



# MANAKAU SCHOOL Matters...

October 23, 2024 Term 4, Week 2

## Upcoming Events

Oct 25	Teacher only day
Oct 28	Labour day public holiday
Oct 30	BOT meeting 6.25 in staffroom
Nov 1	Gumboot Day - fundraising
Nov 6	Yr 5/6 Kapiti Athletics
Nov 8	Korimako trip - Wildbase
Nov 13	Yr 7/8 Kapiti Athletics
Nov 15	Ag Day (calf and lamb day) TBC
Nov 22	Korimako Resthome visit
Dec 2-4	Senior School camp - Makahika Outdoor Pursuits Centre
Dec 7	Levin Christmas Parade
Nov 10	Yr 5/6 Levin Athletics
Nov 11	Yr 7/8 Levin Athletics Final BOT meeting
Dec 13	Final Assembly
Dec 18	Last Day of term

### From Deb's Desk

Have you seen the new mural? It was poignant when the team started to put it up on the new wall. I took a moment to reflect on last term. It was hard. Sickness was a bit of a theme for students and teachers alike. I succumbed in Week 10, however, we achieved much, inside and outside the classroom.

We celebrated our musical talents. We now have our beautiful mural on the fence and the wall. One of the last to be completed under the Creatives in Schools funding. A fantastic new swing and a (just about completed) renovation. A classroom meeting current Ministry of Education guidelines, learning support coordinators space, refurbished storage space, new butynol roof on Kereru and a clean, fancy staffroom. It was quite a term.

These changes are a reflection of our team, many FOM's have supported these initiatives and we are very grateful. Of note, funding applications submitted on our behalf by Lisa Dale-Low contributed \$14000 towards the swings (Aotea Gaming Trust and the Pelorus Trust), many thanks also to those of you who supported our children by sponsoring our Colour Fun Run in Term 1.

When reflecting on these improvements it has also been really valuable to consider the suggestions you have given in the 'Quick Clock In' survey. Exciting times are certainly ahead for our learners and their families.

So thank you TEAM (Together Each Achieves More).

Deb Logan  
Principal

### Changes to staffing in 2025

Chris Thorpe, has been a part of Manakau School for 7 years. She has been a vital part of developing Team Korimako and along with Rachael has given our children a rich learning experience that traverses the curriculum. She leaves some big boots to fill, however, retirement beckons and there is a very cute grandbaby who will be very lucky to spend more time with her.

Lauren Shuker, will be moving to Christchurch at the end of this year with her family. Lauren joined the team as Learning Support Coordinator some years ago, and then took up the opportunity to be a part of the teaching team this year.

We wish both these awesome teachers the very best that life has to share. More information will be coming to you as we finalise new appointments and classes for 2025.

### Starting a conversation

I've been thinking...as we approach the end of the school year, I thought I'd share some thinking. Some of this comes from things I have worked through with you this year, and some of it comes from my own family.

This week, I want to focus on a theme that many of you have shared: the increasing fixation some of our children have on their devices—whether it's their chromebooks, ipads or phones. As we approach the end of the school year, I've been reflecting on how this focus can sometimes lead to challenges in behaviour, particularly when they resist turning off their devices.

As parents, we play a vital role in shaping our children's environment and attitudes toward technology. Our behaviour's set the cultural tone for our families. When we model balanced screen time and prioritise real-world interactions, we teach our children the value of engaging with their surroundings.

It's essential to recognise our responsibility in guiding our children through their technology use. This includes setting clear boundaries and, at times, saying "no," even when it's met with resistance. I understand how challenging it can be to enforce these limits when children push back. However, by standing firm and demonstrating the importance of unplugging, we can help them cultivate healthier habits and social skills.

I'd like to share an example from my sister, Kerri, who has successfully navigated this with her children, now 16 and 18. From an early age, she established time limits for technology use, creating specific times when devices are turned off, and "put on the shelf" This early expectation has helped her children develop a balanced approach to tech.

On our planning day, the teaching team and I will also reflect on our use of devices in the classroom. While there's no doubt that access to technology enhances our programs, we recognize the importance of creating balance in our teaching and learning environments.

Remember, you've got this! Children are incredibly adaptable and will test boundaries because that's part of their development. It's their way of checking if we mean what we say—if our "no" really means "no."

