



Adventure School

# Adventure School Newsletter

No 7 – 15 May 2025

**WHĀIA TE ARA TIKA**  
Seek your own path

**THE ADVENTURE WAY**

*Our children will discover who they can be...*

Curious  
Creative  
Collaborative  
Self-directed  
Self-aware

## IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 16 May	<b>PINK SHIRT DAY</b> 2pm: <b>Assembly</b> (Rms 3 & 27) 4.00-5.30: <b>PTNi Colour Run</b> (The run will start at 4.30)
Tuesday 20 May	7pm: <b>PTNi Meeting</b> (staffroom)
Wednesday 21 May	<b>Tough Guy 'n Gal</b>
Thursday 22 May	6.30-7.30: <b>Whānau Māori Hui</b>
Friday 23 May	10.30: <b>School Cross Country</b>
Sunday 25 May	<b>PTNi Working Bee (10-12)</b>  (School Gardens)
Tuesday 27 May	<b>Cross Country Postponement</b>
Wednesday 28 May	9-10.30am: <b>NE Open Morning</b> <b>Rangatahi Rōpū Ākonga Hui</b>
Friday 30 May	<b>Strike Percussion Performance</b>

## Featuring

- New Ministry of Ed. Parent Portal
- In The Spotlight
- Spotlight on Kōwhai Syndicate
- NZ Sign Language Week - "Signed, Sealed, Celebrated!"
- Upcoming Events
- Reminder: Parking Survey
- Whānau Māori Hui
- From our Board of Trustees



*Kia ora, Namaste, Talofa, Guten Tag, Gidday, Vannakkam, ni Hao, Bula, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Mālo ni, Hola, Goeie Dag, Bonjour, Καλημέρα, Sat Shri Akal, Shalom, привет, Assalaam alaikum, Hello!*

## Welcome to our new students-

**KŌWHAI:** Kaley Grant, Lily Cooze, Oscar Li, Achyuta Karepalli & Dean Jansen



Kia ora e te whānau

Over the past two weeks, there has been a steady stream of updates and announcements from the Ministry of Education. One significant initiative is the launch of a new Parent Portal, designed to give families access to information about their child's learning related to the new Curriculum Refresh.

The new webspace is designed to make it easier for parents, caregivers, and whānau to access clear and up-to-date information on the school curriculum, assessment practices, and ways they can support their child's learning.

Here is the link for those who would like to take a look-

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal>

## Thank you

A huge thank you to the Alexander family for supporting these industrious students to launch their chess club! Sloan, Keira, Calum and Leo love playing chess and are keen to share their interests with other Adventurers. They have started a Chess Club which meets twice a week and is open to all students in Years 3-8. This amazing and generous gift of 10 chess sets means that even more kids can enjoy developing their problem-solving and critical thinking skills through chess!



## In the Spotlight

### Hannah McMaster & Quinn Spalding

Hannah and Quinn were invited to take part in a promotion for Women's Football Month. They were involved in an exciting shoot at Sky Stadium, as well as an interview for Stuff News.



**Well done - We are so proud of you!**

We would love to celebrate and acknowledge special or personal achievements, so please do share these with us. (Email [principal@adventure.school.nz](mailto:principal@adventure.school.nz) )

*Ngā mihi nui*

Tania Cox

Principal – Tumuaki





# KŌWHAI



## A CLOSE LOOK AT WRITING IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

### The First Year at School

When children start school, they use blackboards and chalk to further develop the fine motor skills needed for pencil control (their next step).

As children build their letter to sound knowledge, we practice forming these letters using our Casey Caterpillar program. Fluent, legible handwriting is a priority because it supports children's ability to express their ideas clearly and confidently.



Whole class Handwriting Practice

Once children have mastered formation and letter to sound recognition for at least the first 8 letters we teach (s, m, f, a, t, p, c, l), they progress to writing in books during small group learning sessions. They write short dictated sentences using the sounds they know, and practice the use of capital letters, finger spaces and punctuation.



Small group Casey Caterpillar formation



Small group dictated sentence writing 1.



Guided writing

As children's knowledge of sounds extends to the full alphabet (a to z) and children can form these letters, they progress to guided writing with a teacher constantly present. During these sessions, children write personally crafted sentences. Once they build their confidence, they then progress to independent writing; they write on their own, with the teacher nearby but not constantly by their side.





