



Letter From the Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

This week we welcome Ruby to our kura. Ruby, we are so happy to have you here and you are fitting in so well already!

This week, I want to take a moment in this newsletter to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible teachers.

Across the country, teachers are navigating a wave of rapid changes and new government mandates. Understandably, this can feel overwhelming, confusing, and stressful. Right now, we're adapting to two new curriculums that have been brought forward by a year, along with a complete overhaul of how we teach Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Our assessment and reporting processes have also changed. On top of all that, our team has been managing the challenges of working with an interim Principal while keeping the school running smoothly during the recruitment process.

Change is never easy—especially when it comes quickly and without much choice. Yet our teachers have embraced it with grace and professionalism. Their willingness to rethink classroom programs and transform their teaching practices is truly inspiring. They're doing it because they believe in what's best for your children.

We are incredibly fortunate to have forward-thinking, proactive teachers who are focusing on the positives these changes can bring and exploring how they can benefit our students and their futures.

So here's to you—our amazing teachers!

On that note, please remember that Monday, June 9th is a teacher-only day. Our staff will be joining colleagues from other local schools for professional development to support the implementation of the new Maths curriculum. In addition, Hayley and Kate will be dedicating three days next week to attend a course in Auckland focused on teaching Reading and Writing.

How lucky are we to have such passionate and dedicated educators?

Nga mihi nui,
Hannah

SCHOOL CONTACTS

School Phone	
Website	
Hannah O'Brien	Principal
Gabbie Bregmen	Office
Donna Palmer	Room 2
Jodie Redpath	Room 3
Hayley Smith	Room 1 & DP
Ann Reeves	CRT Release
Kate Dermer	Room 3 & GTT

07 825 4777
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Important Dates

Friday 30th May 2025

Senior Cluster Schools
Winter Sports - Te Akau
Complex

Monday 2nd June 2025

CLOSED - Kings Birthday

Monday 9th June 2025

CLOSED - Teacher Only Day
- Math's Professional
Development

Friday 13th June 2025

Matariki rehearsal at
Pukerewa Marae

Friday 20th June 2025

CLOSED - Matariki

Wednesday 25th June 2025

Jumping June event

Friday 27th June 2025

Matariki Performance at
Pukerewa Marae in
collaboration with
Waikaretu School

Sunday 29th June 2025

PTA Hunting Competition
weigh in - Te Akau Complex

Monday 14th July 2025

Term 3 Starts

YEAR 7-8 TECH DATES

June 5th

June 19th no Tech due to
Ngaruawahia Teacher Only
Day

Exciting News – Welcome to Our New Principal, Hannah O'Brien!

After a thorough and thoughtful recruitment process, we are thrilled to officially announce the appointment of Te Akau School's new principal, **Hannah O'Brien**.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the process—those who met with Richard, shared your thoughts, and contributed your values around what makes a great leader for our school. A special thank you to our tamariki, whose wish lists helped shape this important decision. We believe Richard and the Board of Trustees have made a wonderful choice in appointing Hannah.

On Friday, we celebrated Hannah's appointment with a traditional Māori blessing ceremony, led by the respected Kaumātua Russell Riki. It was a meaningful way to welcome Hannah and acknowledge the significance of this new beginning.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to all who have shared their warm wishes and support. We look forward to this exciting new chapter for our kura!

"He mihi maioha kia koe, Hannah, i tō tuhinga hei kaiārahi mō tō tātou kura."
(A heartfelt greeting to you, Hannah, in your role as leader of our school.)



DAILY SCHOOL BELLS

9am	School Starts
11am	Morning Tea
11.30am	Session Two
12.50pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Session Three
3.00pm	Home Time



HOT LUNCHES

Mondays and Fridays, students can bring hot lunches wrapped in tin foil and clearly labeled to heat up in the oven.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Our 2025 Spelling Bee Champions! 

A huge congratulations to our 2025 Spelling Bee winners! Our students have been working incredibly hard over the past two weeks, and their preparation truly paid off today.

It was a fierce competition – in several rounds, we had to go beyond the pre-prepared tests to find a winner! The level of skill and determination was outstanding.

Ka pai, team! You should all be super proud of your efforts, focus, and sportsmanship. Well done!



Junior School Winners

Sasha Orlando-Reep
Delilah Andrews-Wright

Middle School Winners

Sadie MacDonald
Paige van den Bemd

Senior School

Jayden Smith
Katara Williamson



Bus Sponsors

Te Akau School is incredibly grateful to our sponsors for their support in helping us achieve our goal of maintaining our school-owned bus.

Your contributions have made a significant impact, ensuring our students have safe and reliable transportation getting to and from school and also to various educational activities outside our school.

Thanks to you, our school community is stronger, and our students have more opportunities to thrive. Thank you for believing in our vision and for being an essential part of our journey!



Can you help Room 1?

Rainy Day Toy Donations for Room 1

Thank you for all the donations to date, the new dolls have been a hit with both Room 1 and Room 3 tamariki! We welcome further donations to encourage imaginative, social and constructive play, especially as we experience more rainy days!

We have plenty of construction and vehicle toys, and our dolls are now well stocked but we would love to grow our **pretend shop and puzzle/ board game collection**.

If you have older children who are ready to part with any of the following items, your contribution would be warmly appreciated:

- Pretend shop/play store items
- Board games/ puzzles

Thank you for all the donations to date, the new dolls If you're able to donate, please email hayley@teakau.school.nz Ngā mihi nui for your support!