Deb L

#### Up and coming fundraiser

All students in the school are currently creating beautiful artwork that will be for sale either as calendars, cards, diaries, mouse mats or sketch pads next term. This fundraising will go towards camp costs for our senior students this year. More details will be available early next term. Some samples of the artwork are in the office, on the walls.

#### Old Gumboots Wanted

Any size or colour—needed for Term 4's garden art/ Ag Day display...we are aiming for approximately 100.

#### Agricultural Day - November 15th

It's Agricultural Club time again;

Birth dates for calves are 1st July to 31st August.

Birth dates for lambs and kids are 15th July onwards



If you are interested in having a calf or lamb and you haven't had a go before, OR need some advice...please make contact as we have some 'experts' keen to help and guide. Please let the school office know if you are bringing a calf, lamb or kid to Ag Day asap.



#### Flower and Vegetable Gardens

It's time to start planting

Choose a plot in your backyard, a section of an established garden, or creative containers...you could even put in a whanau entry.

#### We have a few guidelines to help with the set up

Year 1-4 minimum size 1 square metre

Year 5-8 minimum size 2 square metres

Plants may be grown from seeds or seedlings and should be a minimum of 4 varieties

Children need to keep a growers diary, and can include planting dates, a plan of the garden, updates on progress, notes of extraordinary events like excessive rain or pest damage. Photos and videos can also be used to show the progress of the garden.

Judging is based on tidiness, absence of weeds, health of plants, the growers diary, even when things have gone wrong and a discussion with the children to demonstrate their knowledge. *You can collect a copy of the requirements for gardens from the school office.*

#### School sports tops

We had several sporting events in the last month of last term, where students were provided with school tops as they represented our school. We have only had a few of these tops washed and returned. Please could these tops be returned asap as we now require these for our twilight football teams.

## **Gumboot Friday Fundraiser** **Friday 1st November**

Gumboot day fundraising goes toward a team helping people dealing with depression and mental health challenges which is described 'like walking through mud every day'. Free counselling service for any young person in New Zealand aged 25 and under. By supporting Gumboot Friday, you're making a real difference, helping us keep up with the rising demand and ensuring every young Kiwi gets the mental health support they deserve.

We have a fresh batch of Kawa Kawa balm ready for sale in the office.

**Still made at school.**

**Still a top quality balm.**

**Still \$5**

### Drink bottles

Please make sure your child/ren bring a full water bottle every day.

Attached to this newsletter is a note informing you how to log on to 'Hero', our new school computer system, replacing skoolLoop and Seesaw.

### School uniform orders

We are hoping to send our orders in shortly for any uniform items you would like to order for your child/ren. Please contact the office if you would like a copy of the order form which has measurements and prices



**You never really realise how long a minute is until you're exercising.**



**Planning for 2025, Huia OG was asked to give their opinion...**

Mathletics, Lexia we do it everyday, Whaea Deb was thinking should we take them away. Does mathletics and lexia really help, Or one by one will our brains melt. Well Lexia helps with grammar, comprehension and word study, sometimes if your stuck though it's fine to have a buddy. Mathletics has assigned tasks that we can do, but sometimes I don't want to do it and I just go boo. But what if we didn't use technology as much? That wouldn't be a bad idea as such, So are we better without these things, Or should we 'Cherish' the knowledge it brings?  
...Author: Cherish

...I think we need to do more writing on paper because our handwriting is probably not as good as it was before when we were in the little kids class. Some jobs include writing on paper.

I also think we should go back in time to the 1980s-1990s and do math then. My Dad always says that when he was little he used to sit on the mat and chant timetables...Connor

...Another reason why we need to do more handwriting...when we're older like in college, we need to be better at spelling. We need to be able to spell well so people understand what we wrote down. Farming for instance, farmers write a lot, they don't just rely on devices to help them with everything. So if you want to be a farmer you will have to know how to write and spell well. People need to learn how to do things by doing, not rely on devices to help them do things... Zeb

### **REMINDER:**

**TEACHERS ONLY DAY IS THIS FRIDAY. SCHOOL IS CLOSED.**

**MONDAY IS LABOUR DAY. SCHOOL IS CLOSED.**

**TAKE CARE AND ENJOY THE LONG WEEKEND.**

***SEE YOU ALL BACK AT SCHOOL ON TUESDAY***