# KŌWHAI



## A CLOSE LOOK AT WRITING IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL



### The Second Year at School

In the second year of school, children increase their knowledge of spelling patterns (e.g. /or/, /ow/, /oi/) and work towards consistent use of correct letter formation in their writing. They learn to write compound sentences and they increase the use of adjectives and adverbs in their writing. Their writing choices begin to become more thoughtful e.g. purposeful selection of adjectives and adverbs. They also begin to build their knowledge of different text types and to consciously edit their writing.



Independent Writing



Teacher supporting child during independent writing time

\*Please note that these expectations are based on a child's typical progress, but many things can have an impact on the rate of progress i.e. neurodiversity, irregular attendance, preschool skills (fine motor, gross motor, auditory awareness, vocabulary and oral language skills). We have recently started offering a learning pack to support foundational learning skills. Please contact the school office if you are interested in purchasing this pack.



# "Signed, Sealed, Celebrated!"



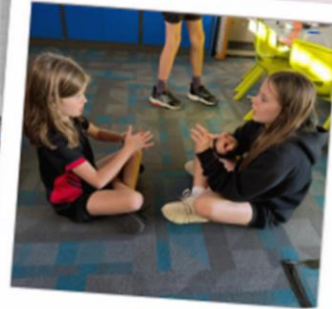
## NZSL Week 2025



"I love you"



Rm 20 & Rm 4



Rm 4 & Rm 1



"dog"



Rm 4 & Rm 26



I like New Zealand Sign Language Week because I like signing. My favourite sign is dog.

Ezra Myers





NZSL week is from the 5th of May to the 11th of May. We celebrated by going to teach other classes like Room 1, Room 26 and Room 20. We taught Room 1 the alphabet, how to sign their names and the names of the planets. We taught Room 26 how to ask "What is your animal?". We also taught them how to ask "How are you?" and reply "I'm feeling..." and we taught them some feelings to answer with. We taught Room 20 how to sign "What is your favourite animal?" and different animals to answer with.

My favourite thing about New Zealand Sign language or NZSL is Room 4 doesn't talk and is supposed to be silent.

I think people should learn NZSL because they can talk to deaf people and have conversations with deaf people and teach other people. My favourite sign is brother because it's a family member. I do want to learn something special in NZSL. I want to learn about the months.

Sam Allcock

This week is sign language week. I like sign language week because it is fun and because it is really quiet. My favourite thing was teaching other classes sign language. We taught them feelings and "how are you?". I liked it a lot!

Luke Bailey

I like New Zealand Sign Language Week because I can talk to deaf people. It's fun to learn New Zealand Sign Language. People should learn NZSL and they can have a silent conversation.

We celebrated by going to different classes or they came to us and we taught them signs.

My favourite thing about NZSL is that you can talk from far away with sign language. My favourite sign is heart.

Marley Mareikura

NZSL Week is when some people and even teachers come or teach people how to do sign language. They can have a silent conversation, ask "how are you?" or even ask "what are your favourite things?". In sign language you would always put the question word at the end of the sentence. We have taught some classes sign language like space, the alphabet, feelings and animals, I think they liked it! We also have taught our buddy class NZSL to celebrate! My favourite thing about NZSL is that we can learn a new language and have a bit of fun with people, family and friends. We should learn NZSL so deaf people can understand us talking to them but you have to mouth it so they see what your mouthing because some signs can be the same.

My favourite sign is my name because I like the signs for it and I want to learn how to sign family because my family is special to me.

Amber Cassidy



## Coming Up...

### 🌸 PINK SHIRT DAY Friday 16 May 🌸



Show your support for Pink Shirt Day - wear **PINK** and help turn our school into a sea of kindness!

**Gold coin** donations will be collected for the Mental Health Foundation.

Pink Shirt Day is a national bullying prevention campaign led by the Mental Health Foundation.

It began in Canada in 2007, when two students stood up for a classmate who was bullied for wearing pink.

Today, people around the world wear pink to stand against bullying and to promote kindness, inclusion, and respect.

