Because of this, our readers who participated in the reading programme, all received a free book! These were presented, and gratefully received, by Nanny Vera and Heather from Friends of the Library. Thank you 🙏



YOU ARE INVITED!

Parents and whānau are warmly invited to join the Board on the morning of **MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER** from **9am - 11.30am** to observe and discuss the great, explicit teaching and learning happening in our classrooms. You don't need to come for the whole block, any part thereof is welcomed.



Our routines will remain the same with Structured Literacy, Reading, and Writing occurring during these times. There will also be opportunities to question during our 'brain break' at 10am and we'd love for you to join us for Morning Tea at 11.30am.

RSVP office@pukehou.school.nz



Now available!

Language nut

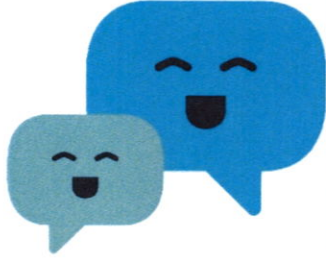
Language Learning Made Fun!

Looking to learn a new language?

All you need is your library card number!

- Learn anytime, anywhere with online access
- Access interactive lessons and activities
- Explore 30+ languages including Te Reo!
- Great for schools, community groups, or anyone wanting to try something new!

Head over to chblibrary.nz or scan QR code below



**CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY
LIBRARIES**



READING TO DOGS

Do you have a child who would love to read to a dog?

We're offering Reading to Dog sessions at the library - a fun, relaxed way to build confidence and support reading. In these 20-minute sessions, children read aloud to a friendly therapy dog in a calm, non-judgemental space. Benefits include reduced anxiety, improved confidence, and stronger reading skills.

WHEN:
Thursdays after school for 8 weeks
(6th of August - 24th of September)
20 minute slot between 3:15-5pm

WHERE:
Waipawa Library, 64 High Street

To book your spot, please email:
alanna.cutbush@chbdc.govt.nz

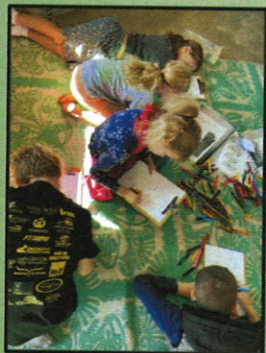
www.caninefriends.org.nz
caninefriends
pet therapy
Dogs helping people



Discover the wonder at Pukehou School!

We offer engaging learning experiences in a beautiful rural environment encompassing years 0-8. Small class numbers ensure your child gets the learning support they need to thrive and grow in confidence through active learning experiences.

"Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei"
"Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain"



We invite 4 Year olds and their parents to visit Pukehou School.
*Join Kea class (Years 0-4) for a morning of discovery.
Enjoy a play in the classroom and our playground before morning tea.*



Discovery Day Dates in Term 3 2026
Wednesday July 29th and Friday 14th August
9:30 am - 11:00 am

Wisdom begins with **Wonder**

Please contact Fleur fleur.mcdowell@pukehou.school.nz or Jacqui
(06) 856 8169 to confirm numbers a week prior.



Cross Country at Pukehou School

with Ōtāne & Poukawa Schools

Wednesday 19th August (next week!!)

BBQ, Baking (donations please!!)

All proceeds will go towards a trampoline :)



We're getting organised early this year ...

Copy the link below to Join the
**Pukehou School Team for the
2027 Weetbix Tryathlon**

in Hastings on Wednesday 17th March:

<https://raceroster.com/registration/3ef06683-ebd-4053-a8c8-2cac54587279/entry?team=1040911>

IMPORTANT DATES:

AUGUST

Fri 14th Discovery morning (4 yr olds)
Wed 19th Cross Country @ Pukehou
Thurs 27th Inter School Cross Country

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 3rd Run-a-thon
Fri 4th **SCHOOL CLOSED**
Teacher Only Day ~ Maths PLD
Mon 6th **SCHOOL CLOSED**
Teacher Only Day ~ Assessment
Mon 14th Parents Day

VESTA

FINANCE & ADVISORY

FINANCIAL WELLBEING Seminar



Join us for a relaxed morning of practical tips and guidance to help you feel more *confident* with your finances.

RSVP TO:
HANNAH TULLY
pregnancyandparentingchb@gmail.com




WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 10:00AM

CENTRALINES MEETING ROOM
17 COUGHLAN ROAD, WAIPUKURAU

BABIES WELCOME

FREE EVENT
WITH MORNING TEA PROVIDED

COVERING

- KIWI SAVER CONFIDENCE
- BUYING YOUR FIRST HOME
- GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR HOME LOAN
- MONEY HABITS AND BUDGETING MADE SIMPLE
- SETTING YOUR CHILDREN UP FOR A BETTER FUTURE

PART-TIME GARDENER NEEDED

(4.3 km from Pukehou School)

We are looking for a part-time gardener to help out in a newly developed garden around a new build.

Tasks include weeding, planting, mowing, spraying, watering and seeding.

Some experience preferred.

\$30/hr + 8% holiday pay

We are very flexible and are happy for you to work around your other responsibilities, as long as the jobs that require doing are being done.

If you think this will work for you please give me a call on 0272462942.

Thanks, Debbie

HAWKES BAY SAFEZONE Magazine
ka tango i tetahi kainga ki te whakatipu tamaiti



We're excited to share our FREE online SAFETY magazine with you.

We want to get to as many parents, whanau and caregivers as possible to keep reinforcing messages to the tamariki.

The publication is aimed at primary aged tamariki and we thank Safekids Aotearoa (Starship Digital and Community Engagement) for the editorial.

Our shared vision is that every child in the Hawke's Bay region and Aotearoa New Zealand enjoys a childhood free from traumatic, unintentional injury.

To access magazine on your PC go to:

<https://communitysafety.co.nz/magazine.php?m=290>

For FREE ACCESS just scan the above QR Code (This is only for Mobile devices)