



Letter From the Principal

BY HANNAH O'BRIEN

Kia ora koutou,

Here we are in Week 9, and in a term that has been heavily marked by a lot of winter sickness, a massive thank you goes out to our whole community for doing your absolute best to keep attendance up—we know firsthand how tough it has been as everyone has been getting hit by the bugs, teachers included!

Looking ahead, we are all very excited for the Rural Schools Hockey tournament coming up next week at the Gallagher Hockey Centre in Hamilton. It has been great to see students getting stuck into training, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and skills blossoming as they prepare for this fantastic opportunity to mix with other rural schools and test their abilities in some friendly competition. As a quick reminder for your calendars, the Year 3/4 team will be playing on Monday, Year 5/6 on Tuesday, and Year 7/8 on Wednesday. A huge well done to all of the kids for their impressive speeches last week; I thoroughly enjoyed judging them, and it was truly inspiring to see the resilience demonstrated as every single student stepped up and gave it a go.

On the active front, we have also just wrapped up our BoxFit sessions, which proved to be a massive hit with our senior students and definitely gave them a challenging, energetic workout.

In staff news, we want to extend a warm congratulations to Hayley and Jodie, who recently completed their Incredible Years training. This represented a huge two-term commitment on their part, requiring a lot of extra study and hard work on top of their regular duties, and it is awesome to see their genuine dedication to upskilling their practice for the benefit of your children.

Thank you as well to everyone who made the time to attend our parent-teacher conferences Tuesday afternoon—it was fantastic to hear so many rich, positive conversations taking place across the school regarding student learning and overall progress.

The excitement is also building across all year levels for Pet Day next week, so a big thank you goes to Gabbie and the Pet Day committee, who are working tirelessly behind the scenes getting everything prepped for what promises to be a wonderful day.

Finally, thank you to all those—including our students, the Board of Trustees, whanau, and our staff—who have taken the time to share feedback in various ways regarding our Strategic Vision for Te Akau School; we genuinely value your input and want to hear all of your big aspirations and visions as we chart the future direction of our school. Please always remember that if you ever have a particular concern or just want to chat about your child, my door is always open for you to drop in and see me.

Ngā mihi nui,
Hannah O'Brien
Principal



Important Dates

Hockey YR 3/4

21 September 2026

Hockey YR 5/6

22 September 2026

Hockey YR 7/8

23 September 2026

Pet Day!!

25 September 2026

Term 4

12 Oct – 14 Dec



Year 7 & 8 Tech Dates

28th July 2026

11th August 2026

25th August 2026

8th September 2026

22nd September 2026

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.

Speeches

Congratulations to all our students who took part in the 2026 Te Akau School Speech Competition. Public speaking is a valuable part of education. It helps build confidence, strengthens communication skills, and encourages students to think critically and express their ideas clearly. Standing up in front of an audience takes courage, and every student who participated showed real resilience and determination in giving it a go.

We are incredibly proud of all our tamariki – each and every one did an exceptional job. A special congratulations to our place-getters:

<u>Junior School</u>	<u>Middle School</u>	<u>Senior School</u>
1st – Rhyda Johnston	1st – Paige van den Bemd	1st – Billie van den Bemd
2nd – Jocelyn Chamberlain	2nd – Reagan Lilley	2nd – Ariana Potter
3rd – Sasha Orlando-Reep	3rd – George Jackson	3rd – Kade Copeland

Ka mau te wehi everyone – what an outstanding effort from all involved.

Your efforts have also contributed valuable points to your school houses. From the speeches, Totara earned 150 points, Rimu 140 points, and Kauri 70 points. It's great to see how individual achievements continue to support collective success within our kura. This brings our current House Points tally for the term to:

- Totara – 784 points
- Rimu – 676 points
- Kauri – 657 points

It's still anyone's game, and we look forward to seeing how the points grow over the coming weeks. Keep up the great work showing our school values of Respectful (Aroha ki te tangata), Resilient (Kia kaha mahia te mahi), and Responsible (Kia mau to tikanga).



Each year, our 1st place winners from our Middle and Senior School go on to represent Te Akau School at the Cluster Speech Competition, hosted by Waingaro School.

This year, Billie and Paige van den Bemd proudly represented our kura. Both girls spoke with confidence and poise, doing an outstanding job in a competitive field. We are thrilled to share that Billie and Paige each achieved 2nd place in their respective divisions – an amazing result.

Ka pai kōrua, Billie and Paige – we are incredibly proud of you both!



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

RESPONSIBLE
Kia mau to tikanga

RESILIENT
Kia kaha mahia te mahi

RESPECTFUL
Aroha ki te tangata

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 & Beccy Pitts
Waikato Building Relocators
Waitomo Fuel

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.



Room 2

Some of our entries for the Gallagher 'The Team Around Me' competition. We're hoping to win a visit from the Black Ferns!



THE TEAM AROUND ME



What does being part of a team mean to you?

Your team could be a sports team, in the classroom, your friends and family, or part of your wider community.

First name: Ariana
Year: 7

Last name: Potter
School: Te Aka School

Hello my name is Ariana Potter. This letter is about what being a part of a team means to me.

As a rural kid of Te Aka School, things are pretty isolated, but this means the whole community is a team - adults and kids. I myself is a part of a swimming team, though it is only small.

