



MANAKAU SCHOOL Matters...

February 14, 2024 Term 1, Week 3

Upcoming Events

- Feb 16 *Assembly at 9.15am. (Mrs Dear Class)*
Feb 20 *BOT meeting 6.15pm in staffroom*
Feb 22 *Manakau Mix and Mingle*
Mar 11 *Junior schools Rocky Shore trip*

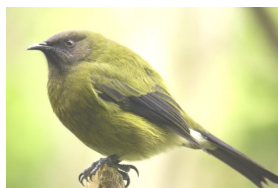
From Dēb's dēsk

Welcome to 2024. It has been really good to reconnect with those of you who have come through the school gate and to welcome your children back to school. It has been a very positive experience. I have loved hearing about your holidays and catching up with all that the children eagerly shared.

2024 Classes

A few years ago, because we were moving teachers and had a new learning space brought onsite, we removed the numbering system for our classes. Instead, we named the buildings and the children and teachers gave their class an individual name. It can sometimes be a little complicated to remember the class names however we will introduce them all to you over the next few weeks. Below I have included a blurb about the names of our buildings and their significance.

Korimako I am proud to introduce the newest addition to our school, the Korimako Building, dedicated to our youngest learners. This name has been chosen with great care, inspired by the Korimako, or New Zealand bellbird, known for its melodic songs that echo through our native forests.

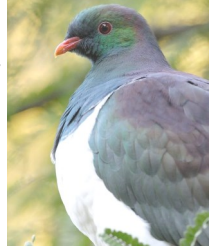


Much like the sweet melodies of the Korimako, our youngest students bring a sense of joy and vibrancy to our school community. The Korimako Building is designed to be a nurturing space where the curiosity, wonder, and unique voices of our early learners can flourish.

The choice of Korimako reflects our commitment to creating an environment where the song of learning is filled with discovery. When the site was cleared for the new building we had to remove a stand of trees, the home of the Korimako. Our aim is to ensure we replant so that they have a place to continue to sing.

As the Korimako brings life to the forest, we know the Korimako Building to be a place where the youngest voices in our school community thrive and create their own melodies of growth and exploration.

Kereru The home of our administration space, 2 classrooms and the staffroom, this building is named after the majestic Kererū, the native New Zealand wood pigeon. Symbolising the values and spirit we aspire to instill within our school community.



The Kererū, known for its graceful flight and distinctive cooing, represents a connection to our local environment and biodiversity. Just as the Kererū plays a crucial role in maintaining the health of New Zealand's forests, we believe this school building will be a hub for growth, learning, and nurturing the potential within each student. May the name Kereru inspire us to soar to new heights, embracing the spirit of curiosity, resilience, and interconnectedness.

Huia Our cherished historic building. This name pays homage to the Huia, an iconic bird in New Zealand's history. Last sighted in the Tararua ranges around 1907, interestingly the oldest part of the current building is dated this same year.



The Huia holds a special significance in our school's foundation, symbolizing our commitment to preserving and honouring our heritage. Similar to the Huia's role in Māori culture as a symbol of status and prestige, the Huia Building stands as a testament to the rich legacy that has shaped our school community. As we step into the Huia Building, we recognize the deep roots that connect us to the past. Just as the Huia played a vital role in New Zealand's natural and cultural landscape, our historic building serves as a cornerstone in shaping the character and identity of our school.

The Huia Building is a space where tradition meets innovation, and where the echoes of the past inspire the possibilities of the future.

Korimako	Kereru	Huia
Year 1-2 Mrs Newman Ms Thorpe Natasha Sanford Whaea Donna	Year 4-5 Mr Pollock Year 5-6-7 Mrs Shuker Ms Logan	Year 7-8 Mr Singer Year 2-3 Mrs Dear

School Wide Focus

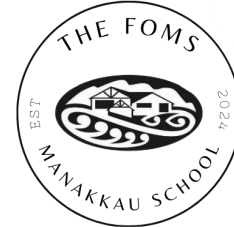
Kaitiakitanga is the overarching theme for all classes this year. We will weave this through our classroom programmes and look for opportunities to get out into our community to support.

This link will take you to more information about this concept: <https://teara.govt.nz/en/kaitiakitanga-guardianship-and-conservation>

Drop offs and pick ups

Encouraging your children to cross at the designated crossing helps to keep them safe. After school we have road patrollers on the kea crossing. Crossing at the corner intersection should only happen with parental supervision. We have a small period of time after school where the road is very busy, however, we do need your support to ensure everyone gets home safely.

We cannot put road patrollers on the crossing until they have completed their training with the police education officer. This should be completed soon.



The Friends of Manakau School- The FOMS

Our school is currently funded for 5 classroom teachers. We strongly believe smaller class sizes has a positive impact on teaching, learning and wellbeing, both for our students and teachers. For the last two years our school board has made a commitment to staff our school with 6 teachers, however, this does make a significant impact into our Ministry of Education funds. In a small school the budget is stretched and teachers are expected to do more than teach a class.

This year we launch the FOMS - Friends of Manakau School. Can you help us with gardening, fundraising events, Friday lunches, classroom support, electives, working bees. A signup sheet will be up at the Manakau Mingle.

The time commitment is small if we all give a little to support our school.

With the additional fundraising we aim to purchase resources to enhance our environment and programmes.

Mathletics and Lexia programmes

On the stationery list for Mrs Shuker, Mr P and Mr Singer you may have seen the request for a donation towards these programmes. They are available and recommended for use at home and school, and your contribution is really appreciated. I would like to reiterate this is not compulsory but your contribution definitely helps to offset the costs of these learning programmes.

