



## Letter From the Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to term 3! Where did half the year go?

The term is off to a great start already, with lots of exciting things on the go. In week 6, we have our school production - The Wizard of Te Akau, based on The Wizard of Oz. Director, Producer, Choreographer, Writer extraordinaire Whaea Donna has done an incredible job on the script, casting and beginning rehearsals for the big day. As a small school, without an arts department or drama suite, we will be calling on you, our wonderful parents and whanau for help with sets, props and costumes. If you, or someone you know, are able to spare any time at all, even an hour, to come and help us with sewing, painting, cutting, we really need you! Please see Donna's plea for help further along in the notice for all the ways that you can help us. The production is going to be awesome (and very funny, I must say), and the students are loving all of the new learning that they are getting from it.

This week we have had our planting day at the Complex, organised by Mrs. Parrott and the West Waikato Catchment Group. This is a great way for our kids to get involved in their community, and a timely way to kick off this term's school-wide focus on water and whitebait, something that we will be learning more about as the term progresses.

Practice for Cross Country is also underway. A big thanks to Will Jackson for letting us use his paddock as a Cross Country course. We don't have long to train before the big day, so we will be running the course most fine afternoons. Please pack a spare set of clothes if your children are prone to finding every muddy puddle on the track!

I am very much enjoying teaching alongside Whaea Donna in the senior room every morning at the moment. I have also been spending some time teaching in Rooms 1 and 3 while Mrs. Reeves is away and it is fantastic to see all the positive attitudes and wonderful learning that all of our tamariki are doing at the moment.

Finally, this term we welcome three students to our kura - Henry Jackson, and his cousin, Olivia, as well as Katie Kereopa. Welcome to Te Akau School, we are so happy to have you here with us!

Nga mihi nui,  
Hannah

## Important Dates

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August**  
Te Akau School Cross Country

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August**  
Cluster Schools Cross Country at Waikaretu

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August**  
Te Akau School Production  
- The Wizard of Te Akau

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
Te Akau School Speeches

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September**  
Parent Teacher Conferences

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**  
Cluster Schools Speeches  
at Waingaro

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**  
Pet day & Last day of Term  
3

## YEAR 7-8 TECH DATES

17<sup>th</sup> July  
31<sup>st</sup> July  
14<sup>th</sup> August  
28<sup>th</sup> August  
11<sup>th</sup> September

# Housekeeping

## 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.

# 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

# HERO STUDENT MANAGEMENT APP

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



# HOUSE POINTS

Kauri  
373

Totara  
288

Rimu  
236

## SCHOOL CONTACTS

### School Phone Website

Hannah O'Brien  
Gabbie Bregmen  
Donna Palmer  
Jodie Redpath  
Hayley Smith  
Ann Reeves  
Kate Dermer

Principal  
Office  
Room 2  
Room 3  
Room 1 & DP  
CRT Release  
Room 3 & GTT

07 825 4777

[www.teakau.school.nz](http://www.teakau.school.nz)

[hannah@teakau.school.nz](mailto:hannah@teakau.school.nz)  
[office@teakau.school.nz](mailto:office@teakau.school.nz)  
[donna@teakau.school.nz](mailto:donna@teakau.school.nz)  
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[ann@teakau.school.nz](mailto:ann@teakau.school.nz)  
[kate@teakau.school.nz](mailto:kate@teakau.school.nz)

TERM 3, WEEK 2

# 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!



PETER GLIDDEN HONDA  
2000 HONDA



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## Term 2 Attendance Awards



Te Akau School celebrates and reward students who show exceptional commitment to their learning through consistent attendance.

At the end of each term, students with the top three attendance records (provided their attendance is above 90%) will receive special certificates and House Points as follows:

🏆 1st Place 100% Attendance – 50 House Points –  
**Rory McRoberts-Maihi and Mason Lilley**

🥈 2nd Place 99% Attendance – 30 House Points –  
**Luka Bregmen and Sadie MacDonald**

🥉 3rd Place 98% – 20 House Points  
**Katara, Lachie, Macey.**

☀️ Well done to our Term 2 Winners ☀️

## Gaga Ball is Coming to Te Akau School!

We're so excited to be bringing Gaga Ball to Te Akau School!

**A huge thank you to Simon O'Neill Builders** for generously sponsoring the plywood needed to make this project happen!

Construction will begin in the coming weeks, and our senior students will be putting their mathematical minds to work—measuring and marking out the cuts as part of this hands-on learning experience. We can't wait to see the Gaga Pit come to life and become a fun, active part of our playground!

**What is Gaga Ball?** Gaga Ball is a fast-paced, high-energy ball game played inside a gaga pit (usually a low, enclosed hexagonal or octagonal arena). It's kind of like a gentler, more strategic version of dodgeball and is super popular in schools and camps around the world. Its Inclusive – lots of players can play at once, quick rounds to keep everyone moving, builds agility, coordination, and fair play. And we are so excited!!! **Thank you Simon, Candice and George from Simon O'Neill Builders!!**

## Cross Country Season is Underway!

Cross country practice is well underway at Te Akau School! We're excited to be hosting our school cross country event on **Wednesday, 6th August**. Whānau are warmly invited to come along and cheer on our runners—your support is always appreciated!