**HOUSE POINTS**  
for every participant!



**Whole School Assemblies**

**WHEN:** 2pm - Friday 16 May

**Featuring Buddy Classes:** Rms 3 & 27

**You are very welcome to join us!**

**Briefing at 4pm with the  
run starting at 4:30pm.**

NEW DATE • NEW DATE • NEW DATE • NI

# COLOUR RUN<sup>2025</sup>

FRIDAY 16 MAY • 4:30PM

Generously sponsored by:

 **Speedy Signs**  
grow your business faster

 **PLIMMERTON AUTO SERVICES**

 **Harcourts Team Group**  
Blue Thompson  
021 041 4179

 **Kapiti Chocolate**  
EST. 2011

 **HELL**

 **HANGDOC INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING CENTRE**

# WHĀNAU MĀORI HUI



**Nau mai, haere mai**

**You are invited to Adventure Kura's  
Whānau Māori Hui**

**Thursday 22 May**

**6.30 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Adventure School Staffroom**

*Tamariki welcome!*

The hui is a great opportunity for you to meet and network with others.  
During the evening there will be opportunities to

- Hear about our commitment and initiatives in relation to te ao Māori
- Share your ideas around developing greater awareness of tikanga across our kura.
- Share your aspirations for your tamariki to help us continue to shape a culturally responsive and inclusive learning environment.

Drinks & nibbles will be provided.

For more information, feel free to contact Tania Cox ([principal@adventure.school.nz](mailto:principal@adventure.school.nz))

**Please return RSVP slip to the office by Tuesday 20 May**

**RSVP**

**Whānau Māori Hui - Thursday 22 May**

Name: .....

Email: .....

I/ we will be attending

Number attending: .....

I/ we will not be attending



**School Cross-Country**

**Friday 23 May**

**Starting at 10.30am**

This will be held on and around the school grounds, as well as around the lakes for older children.

You are welcome to come along to support your children.



## PTNi Page

We'd love you to come lend a hand at our working bee on-

**Sunday 25 May: 10 - 12**

**What We'll be Doing:** Weeding and general tidying of the school's gardens

- **BYO** gardening tools and wheelbarrow if you have them

Drinks and refreshments will be provided.



Please come along to our

# WORKING BEE

**Sunday 25 May: 10 -12**

**BYO gardening tools**



## Reminder

### **IMPORTANT: NEW PARKING SIGNS – FEEDBACK SURVEY CLOSING SUNDAY**

You will have noticed our brand-new parking safety signs as you have dropped your children off at school last term. The goal of this parking trial was to remind everyone about making good parking choices, and to increase the safety of our children.

Porirua City Council, who led and funded this initiative, has asked us to provide some feedback to assess how effectively the yellow 'THINK' School Parking Signs influence parking behaviour near our school, particularly during drop off and pick up times.

Please click on the link [here](#), or click on the QR code, to participate in our quick, anonymous survey which closes at 5:30 pm Sunday 18 May 2025



## From our Board of Trustees

Kia ora from the Board of Trustees

We're often asked: What does the school board actually do? In short, we're responsible for the overall performance of the school and ensuring it meets all legal and policy requirements.

Our key role is setting the school's long-term direction and strategic goals. We work closely with the community to shape these plans, and we'll be seeking your input again later this year as we develop the next strategic plan.

We also monitor progress toward the school's strategic goals and are responsible for governance in key areas such as student achievement, property, finances, and policies.

What we don't do is manage the day-to-day operations — that's in the capable hands of Principal, Tania Cox and Deputy Principals, Diane Pepperell and Erica Leggett. If you have concerns, please direct them to the school first.

Fundraising and social events? That's the fantastic PTNi team's domain.

Last term, we reviewed student achievement data, updated policies, made some property decisions, and signed off the school's annual implementation plan.

Looking ahead, our next board elections are in September — with three community positions and one staff rep available. Terms are for three years, but at Adventure, we stagger elections every 18 months to keep experience and continuity on the board.

Thanks for your ongoing support!

