



Letter From the Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

What a wonderful week it has been here at Te Akau School! Our school production, The Wizard of Te Akau, was a real highlight, bringing together the talents, energy and creativity of our tamariki. It was a joy to see every child shine on stage—some discovering confidence they didn't know they had, others showing leadership in helping their peers, and all learning the value of teamwork and perseverance. Productions like this connect strongly to the curriculum. They give our learners the chance to develop oral language, creativity, memory, and movement, while also building resilience and pride in their achievements. A heartfelt thank you goes to our teachers who guided the students through weeks of practice, to the parents and whānau who made costumes, helped with props, and supported from the sidelines. This was a true kura and community effort, and we can all be very proud.

At the same time, our Board elections are currently underway. Voting forms have now been sent out, and we encourage you to take the time to have your say. The Board plays a vital role in shaping the direction of our school and ensuring the very best opportunities for our children. By casting your vote, you are helping to influence the path we take as a kura. We also wish to thank those brave parents who put their names forward for nomination—standing to serve the school in this way is no small commitment, and we are grateful for your willingness to contribute.

We are also delighted to welcome Melissa to our staff as a new part-time teacher aide. Melissa will be supporting our tamariki and teachers in the classroom, and we are excited to have her on board. We also extend a warm welcome to Skylah, who has recently joined us. Over the next few weeks, we have several exciting events to look forward to. Our students are preparing their speeches, which are always a fantastic showcase of their ideas and oral language skills. We will also be taking part in the Rural School Hockey Tournament, an event that promotes teamwork, sport, and hauora. Pet Day is also on the horizon, a much-loved tradition that celebrates our rural roots and brings our community together. Parent Teacher Interviews are scheduled for Week 9, and we look forward to connecting with you all to share progress, celebrate successes, and discuss the next steps in your child's learning journey.

Another important reminder is that our whānau and community surveys for the school's strategic plan need to be completed by next week. Your voice is incredibly important in helping us shape the future of Te Akau School. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts, as your feedback directly guides the priorities we set and the way we plan for the years ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your support, your encouragement, and the many ways you contribute to the life of our kura. Together, we continue to make Te Akau School a place where tamariki thrive.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Hannah

Important Dates

Monday 8th September
Year 3 & 4 Rural School
Hockey - Hamilton

Tuesday 9th September
Year 5 & 6 Rural School
Hockey - Hamilton

Wednesday 10th September
Parent Teacher
Conferences

Friday 12th September
Leaders Day - Horotiu
School

Monday 15th September
Te Akau School Speeches

Wednesday 17th September
Cluster Schools Speeches
at Waingaro

**Wednesday 17th &
Thursday 18th September**
Life Education Trust

Friday 19th September
Pet day & Last day of Term
3

YEAR 7-8 TECH DATES
28th August
11th 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.

Healthy Eating at Te Akau School

A healthy and nutritious school lunch is important because it gives children the energy and focus they need for learning and playing throughout the day. A well-balanced lunchbox might include fresh fruit and vegetables, wholegrain bread or wraps for long-lasting energy, and protein such as cheese, eggs, or lean meat to help them grow strong. Snacks like yoghurt, crackers, or veggie sticks add variety. Water is also essential for brain function and hydration so please remember to send a water bottle every day



House Points

Kauri
616

Toi
535

Rimu
553

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

SCHOOL CONTACTS

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
kate@teakau.school.nz

Reporting Absences

If your child won't be at school, please let us know why, either by calling the school office, emailing office@teakau.school.nz or via the Hero app.

TERM 3, WEEK 7

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



RESPONSIBLE

RESILIENT

RISK TAKER

RESPECTFUL

Abstract Me - Room 2 Poems

Abstract Me
Confidence is jumping off a cliff into the lake.

Bravery is walking through the swamp bare-footed.

Freedom is walking miles and miles into the gloomy night sky.

Silence is waiting at the top of the hill, feeling the breeze on your skin.

Imagination is waiting in your dreams when you fall asleep.

Curiosity is walking through trees and bushes feeling the leaves touch your skin.

Determination is staying on your pony while it bucks and rears to get you off.

By Riley Toia-Lewis

Abstract Me
Beauty is the morning sunrise.

Excitement is when I see my older sister.

Anger is when me and my sister fight.

Understanding is when my mum talks.

Trust is when I follow my sister.

Youth is when I had to do no jobs.