With regular practices taking place, we recommend packing a **small towel or hand towel** in your child's bag to help dry off muddy legs. A **spare pair of shorts or pants** is also a great idea, just in case.

The following week, all year levels will travel to Waikaretu School for the Cluster Schools Cross Country on **Friday, 15th August**. As in previous years, parents and caregivers will need to arrange transport for their child/ren to and from this event.

**Let's keep up the amazing energy—happy running, everyone!**

## PTA Top Raffle sellers!

**Top Raffle sellers from PTA Hunting Comp  
Congratulations....**

- 🏆 1st Place Angel Sheehan who sold 225 tickets!
- 🥈 2nd Place Luka Bregmen who sold 107 tickets!
- 🥉 3rd place Kade Copeland who sold 90 tickets!

Well done, Angel, Luka and Kade –  
your amazing effort supports our school in so many ways!





We're excited to announce Te Akau School's annual Pet Day will be held on Thursday 19th September 2025. Alongside bringing pets to school, students will also complete a range of art tasks throughout the term.

Students art work will be given a number to keep the artist anonymous during judging. These art pieces will be judged the evening before Pet Day by some of our wonderful local community members. Our guest judges will judge the artwork based on how well the artist has met the criteria set by their teacher.

## Pet Day Sponsors & Supporters

A special thank you to **Gay and her team at PGG Wrightson's Hamilton**, who have generously donated a 20kg bag of calf meal and a 10kg bag of lamb meal for every calf, goat, and lamb that was registered via the Google Form on Hero last week. Your support is greatly appreciated!

We're also thrilled to welcome back **Jamie Ward from AFFCO**, who will once again be firing up the grill to feed our hungry bellies. And a shout-out to **Canter for Cancer**, who have kindly come on board with some prizes for our calf ring.

We're incredibly grateful for the support of our wider community in making this day extra special for our students and their animals!



## Registration & Locating a pet

Registration forms will be sent home or uploaded as a google form on Hero in due course. If your unable to locate a pet we are able to source Saanen baby goats, but only while they last. The goats are free and you can either choose to keep them or send them back after pet day. If multiple families would like a goat we can get him to meet us half way for pick up. - Contact Gabbie to arrange.

## Types of pets

Types of pets allowed at pet day are Calves, Lambs, Goats, Dogs and indoor pets. All pets must be well cared for, well secured and upto date with their worming. Each child can enter multiple pet categories i.e a lamb, a calf and a dog. However they cannot enter two of the same pet category i.e two calves.

## Trophy Returns:

Can the following students please return their pet day trophy's to the office: **Declan, Lyla, Tommy, Reagan and Lucian**

## Judging Criteria for Pet Day:

- **Indoor Art:** will be judged the evening before Pet Day by selected local community members who generously volunteer their time to support our school. All entries will be anonymous to ensure fair and unbiased judging.
- **Indoor Pets:** Students must write a letter about their pet and display it on the pet's cage. Judging will be based on the creativity of the letter, the presentation of the cage, and the overall health and care of the pet.
- **Lambs, Goats, and Calves:** Please keep an eye on Hero—links to the Judges' Handbooks and Pet Day Registration Forms will be uploaded soon.
- **Dogs:** Once our dog judge is confirmed, we will upload the judging criteria to Hero as well.

## Group Day & Waikato A&P Show – Goats, Lambs, and Calves

Group Day and A&P Shows are fantastic opportunities for students to extend their rural pet day experience and showcase the hard work they've put into raising their animals.

### Group Day

 Date: Thursday, 23rd October 2025

 Time: 10:30am

 Location: Te Kauwhata Domain

 For updates and registration forms, please follow the "Lower Waikato Group Day" Facebook page.

### Waikato A&P Show – Calf Club Section

 Date: Friday, 1st November 2025

 Location: Claudelands Event Centre, Hamilton

 Register now: <https://waikatoaandp.co.nz/competitor-info/>

### Animal Age Classes – Know Your Group!

You will need to know whether your animal falls into the Early or Late class based on their date of birth:

- **Lambs & Goats:**
  - Early: Born 1st July 2025 – 19th August 2025
  - Late: Born 20th August 2025 – 20th September 2025
- **Calves:**
  - Early: Born 1st June 2025 – 26th July 2025
  - Late: Born 27th July 2025 – 20th September 2025

## Support your local school

By purchasing Ballance Agri-Nutrients fertiliser this spring, \$1 for every tonne purchased can be donated to a local cause of your choice.\*

Plus, \$1 for every 10 litres of selected agrichemicals purchased can also be donated to a local cause.\*

To find out more, ask in-store at PGG Wrightson or visit:

[cashforcommunities.co.nz](https://cashforcommunities.co.nz)