### Adventure School Board of Trustees



**Chris Eastham**  
*Presiding Member (Chair)*



**Tania Cox**  
*Principal*



**Ainsley Thomson**  
*Board Member*



**Andrew Myers**  
*Board Member*



**Karyn Andreassend**  
*Board Member*



**Lynaire Parish**  
*Board Member*



**Pasanka Wickremasinghe**  
*Board Member*



**Cathy Murray**  
*Staff Representative*





## Event Calendar - Important Dates

*Please be aware some details may change.*



TERM TWO		
Week 3	Friday 16 May	<b>PINK Shirt Day</b> 2pm: Assembly – Rooms 3 & 27 4-5.30pm: Colour Run
Week 4	Tuesday 20 May	7pm: PTNi Meeting (Staffroom) All welcome!
	Wednesday 21 May	Tough Guy n' Gal Challenge
	Thursday 22 May	6.30-7.30pm: Whānau Māori Hui
	Friday 23 May	1030am School Cross Country (pp 27 May) PTNI Pie fundraiser orders close
	Sunday 25 May	10am-12pm: PTNi Working Bee
Week 5	Wednesday 28 May	9am: New Entrant Open Morning Rangatahi Rōpū Ākonga Hui
	Friday 30 May	2pm: Strike Percussion Performance
Week 6	Monday 2 June	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: King's Birthday</b>
	Tuesday 3 June	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Teacher Curriculum Day</b> Parumoana Cross Country (pp 5 June)
	Thursday 5 June	PTNi pies delivered & to be collected
	Friday 6 June	Rimu Bake Sale
Week 7	Monday 9 June	5.30: BoT Meeting (Staffroom) All welcome!
	Wednesday 11 June	9am: New Entrant Open Morning
	Friday 13 June	2pm: Assembly – Rooms 21 & 15 5-7pm: Matariki Disco
	Friday 13-Sunday 15 June	40 Hour Challenge
Week 8	Wednesday 18 June	Kōwhai Year 2 Puppet Show
	Friday 20 June	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED: Matariki Public Holiday</b>
Week 9	Monday 23 June	Matariki Breakfast (tbc)
	Friday 27 June	2pm: Assembly Last day of Term 2

## 2025 Term Dates

<b>Term One:</b>	Tuesday 4 February – Friday 11 April <b>School Closed:</b> Monday 10 March – Maths Curriculum Day
<b>Term Two:</b>	Monday 28 April – Friday 27 June <b>School Closed:</b> Tuesday 3 June – Maths Curriculum Day
<b>Term Three:</b>	Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September
<b>Term Four:</b>	Monday 6 October – Wednesday 17 December

### **School will be closed for the following Public Holidays-**

**Waitangi Day** – Thursday 6 February  
**Easter** – Friday 18 April – Tuesday 22 April (during holidays)  
**Anzac Day** – Friday 25 April (during holidays)  
**King's Birthday** – Monday 2 June  
**Matariki** – Friday 20 June  
**Labour Day** – Monday 27 October

## **Community Notices**

### **ARTY FARTY KIDS**

I will be running two art sessions every Saturday during Term 2 in Whitby, I know a lot of you have been awaiting my return. These sessions will look like this -

#### **'Autumn Magic'**

10.00am - 11.15am Juniors - 5 - 10 years old

#### **'Decorative Birds'**

11.30am - 1.00pm Seniors - 10 - 14 year olds

#### **Sessions will start on Saturday 17th May**

The payment for the term is \$180.00 and this includes all resources and materials that we will use.

Please contact me at - [office.artyfartykids@gmail.com](mailto:office.artyfartykids@gmail.com) for further information.

Sara Rich

TedX speaker  
**Jo Robertson**  
presents  
**Parenting in the Digital Era**

Wellington  
**ONE NIGHT ONLY**

QR code

### **Practical solutions to protect kids from online harm | For parents of kids 4-13+**

Join us for an essential session on creating a safe online experience for your child. Led by Jo Robertson, you'll explore the online world that kids navigate today, identifying potential risks and strategies for addressing them.

The workshop will cover harmful content, exploitation, popular apps and filters. Evidence based and expert led, you'll leave with strategies on how to prevent and respond to harm, to keep your child safe.

Jo Robertson is a therapist holding a Master of Science in Medicine, specializing in the effects of online sexual content. Jo has years of experience delivering sexual health education to professionals, parents, caregivers, and young people. Jo has presented a TEDx talk, and continues to speak globally on topics related to youth, sexual culture, and media influences.

**Thursday 22 May**

Meow Nui, Vivian St, 7.30pm

Limited tickets – Book now  
**Book Now at [MeowNui.com](https://www.MeowNui.com)**

**THE TRICKY CHATS™**  
PARENTING COURSE