



Letter From the Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

As we edge closer to the end of the term, our kura is buzzing with activity! At the end of next week, I will be travelling to Singapore alongside a delegation of 40 principals from the Waikato region. This study tour is a fantastic opportunity to look closely at Singapore's world-renowned education system, gather insights, and bring back innovative ideas to benefit our school. While I am away, the school will be in excellent hands, and I look forward to sharing my learnings with you next term.

In and around the school grounds, we have several people to thank for their hard work. A massive thank you goes to Josh and Laura MacDonald, who made and installed brand-new bag hooks in the cloak bay outside Rooms 1 & 2, meaning all our bags can be inside for the winter. Thanks also to Morgan, who put mulch on the gardens and has them looking beautifully tidy. You might have also noticed our fabulous new drinking fountain, which ensures everyone has access to clean drinking water all day long.

Looking ahead, mid-year reports will be coming home next week. Please note that there have been some changes to our reporting format this year. There is a dedicated page in this newsletter with everything you need to know about these changes, so please do take the time to read through it. The seniors Market Day is coming up in week 11. I am very impressed with their entrepreneurship and all of the great learning they have been doing around financial literacy, design, branding and technology. It will be a great day and I'm sure all the kids will enjoy spending their 'Te Akau Dollars' at the market day. Alongside this, we currently have a literacy focus on storytelling and pūrākau, and we will be putting this into place for our belated Matariki celebration early next term. Look out for more information on this further in this newsletter.

The annual Critters Comp Hunting Competition is also coming up next week. I will be in Singapore for this, but I want to extend a huge thank you to the PTA for their incredible dedication and hard work fundraising for our school. This is always a fabulous event which raises a significant amount of money. On the personnel front, we have some changes to share. Tracy, our bus driver, finishes on Friday, and we thank her for her wonderful service over the past 2 years. She will be replaced by our relief driver, Joanne Wilson, so please join me in welcoming Joanne to the team.

Tom Lilley has also stepped down from his role on the school Board. We offer our sincerest thanks for all of his time and dedication to our kura. Tom has shared a lovely parting message - "I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of our staff, who consistently go above and beyond for the students of Te Akau School. Their commitment, professionalism, and genuine care for our children are a credit to the school and wider community. I have also been continually impressed by our students".

Following Tom's departure, we welcome James Jackson to the board. James has one child at the school and is a long-standing community member. We are very grateful for you stepping up to take on this very important role James.

Thank you everyone for a wonderful term. Have a safe and happy school holiday with your tamariki.

Ngā mihi nui,
Hannah O'Brien
Principal



Important Dates

Spelling Bee
24 June 2026

**The Great Waikato Critters
Comp 2026**
26th - 28th June 2026

Market Day
Wed 1st July

End of Term 2
3 July 2026

Term 3 Starts
20 July 2026

Matariki pūrākau
5th August 2026

**Te Akau School Cross
Country**
7th August 2026

**Cluster Schools Cross
Country - Waikaretu**
14th August 2026

**CLOSED TOD - Maths
professional development**
17 August 2026

Year 7 & 8 Tech Dates

Tuesday - 21 April
Tuesday - 5 May
Tuesday - 19 May
Tuesday - 2 June
Tuesday - 16 June
Tuesday - 30 June

RESPONSIBLE
Kia mau to tikanga

RESILIENT
Kia kaha mahia te mahi

RESPECTFUL
Aroha ki te tangata

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.

Te Akau School Positive Behaviour Tokens

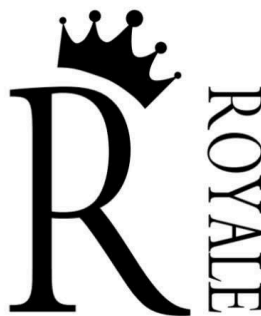
At Te Akau School, we celebrate and encourage positive behaviour through our token system. You may have noticed your children coming home with some cool little prizes from the "Token Prize Box".

Students are given tokens when they demonstrate positive behaviours that aligns with our school values of respect, responsibility and resilience. For every token earned, their house also receives one house point, helping to build healthy competition and teamwork across the school.

Each Monday morning at assembly, we draw 10 tokens from the previous week, with those students choosing a prize from our prize box. This adds an extra layer of excitement while recognising individual effort.

This system helps foster teamwork, school spirit, and a shared sense of achievement across our kura. However, keeping the prize box full and exciting enough to continue encouraging positive behaviour is no easy feat. It relies on the generosity of donations, along with fresh ideas to keep things fun and engaging.