By Jessica Horsley

Abstract Me
Peace is making up to my friends.

Freedom is the first day of the holidays.

Thought is thinking about the maths test.

Delight is the strong joy that takes over me.

Imagination is creating worlds.

Respect is helping my friends when they can't figure something out.

By Katara Williamson

Abstract Me
Imagination is playing outside with my brothers

Creativity is making stuff with legos.

Freedom is making a hut in a tree.

Silence is laying in bed listening to the birds.

Trust is trusting your dad not to flip the bike.

Knowledge is knowing how not to get stuck.

Joy is when your making a mudslide.

Care is looking after your chickens

By George Jackson

Abstract Me
Kindness is playing with someone who is sad.

Freedom is when I ride my horse on the farm.

Care is in my heart.

Memory is always going to be in my life

Trust is believing people when I think they are honest.

Love is when my family talks to me with care.

Imagination is thinking of things that make me happy.

By Billie van den Bemd

Abstract Me
Peace is the morning thought.

Beauty is the afternoon sunset.

Freedom is when the 3 o'clock bell rings.

Friendship is your best strength.

Youth is the first bike ride.

Motivation is getting back on your horse.

Determination is jumping your highest for the six bar trophy.

By Angel Sheehan

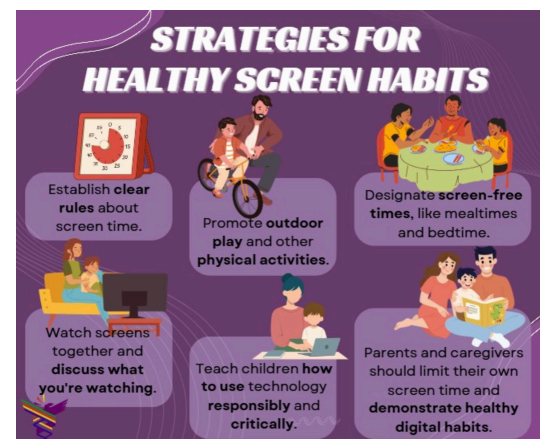
Cyber Safety Awareness

This week we were lucky to have a visit from Officer Tom, our Police Education Liaison, who spoke with our senior students about staying safe online. His message was clear – while technology can be fun and helpful, it also comes with some risks that we all need to be aware of.

Too much screen-time, especially before bed, can interfere with children's sleep, making it harder for them to focus at school the next day. The blue light from phones and tablets stops the brain from switching off properly, making it harder for kids to settle and get a good night's sleep. Keeping devices out of bedrooms is one of the best ways to help tamariki get the rest they need. Children generally need between 9-12 hours of sleep each night.

Officer Tom also talked about online bullying. Unlike playground disagreements, online bullying can feel constant and very hurtful. It's important to know that online abuse can have serious legal consequences in New Zealand. If your child experiences it, the most important thing is that they don't ignore it – they report it. The Police encourage the simple advice: STOP, WALK, TALK – stop (don't respond), walk away from the device, and talk to a trusted adult straight away. It's also worth remembering that most social media apps such as TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat have a legal age of 13. This is because younger children are still developing the social and emotional skills to cope with the pressures of social media.

Since the law change in 2024 'all state and state-integrated schools in Aotearoa New Zealand must prohibit students from using or accessing mobile phones during school hours, including break times'. Because of this law, and in the best interest of learning and behaviour, phones must stay at home. By working together – school, whānau, and community – we can support our tamariki to use technology in safe and positive ways, knowing that if something goes wrong, they have the tools and support to handle it.



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

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



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.

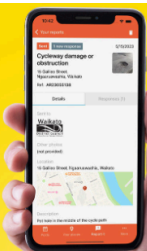
WHERE: The location will be Te Aakau Hall carpark (next to the school).

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

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 →



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

Scrap metal drop-off

Te Aakau



Do you have any loose scrap metal hanging around that you've been meaning to get rid of?

Pop along to our FREE scrap metal drop-off to safely dispose of that unwanted metal!

We will be accepting aluminum, steel, copper, brass, stainless steel, iron, tools, car parts, and pipes. **Nothing over 5m, no white wear, tyres, or asbestos.**

When

Where

9am - 2pm
Saturday 6 September
Te Aakau Community Hall carpark
953 Te Aakau Road



PRODUCTION - THE WIZARD OF TE AKAU



A big thank you to everyone who joined us for this fabulous evening!