HOUSE POINTS

Kauri
373

Tofara
288

Rimu
236

Community Notices

TOP TEAMS 2025

Teams of 4
\$15 per person (dinner included)
Table tennis, Darts, Indoor Bowls, Mini Putt & Badminton
Contact Dani on dmbemd@gmail.com or 027 420 6902 to enter
Max teams 14- first in first served
Friday 4th July 6pm
Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex

DON'T FORGET TO DRESS UP

HERO STUDENT MANAGEMENT APP

Download the Hero Student Management App today!
Available on Apple, Android and Desktop.



MARQUEE FOR HIRE



Te Akau School Marquee for Hire 100% of hire costs goes straight into our School.

9m x 12m - \$250

Bookings through
Te Akau School
Ph 8254777

office@teakau.school.nz

Jumping June – Wednesday 25th June

Get ready for Jumping June, happening on Wednesday 25th June! Our students have been practicing their skipping skills and are excited to show what they can do – and you’re warmly invited to come along and support them.

This fun event isn’t just about skipping – it’s also about raising money and awareness for the Heart Foundation, supporting heart health in our communities. We look forward to seeing you there and appreciate your support for this great cause!



Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day was a great success! We kicked off the day with an assembly to share the meaning behind Pink Shirt Day – Pink Shirt Day is recognized in schools to promote kindness, inclusion, and stand against bullying.

It began in Canada when students rallied to support a peer who was bullied for wearing pink. By wearing pink shirts and organizing activities, schools send a powerful message that bullying is not tolerated and that everyone deserves respect and safety. It’s a day to celebrate diversity, encourage empathy, and build a stronger, more supportive school community.

Our students then spread kindness by handing out compliment cards throughout the day to their peers and teachers. **Thanks to everyone's support and generosity, we raised \$45 to the cause.**



A huge congratulations to our amazing PTA team!
In just 10 days, all 220 tickets have been sold!

To help bring this incredible event to life, we need all hands on deck. If you're able to lend a hand and haven't yet volunteered, please get in touch with Sarah Glenn at pta@teakau.school.nz

Thank you for the incredible support – we can't wait to see you there!

WE'RE BACK!
HUNTING COMP 2025!
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!
27 - 29 JUNE
SUNDAY WEIGH IN



The Hunt for Sponsors

We're also on the hunt for sponsors, it takes a fair bit to run this event – from filling goodie bags to covering prizes and trophies – we're currently on the hunt for sponsors to help make it all happen.

Whether it's cash support, product donations, or spot prizes, every bit helps!

If you or someone you know owns a business or is keen to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Just get in touch with Sarah at pta@teakau.school.nz / 027 427 9235

Let's lock and load - 2025 will be a banger!

Kia ora Te Ākau whānau,

As you will be aware, we have completed our recruitment process and appointed Hannah O’Brien as our new Tumuaki/ Principal. This process was supported by Richard Clark, an independent consultant who guided each phase and shared wisdom only a veteran Principal could gain. We wholeheartedly appreciate the input our tamariki, whānau and community had into this process and are very pleased not only with the appointment but also the direction that Hannah will lead us and the stability and assurance that finally having a permanently appointed Principal provides. Nau mai Hannah and whānau, we are priviledged to have you.

We have another training workshop with Richard Clarke on **11 June at 4pm at school**. This workshop focuses on strategic planning and implementation. Everyone is welcome, we especially encourage potential candidates as the Board Elections will be held in September.

As always, we’re available should you have any queries about any governance matters - our contact details are below. Our next meeting will be 16 June where anyone is welcome to sit in.

Finally, a reminder that our policies and procedures are available for viewing and review at your leisure. We have a policy review schedule detailing which policies are due for review and when, we welcome your feedback via the SchoolDocs website as we’re always seeking to improve. Login details are below.

Kia pai tō rā, have a good day!

The BOT Team

Board Of Trustees Contact Details

Jamie Andrews (Chairperson) jamie@teakau.school.nz

Tom Lilley tom@teakau.school.nz

James Glenn james@teakau.school.nz

Hayley Smith (Staff Rep) bot@teakau.school.nz

Hannah O’Brien (Acting Principal) hannah@teakau.school.nz

School Policies	Next Meeting
All of our policies are available from the office or online on our SchoolDocs page: teakau.schooldocs.co.nz LOGIN: teakau PASSWORD: lifelonglearners	16 June 2025 5.30pm Te Akau School All Welcome!

Ministry Of Education Parents Portal

The New Zealand Ministry of Education's new Parent Portal is a comprehensive online resource designed to support parents and caregivers in understanding and engaging with their children's learning journey.

This portal offers practical information and guidance on various aspects of education, from early learning through to secondary school.

Accessible via [parents.education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal), the portal provides insights into the curriculum, assessment methods, and strategies to support learning at home.

It includes resources on topics such as structured literacy, phonics, and effective parent-teacher communication.

Additionally, the portal offers information on services and support available for students with learning needs, ensuring that all children receive the assistance they require to succeed.

By centralising this information, the Parent Portal empowers families to actively participate in their children's education, fostering a collaborative approach to learning and development.

Visit:

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

Welcome to the Parent Portal

Understand your child's learning

Parent and whānau guide to the National Curriculum

Ngā kaupapa hei tūhura Explore topics



Parent Portal

Understand what your child is learning at school or kura, how they are progressing against the curriculum, and what you can do to support them at home.

Find out more →



Starting at school

Find out about what your child will need at school and how to enrol them.

Find out more →



Learning support

Find out about the resources, tools and assistance available if your child needs support with their learning.

Find out more →



Ngā kura (Tau 0-13) Schools (Year 0-13)

Your child's education from primary to secondary school. Find learning guides for Years 0 to 8 in the Parent Portal, and available support.

POPULAR LINKS

Parent Portal

School term dates and holidays

Kia Manawaroa

Attendance

Home education