We feel incredibly lucky to have been supported by Karen Jowsey from Royale Equestrian. Karen and Brent have recently set up shop here in Te Akau/Waingaro with their businesses Pegasus Floats and Royal Equestrian and they have generously donated lots of goodies and shared fantastic ideas for our prize box. Thank you so much for supporting our school and helping to keep our students motivated and excited. Check them out on Facebook at facebook.com/RoyalEquestrian or email sales@pegasusnz.co.nz



Te Akau School Pet Day is coming!

Mark your calendars for Friday 25th September (last day of Term 3).

With the holidays coming up, now's the time to start organising pet day animals 🐾

Key dates to remember (More so for those attending group day and A&P):

- **Calves** – Early: 1 June–26 July | Late: 27 July–20 Sept
- **Lambs & Goats** – Early: 1 July–19 Aug | Late: 20 Aug–20 Sept

We'll also have our popular dog ring 🐕 and indoor pet section 🐰 – so everyone can get involved!

We're still waiting on Group Day details, but the Waikato A&P Show 2026 is set for Friday 30th October.

Further details will be sent home in Term 3

SCHOOL CONTACTS

School Phone

Website

Hannah O'Brien	Principal
Gabbie Bregmen	Office
Donna Palmer	Room 2
Jodie Redpath	Room 2
Hayley Smith	Room 1
Ann Reeves	CRT Release

07 825 4777

www.teakau.school.nz

hannah@teakau.school.nz
office@teakau.school.nz
donna@teakau.school.nz
jodie@teakau.school.nz
hayley@teakau.school.nz
ann@teakau.school.nz

Bus Sponsors

Te Akau School is incredibly grateful to our sponsors for their ongoing support in helping us maintain our school-owned bus.

Your contributions make a real difference, ensuring our students have safe and reliable transport to and from school, as well as to valuable learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Thanks to you, our school community continues to grow stronger, and our students are given more opportunities to thrive. We truly appreciate your belief in our vision and your role in supporting our journey.

A special thank you to our long-standing sponsors who continue to stand by us year after year:

Te Akau Transport
Te Akau Racing
Hinemoa Produce
Waikorea Quarry
Peter Glidden Honda

We also warmly welcome and thank our new sponsors for 2026:

Andrew Culley
C & H Johnston
James Jackson & Mich Kooij
On Road Transport – Don
AC & MA Crawford Partnership
Matt & Becca Pitts

We are always seeking additional sponsorship to support our school bus. If you're in a position to help, we would love to hear from you—please get in touch.



In our Room 3 Literacy Class we have been reading the novel The Last Bear. We have been working on our story telling - recreating our own account of meeting the polar bear, aptly named Bear, for the first time. Our writing focussed on the senses - sight, touch, smell, taste and sound. Enjoy our amazing writing!

Lillian

I look through my binoculars and there was a polar bear tangled up in blue plastic looking at me. I thought he was going to eat me. I froze like ice. The bear's foot was as a ring and swollen. I found something sharp. I carefully walked towards the bear so I could untie the string on the bear. I see shiny blue plastic tight around his paw. His eyes are down like eyes. His teeth and the color is was beautiful.

Lillie

I see shiny glittery blue bright plastic tight around bear's wrist. His chocolate brown eyes were staring right at me into my soul. I was a little scared. I thought he was going to eat me he was amazing. I couldn't move for a second. I froze I looked at him and he looked at me. His teeth were shiny and white. They were sharp long and wide. His fur was so white the sun shone right above him.

Brodie

I see shiny blue plastic getting tighter and tighter around his wrist. I see his eyes are rich brown. I hear him roaring because he was thanking me for helping I smell his sea water fur. His breath tastes like sea salt. His fur feels like a warm and cosy blanket.

I look through my binoculars I see a menacing bear. I went to walk away so I followed it all the way. I see shiny plastic tied around his paw. His brown eyes step into my eyes. I look at his wet nose and long whiskers. His long whiskers flick and his wet black nose shimmers in the sun. His eyes shine in the sun and it makes my eyes hurt so I close them. I hear bears breathing on the back of my neck. It feels cold. Also my heart is like a water bottle. I smell the bear's salty sea water fur. His breath smells like fish, peat, water and coal biscuits. He smells of wilderness. I feel his heart beat. It feels like he is desperate for food. I can feel his ribs. I taste the salt air and ocean. I taste his breath. It tasted fishy. I also taste my one fear. Getting eaten. Sadie

Brodie

Blanket I was cutting the blue shiny plastic of well bear was eating my peanut butter oat biscuits.

