



# Principal's News

*Kia ora, Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Ni Hao, Namaste, Bula Vinaka, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Kia orana, Mauri, Greetings.*

Friday 8 May 2026

Newsletter: Moving Forward Together

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It has been a busy and rewarding two weeks since our last update. The energy around the school continues to be positive, and I am enjoying getting to know more of our wonderful students and their families every day.

### A Huge Thank You: Whānau Hui Success

A massive thank you to everyone who attended our Whānau Hui on May 7. We had a fantastic turnout across both the afternoon and evening sessions.

It was inspiring to hear your aspirations for our school. Your feedback on revitalizing our Parent Group was particularly encouraging—there is clearly a wealth of talent and passion in our community! We are currently compiling the ideas shared and will reach out shortly with next steps for those who expressed interest in getting involved.

### Attendance: Keeping the Lines of Communication Open

We continue to focus on the goal of "Every Day Counts." It's been great to see so many of our tamariki arriving on time and ready to dive into their learning.

As we move into the cooler months, we understand that illness and family emergencies do happen. To help us support your child's learning journey, we ask for your help with the following:

- Stay in Touch: If your child is going to be absent, please notify the school office as early as possible.
- Teacher Connection: If there are specific circumstances affecting your child's attendance, please feel free to reach out to their classroom teacher.

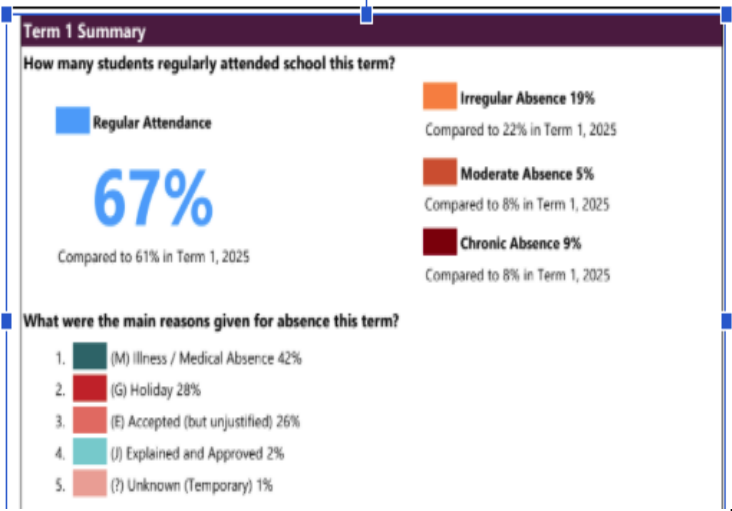
When we stay in constant communication, we can better support our students and ensure they don't feel "left behind" when they return to the classroom.

### Looking Ahead

There is a lot of exciting learning planned for the coming weeks. Whether it's on the sports field, in the garden, or in the classroom, I look forward to seeing our students continue to thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and for making me feel so welcome in these first few weeks.

**Aroha mai Aroha atu**  
**Mike Piper**  
**Tumuaki**  
**Manurewa Central school**



#### Tōtara

We have settled back into term two of learning and welcomed many new faces of children and their families. We have been doing a Firewise unit in our pod created by the NZ Fire Service. You may have already heard your children sharing what they have been learning during these sessions. We have learned about the difference between tools and toys, tools such as lighters are not for children to use or play with. We learned about making a safe meeting place if there were an emergency and the importance of a smoke alarm and what that tells us to do. We know if we hear it we get out of the house fast, we shout "fire, fire, fire" we close the door if possible and we go to our safe meeting place which can often be a letterbox. We learned about how smoke rises and is dangerous so we need to get low to help us in getting out. We have been excited to see a fire truck come to our school and to talk to the firefighters in real life about what we have learned. We are proud to be firewise kids in Totara Pod!

#### Pūriri

Pūriri have been learning lots so far this term. During the first week of school we learned about Anzac Day and for the past 2 weeks we have been learning about being "Firewise". We know that matches and lighters are tools for adults and we know that we have to give them to an adult if we find them.

#### Titoki

In the lead-up to ANZAC day, Titoki explored poetry as a way to remember and show respect. They learned a simple AN-ZAC poem, focusing on rhyming words and rhythm and some even began creating their own verses. This supported their confidence to use the language they know and read with expression. These poems are on display. Alongside this, the children have been enjoying their gymnastics sessions. They are developing balance, coordination and strength through a variety of fun activities. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they try new movements and lovely to see the way they support each other to be brave and use the equipment.