PGG Wrightson



## Cash for Communities

\*Open to PGG Wrightson Ltd account holders for purchases during the qualifying period 1 September 2025– 30 November 2025. Excludes Lime, Gypsum and 1,000 L agrichemical drums. Fertiliser purchases only qualify if made through the MyBalance channel. Donations limited, first in first served. See full Terms and Conditions and list of qualifying products at [cashforcommunities.co.nz](https://cashforcommunities.co.nz)



## 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.

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

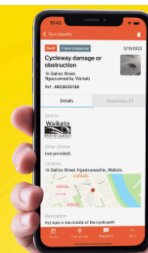
keep an eye out for a letter from the council later this month with further information

**ONE-OFF SCRAP METAL RECYCLING EVENT:**  
6TH SEPTEMBER 2025, TE AKAU SCHOOL CARPARK, 9AM - 2PM

## Download the Antenno app

Use the Antenno app to tell us about things that need our attention, like potholes, graffiti, or broken streetlights.

More about Antenno →





# BIG THINGS ARE COMING!

**JOIN US**

**7PM FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST 2025**

**TE AKAU WAINGARO  
COMMUNITY COMPLEX**

**TO HAVE YOUR SAY**

The time has come, our beloved community building is in need of some TLC


We will have two designs available for **CURRENT MEMBERS** to vote on

Bar will be open and food available for purchase

Proxy votes available

Email: [tawccomplex@gmail.com](mailto:tawccomplex@gmail.com)




# TE AKAU SCHOOL

## Get on board!

Nominate yourself or someone you know  
to be a school board member.



Please return your voting forms to:  
Sue Easter  
[sue.carleaster@outlook.com](mailto:sue.carleaster@outlook.com)  
745A Te Akau Road, RD1, Te Akau 3793

- ✓ Nominations close 12noon, Wednesday 13th August 2025
- ✓ Election Day, Wednesday 17th September 2025
- ✓ Nomination forms to be included with the Thursday 24th July 2025 School Newsletter, Additional forms are available from the School Office

# Production - We Need Your Help!

TERM 3, WEEK 2

We have started rehearsing our production of The Wizard of Te Akau. We would love to hear from any parents, caregivers, grandparents and whanau who can help prepare props, costumes and scenery.

We would love you to work with the students to help with:

- making houses (that fly apart), castles, yellow brick roads, trees and palaces out of cardboard.
- helping paint the scenery
- making or finding costumes for next to nothing
- making props and a giant headed puppet, in clever and crafty ways

Please take a look at the props and costume lists your child is bringing home.

Are you able to sort costumes for your own children? If not, let us know.

Do you have any items that are on the list?

Please let us know if you can help in any way. Email [donna@teakau.school.nz](mailto:donna@teakau.school.nz)

Thank you

Whaea Donna



## Board Of Trustees Update

### Upcoming School Board Elections

Kia ora whānau,

Our upcoming School Board Elections will be held on **Thursday 11th September**. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and caregivers to actively contribute to the future direction of our kura. We encourage those interested in standing for election to consider the valuable role they can play in supporting our learners and upholding the values of our school community.

**Nominations are open now**, so start thinking now about how you might get involved or who you would like to nominate.

The Board would like to acknowledge the continued improvement in attendance across our school community. The **government's goal is for 80% of students to attend school at least 90% of the time** – that's fewer than five days off per term. It's an ambitious target, but part of our role as a Board is to support the Principal and staff to do our best to meet it.

In Term 4 last year, only 23% of our students met the 90% attendance target. In Term 1 this year, that figure rose to 56%, and in Term 2, 54% of students met the goal. This is great progress, and we're encouraged by the upward trend – but we still have a way to go to reach the 80% target set by the government.

While it is important to keep children at home when they are unwell, we ask that families carefully consider the timing of family holidays and avoid extra days off where possible. Attendance is recorded in half days, so even part-day absences can add up. If your child has a weekday appointment, consider sending them to school for part of the day, rather than keeping them home for the full day.

Every day at school is a valuable learning opportunity, and regular absences do impact a child's learning and progress.

If your child's attendance fell below 90% last term, you may receive a letter from the school on our behalf. This is not intended as a reprimand, but rather a gentle reminder of the commitment we all share to meet the government's expectations for school attendance.

We understand there are often genuine reasons for absence, and we appreciate your efforts to support your child's learning by ensuring they are at school as often as possible.

Ngā mihi nui for your continued support.

## Board Of Trustees Contact Details

**Jamie Andrews (Presiding Member)**

[jamie@teakau.school.nz](mailto:jamie@teakau.school.nz)

**Tom Lilley** [tom@teakau.school.nz](mailto:tom@teakau.school.nz)

**Hannah O'Brien (Principal)** [hannah@teakau.school.nz](mailto:hannah@teakau.school.nz)

**Hayley Smith (Staff Rep)** [hayley@teakau.school.nz](mailto:hayley@teakau.school.nz)

**James Glenn** [james@teakau.school.nz](mailto:james@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

## Next Meeting

11th August 2025

5.30pm

Te Akau School

All Welcome!

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