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Matariki Celebration 2026

The Matariki public holiday falls during our school holidays this year but we don't want to miss out on this very special celebration. We are holding a belated celebration in the form of a pūrākau (story telling) event after the holidays. We will provide soup and bread for everyone, and the students will share some of their stories. You are most welcome to join us on the 5th of August.



Market Day – Wednesday 1 July

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

On Wednesday 1 July, we will be holding a Market Day event at lunchtime, 12:30 to 1:30pm

Our Year 7 and 8 students have been planning a business enterprise as part of their learning in financial literacy. Through this hands-on experience, students will learn about budgeting, marketing, food safety, presentation and service, and calculating profits and losses. They will be selling a food product.

All other tamariki will be given Te Akau currency to purchase items from our student vendors.

Whānau are warmly invited to join us! Bring some cash and exchange it for Te Akau Dollars to buy lunch and support our young entrepreneurs. This is a valuable learning exercise for our students. Each business has been given a budget and will need to account for expenses such as rent, printing, and interest. After the event, students will calculate whether they have made a profit or a loss.

We look forward to seeing you there and supporting our students as they put their enterprise skills into practice.

Year 7/8 parent information

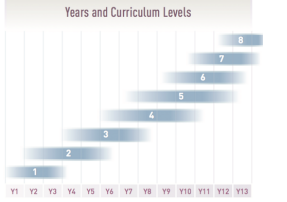
Your child may have talked to you about the Market Day they are preparing. Please note, the school will be providing all the ingredients, because each stall/business has a budget to make it fair for all students. However, we may need to source items such as blenders, electric frying pan etc. We will send a notice home about this, and other details, once the products are finalised.

You are welcome to come along and support their stalls.

Nga mihi nui,
Whaea Donna & Whaea Jodie



Over the past three year there have been some significant changes to the way we report to whanau about students' progress at school. These changes are consistent for all schools across the country. To help make sense of the upcoming mid-year reports, here is a quick guide to how we got here and what your child's 2026 report will look like. We are really hopeful that going forward there won't be too many more changes for us all to navigate!

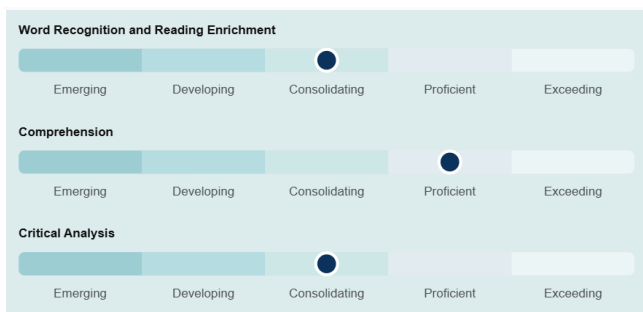
<p>2024 and Before: Students were assessed against broad, multi-year curriculum levels using the traditional five-step scale (Well Below, Below, At, Above, Well Above).</p>																			
<p>2025: Schools were instructed to shift to a new model using 4 progress descriptors</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Exceeding</td> <td>Learners are exceeding the year-level expectations.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proficient</td> <td>Learners are meeting the year-level expectations.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Progressing Towards</td> <td>Learners are progressing towards meeting year-level expectations.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Needs Support</td> <td>Learners require support to reach year-level expectations.</td> </tr> </table>	Exceeding	Learners are exceeding the year-level expectations.	Proficient	Learners are meeting the year-level expectations.	Progressing Towards	Learners are progressing towards meeting year-level expectations.	Needs Support	Learners require support to reach year-level expectations.										
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<p>2026: We are now required to report at year level against 5 new progress descriptors (Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient and Exceeding)</p>	<p>Describing progress for mid and end of year reporting using five descriptors</p> <p>The progress descriptors describe student progress across the school year. A student who has achieved proficiency is prepared for the next year of learning.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Progress descriptors</td> <td>Emerging</td> <td>Developing</td> <td>Consolidating</td> <td>Proficient</td> <td>Exceeding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid-year reporting</td> <td colspan="2">Not yet on track to meet expectations</td> <td colspan="3">On track to meet expectations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>End of year reporting</td> <td colspan="2">Has not met expectations</td> <td colspan="3">Has met expectations</td> </tr> </table>	Progress descriptors	Emerging	Developing	Consolidating	Proficient	Exceeding	Mid-year reporting	Not yet on track to meet expectations		On track to meet expectations			End of year reporting	Has not met expectations		Has met expectations		
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I feel it's really important for you to know, as parents, that *all of the goalposts have shifted*. Our teachers are now reporting against a brand new curriculum, which has higher expectations of where students should be working, using a new set of measurement tools.