These students have been

recognised by their class teachers for displaying our school value

|               |               |                 |              |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <u>Totara</u> | <u>Kowhai</u> | <u>Ti Kouka</u> | <u>Nikau</u> |
| Seerat        | Khyla         | Reuben          | Hola         |
| Riley         | Matilda       | Zhane           | Aarnav       |
| Vennila       | Avleen        | Esther          | Taya         |
| <u>Puriri</u> | <u>Titoki</u> | <u>Rimu</u>     | <u>Kauri</u> |
| Kyra          | Anjana        | Khushpreet      | Charanjot    |
|               | Gurmehar      | Harry           | Riyan        |
|               | Naija         | Jasmahar        | Isime'eli    |



### Important Dates

#### Teacher Only Day

Friday 29 May – No School

#### Kings Birthday

Monday 1 June – No School

#### End of Term 2

Friday, 3 July

#### Term 3 Begins

Monday, 20 July



#### Kōwhai

In Kōwhai we have been busy with lots of exciting learning! We are becoming "Firewise," learning what to do if we hear a smoke alarm — get low, get out fast, and go straight to our safe meeting place. In maths, our number brains are getting stronger every day as we explore different ways to make 10. We've set ourselves a challenge to learn the buddies of 10. We have been revisiting these with games and daily practice to remember and retain! This week we also started Sport Mondays, where we are building our skills in balance, skipping, and jumping. It's been a fantastic start to Term 2 with lots of active and engaged learners!

#### Rimu

This term has been full of exciting learning experiences in Rimu Pod! We have started our swimming lessons at Manurewa Leisure Centre, and the students have been having an amazing time building confidence and water safety skills. We also enjoyed a memorable trip to the temple and maunga, where students explored local history, culture, and the importance of our environment.

In class, students have been working hard on Measurement in Maths, practising important skills and strategies. We have also been preparing for our upcoming SMART assessments through online practice sessions to build confidence with the testing format. Our Inquiry learning has focused on Trading, where students have been exploring how people exchanged goods and resources in the past and present. To top it all off, Rimu Pod was very excited to welcome back Mrs Nel!

#### Ti Kōuka

The sun has been shining and Ti Kōuka children have really enjoyed playing outside at break times. We are so lucky to have great areas at school to explore and they have been able to play with their friends and classmates in the sun everyday. Each Tuesday we have had the opportunity to develop our ball skills within the Street Racket programme. Learning to balance balls and use a racket to hit balls to a partner has, for some, been a new experience. ANZAC Day is an important day to remember others who came before us and the children have appreciated learning what being an ANZAC encompassed.

#### Nikau

We have had a busy few weeks in Nikau and we are thriving! Nikau teachers are pleased with how most children have settled back into the learning and also their enthusiasm in trying new things - such as sports and cultural groups. Today we had our second swimming lesson at the Manurewa Leisure Pool Centre. The best part is seeing the children's confidence grow in the water, especially as the swimming instructors are in the water with them. There is also some great swimming 'form' happening as well. Earlier this week we visited the Fo Guang Shan Temple in Ormiston. This was the first time for many of the children (and teachers) and we had an amazing time there. We learned what 3G (Say Good Words, Do Good Deeds, Think Good Thoughts) and 4G (Give Joy, Give Hope, Give Confidence, Give Convenience) stood for and these concepts align perfectly with our school values. After our visit to the Temple, we went to see Matukutūreia (also known as McLaughlins Mountain) which is the Mountain that is a part of our School Pepeha. Mr Wickman gave a brief rundown of the history and who lived there, and we sang Te Manurewa and performed our School Haka whilst we were there. This term we are learning about the History of Manurewa and this was a great start to our topic learning - stay tuned for our learning about the Māori Pā.

#### Kauri

Kauri Ngahere has had a busy start to Term Two. We enjoyed getting back into our routines after the holidays and are embracing our new areas of learning. There is certainly a lot happening this term! On Tuesday, the Senior School visited the Fo Guang Shan Temple for the Festival of Culture. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Our hosts were very generous, and the temple and its grounds were beautiful. We encourage you and your whānau to visit one day. On the way home, we also visited our local maunga, Wiri Mountain. This was a special opportunity to strengthen our sense of identity and belonging, and to connect with the history of our local area. This week, some of our students also represented the school at the MPSSA Soccer Tournament. They had a fantastic day! On Wednesday, Kauri Ngahere began singing lessons, and we are looking forward to learning some fun new songs. Next week, Mrs Sowden and Mrs Casey will be taking a group of students to the Auckland Writers Festival. This is a very exciting opportunity, and we are all looking forward to it. Some of these students will also be representing our school in a Book Battle at Greenmeadows Intermediate School later in the term. We look forward to sharing more of our Term Two happenings with you in the next newsletter.