Asthma Inhalers

We keep all students inhalers in our first aid room if required. They are available any time for the students to use.



School Mix and Mingle BBQ

Our new date for this is next Thursday February 22, from 5.30-7.30pm. School will provide sausages and bread, if families could please bring a savoury dish to share ie salad or vegetable dish.

It's hot

We are really lucky to have our shade provided by a number of large trees, however please dress your children appropriately for the hot NZ sun. We have a drinking fountain and a bottle refilling station. The children need to bring their clean drink bottle every day.



Mountains to Sea

This term our two senior classes will be working with facilitators from the Mountains to Sea organisation on a project called Te aki i te hunga tangata te tiaki inanga... Whitebait Connection which provides an inquiry and action based environmental education programme for schools and communities focusing on the health of our streams, rivers and wetlands.

More info. will come out to you soon, especially with requests for transport and help when we head on our field trips.

School Murals

If you've been into school this year, hopefully you've noticed the new murals. We are very proud of this collaborative project which started in our Electives programme and then went rogue. The single mural has morphed into 5 beautiful artworks that have been placed around the school. This year we will again be working with local artist, Wendy Hodder. We are very grateful for the funding which has come from the Creatives in School programme, a Ministry of Education initiative.



Wanted Please

Team Korimako are busy harvesting the Summer crops. They need some small glass jars for the jam:)
These can be left at the office or dropped off at Korimako.

Absences

If your child/ren are absent from school, it would be a great help if you could advise the school office, via the SkoolLoop App (this is a free app you can download), or you can email the office, ring in or text the school cell phone 027 6270 386.

Weetbix Triathlon

This year Manakau School has been registered as a group event. If you were looking at participating this year, if you sign up under the school it is cheaper and there are other advantages ie having a professional school photo taken on the day, shout out for spot prizes etc. Parents will still be required for transport, supervision and support. This is not run by school, but is supported by parents.

Manakau Store

Thanks to Sonya at The Manakau Store. You are over and above generous and supportive of our school. Sonya often donates items to the school. At the end of last year she donated some delicious food for our Yr 8's leavers dinner etc. She also, off her own back has organised raffles to support the school. Please support this Store. They have offered to supply lunches for students from \$5. These lunches include a combination of the following: 1 sandwich with 2 fillings, 1 cookie or tub of yoghurt, 1 piece of fruit, 1 packet of crisps. Please place your order the night before. These can be picked up from 8am. You can order via email: gate28sonya@hotmail.com, by hand or ring 021 117 8878. They have delicious ice creams on offer after school or nice cabinet food, often made fresh on the day.

Holidays longer than a week during school time.

If you are planning to remove your child/ren during school time for a holiday for more than a week, please could you contact the office to complete a form for the school records. Thank you.

Students mobile phones

Our school policy is for cell phones is to be handed in to the office in the morning and picked up from the office again at the end of the day. Phones are not to be used during school time, without staff consent.

Seesaw App

All families are given access to Seesaw for your child/ren for teachers to share what students are learning in class and any up and coming events for that class. If you have not received a login code, please let your child's teacher know.

Reading Grandies

Every year we have a small group of community members who support the classroom reading programme. This contribution is priceless!! If you are interested in being part of this team, please let Deb Logan know. The Grandies reading programme will be up and running in Week 3

Newsletter

We produce a newsletter every fortnight. We always send a hard copy home with the eldest child in the family. If you would like a digital copy sent to you, we are happy to do this also. Please just let the office know.



Raffle

We have had some Easter Treats kindly donated for 3 raffles for fundraising for the school. Tickets are \$2 each. These can be purchased at the office or if you would like to take a book to sell tickets, please speak with office Deb. Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 27th March.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Bridge Lessons. Looking for some serious fun in 2024? Why not try bridge, the card game that is enjoyed by all ages across the world? It could be the best game you'll ever play. Otaki Bridge Club begins its 2024 lessons on 6 March. Over 12 evenings, tutors Sheridyn Evans and Claudia Duncan will introduce beginners and returning players to the strategy, logic and fun of bridge. The lessons cost \$65, which includes booklet, club membership for the rest of 2024 and table fees for your first three playing sessions at the club.

Up for the challenge? Contact club secretary

Claudia Duncan (021 885 514). Or see our website: OtakibrIDGE@outlook.com

El Rancho Camp.

We turn 60 this year! Open Day. Our annual open day is on Saturday April 27 and we've got something special planned to coincide with it for 2024. From Thurs 25-Sun 28 April, KIDS STAY FREE when families book a motel unit or campsite! Keep an eye on our website for details. [Www.elrancho.co.nz](http://www.elrancho.co.nz)

Otaki Beach Padder Tennis Tournament

KOHA EVENT

WIN PRIZES

ALL ages and abilities welcome

Saturday February 10
singles
Registration Times
10am - 12noon
Playing times start at 12.30pm

Sunday February 11
doubles
Registration Times
10am - 12noon
Playing times start at 12.30pm

Followed at 4pm each day with
prizegiving

For more information :
www.paddertennis.nz

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Next door to the **OTAKI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

Supported by

Playcentre
Otaki Playcentre

Seven Decades Strong!

Ōtaki Playcentre will celebrate 70 years in 2024.

We're looking for past families, and their stories, who connect to our whānau.

If you're keen to join the celebration, or have a story to share, then please contact
Sue Barrett: susan@kapitiisland.com
or, pass this notice on to others you think may be interested.
(An invitation to attend will follow.)

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