It is also important to realise **there are different expectations for mid-year and end of year**. At mid-year, when only half of the years learning has occurred, it is expected that students would be at the Consolidating, Proficient or Exceeding levels. At the end of year Proficient and Exceeding ratings are needed to indicate your child is meeting expectations. The expectations are demanding and are increasingly so for each year level of the curriculum.

Below is an example of how your child's achievement will be reported to you for READING. The student in this example is on track to meet end of year expectations for word recognition/reading enrichment and critical analysis for their year group. They are already at end of year expectations for comprehension for their year level

You will also see a progress graphic for each subject area (reading, writing and mathematics and statistics) which tracks student progress over time. As this is our first time using this reporting format, this time, you will just see their current level of achievement, but in future you will be able to see their previous progress across their years at school.



Also included in the report, you will see some information about what your child has been learning and achieving in each of the 3 subject areas, what the next steps in their learning might be, a general comment from their teacher relating to their capabilities within our school's values and some ideas for how you can help at home. There will also be a breakdown of their attendance for the year to date.

Because the new 2026 curriculum sets a much higher, more specific bar for each year level, do not be alarmed if your child's descriptor looks slightly different than the "Above" or "At" marks of previous years. They haven't lost knowledge or fallen behind! Learning is an individual journey and if we have any concerns about your child's progress, we will most likely have already communicated this with you. As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to your child's teacher. We hope that you will find this new report format informative and helpful.



WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL
MONTHLY RECYCLING DROP-OFFS
FREE FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS

WHEN: 8:30am and 12:30pm on third Saturday of each month, starting on 16 August 2025 for two years.

WHERE: The location will be Te Aakau Hall carpark (next to the school).

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



Jamie Ward
 Te Akau & Raglan Livestock Buyer
 021 947 321

Long time sponsor and supporter of Te Akau School

WAINGARO COMMUNITY COMPLEX

TOP TEAMS 2026

FIGHT FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS!

BADMINTON DARTS INDOOR BOWLS MINI GOLF TABLE TENNIS

DRESS UP!
 SHOW YOUR TEAM SPIRIT!

31ST JULY 2026 | 6PM | TEAMS OF 4

\$15 PER PERSON ENTRY
 (INCLUDES DINNER)

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK | TAKE ON YA MATES | FUN - FRIENDS GOOD VIBES | WHO WILL CLAIM THE TROPHY?

CONTACT DANI TO ENTER A TEAM
 dmbemd@gmail.com | 027 420 6902

SAVE THE DATE!

THE GREAT WAIKATO CRITTERS COMP 2026

KIDS HUNTING COMPETITION

POSSUMS RATS TURKEYS

26TH - 28TH JUNE 2026

GET READY FOR AN EPIC WEEKEND OF ADVENTURE!

FULL LIST OF CATEGORIES TO COME! | SPONSOR LIST TO COME! | DETAILS TO COME!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK | www.teakau.co.nz | jesicamurphyxx@gmail.com | pta@teakau.school.nz

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!
 KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ENTRY INFO, RULES AND PRIZES

Board Of Trustees Contact Details

Jamie Andrews (Presiding Member) jamie@teakau.school.nz
Christina Johnston chrissy@teakau.school.nz
James Jackson jamesjackson@teakau.school.nz

Hannah O'Brien (Principal) hannah@teakau.school.nz
Hayley Smith (Staff Rep) hayley@teakau.school.nz
Danielle van den Bemd danielle@teakau.school.nz

School Policies

All of our policies are available from the office or online on our SchoolDocs page:
[teakau.schooldocs.co.nz](http://teakau schooldocs.co.nz)
 LOGIN: teakau
 PASSWORD: lifelonglearners

BOT Meeting

The next Board meeting is:
22th June 2026
5.00pm
 Te Akau School, All Welcome!

RESPONSIBLE
Kia mau to tikanga

RESILIENT
Kia kaha mahia te mahi

RESPECTFUL
Aroha ki te tangata