I believe being a part of a team means we help each other even if we don't ask.

We share things, laugh, have a good time, encourage each other. I believe a team is the people around you, your family, your friends, and even your school. Teamwork is important to have and everyone throughout their lives have been a part of a team no matter their age. Being in a team means everyone's special, and this is what being in a team means to me.

What does being part of a team mean to you?

Your team could be a sports team, in the classroom, your friends and family, or part of your wider community.

First name: Angel
Year: 8

Last name: Sheehan
School: Te Aka

Hi I am Angel. I am 13 and I live in Te Aka which is a place where it's quite isolated but I belong to a rugby team Coronadel. Though I would be more known in Waingaro pony club.

I believe a team is like a unbiological family if I had to explain it. It's to care for each other and supporting your team, getting along with every other team - including yours.

It's not all about winning - it's about fun and teamwork.

What does being part of a team mean to you?

Your team could be a sports team, in the classroom, your friends and family, or part of your wider community.

First name: Benjamin
Year: 8

Last name: Chamberlain
School: Te Aka

My name is Benjamin I'm 13 years old.

I'm part of a Boxing team. I do training, not in the ring yet. But maybe soon. My team supports each other and we don't laugh if someone gets something wrong. It's good that we train together because you wouldn't learn.

Coach teaches techniques that are efficient and you need to learn. We also can help each other out. I like my sport for lots of reasons. But mostly hanging out with friends and making friends.

Literacy

Retelling a pivotal moment from our novel study - *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold

As the boat crashed violently into the dark water April and Bear were panicking. April didn't care about all her belongings. She just cared about Bear.

But as soon as she finished her sentence a ginormous violent wave came in at lightning speed. It took her to a current. She got swept to the bottom of the ocean. It was full of deafness down there. It was so bitterly cold and then it all went black.

By Paige

The waves were pushing the boat. April was hugging Bear and the boat snapped in half. April was dragged away from Bear and they went separate ways...

By Brodie



As the waves grew bigger the boat was hurled up and up and up into the air. Then it happened. They fell all the way to the bottom, then the boat snapped in half. April and Bear fell out of the boat and into the deep dark cold ocean. April fought with all of her energy to get back to the top and then the current finally hurled her towards the top of the ocean. There, she tried to grab Bear but she couldn't. She fell back and got swept back under and then it all went black.

By Sadie

It was so bitterly cold. The sea water was scaring Bear. When we crashed down and the tarpaulin was crashing down into the scary water Bear froze in shock. There was a humungous wave coming. April froze. She shouted "Bear!!". She screamed. But why?

Because there was a shark coming.

By Rhyda

As soon as the boat snapped April and Bear were frantic. They were scared. More waves and more franticness was coming. It was violent when they smashed into the water. The ocean kept yanking them, tossing them and pulling them. April was screaming and trying to breathe clear. It dragged them right under to the bottom. She was shouting, shouting "Bear!". But then it started going black until it went fully black.

By Lillie

Room 1

We have been learning about shapes, colours and patterns in our maths work



RESPONSIBLE
Kia mau to tikanga

RESILIENT
Kia kaha mahia te mahi

RESPECTFUL
Aroha ki te tangata



Pet Day 2026 is fast approaching, we are now just one week out!

For those students keen to compete at **Group Day** or the **Waikato A&P Show**, please make sure you refer to the final page of your student handbook to get your registrations in.

We warmly invite our wider community to join us on the day, **we'll be kicking off at 9:30am** and would love to see you there supporting our tamariki.

A huge thank you to our incredible sponsors:

- Gay, Sarah, Sophie and Sharne – PGG Wrightson Hamilton
- Jamie Ward – AFFCO
- Chris & Alyse – Kereopa Homekill
- Richard Thompson – PGG Wrightson Real Estate
- Brent & Karen – Pegasus Horse Floats
- Jules – Animal Feed Barn Te Rapa
- Nicki – Canter for Cancer
- Johnston Family
- MacDonald Family
- Leo Jecenth
- Bregmen Family
- James Jackson Family
- And of course, a big thank you to our judges & stewards – who we can't publicly name just yet – and to our teachers who have been working hard alongside our students on their beautiful art pieces for you all to enjoy.

Thanks to your support, we are set for a fantastic day!

🔥 Food & Refreshments:

AFFCO BBQ will be fired up serving steak sandwiches and Kereopa Homekills sausages and Playcentre will be selling delicious baked goods, plus tea and coffee.

- Steak sandwiches – \$6
- Sausages – \$3
- Drinks – \$3

CASH ONLY - We can't wait to see you all there!

Community Notices

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

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 Akau Hall carpark (next to the school).

* COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR FUND *

Another year has passed and in order to keep this vital equipment in good working order, replace aging equipment & potentially to enable us to increase our coverage of local areas support from the community is essential.

We are grateful to have received funding from The Waikato District Council "Rural Ward Fund" to replace expired defibrillator pads.



Please deposit donations into the account below.
Te Akau Community First Response Fund
06-0377-0081752-000

Free ST John AED/CPR training through our 3 Steps for Life program. Bring 10 or more people together, and we'll come and deliver this session onsite. Please contact via email below if you are interested in attending.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ring 111
St John will advise the closest defibrillator if required

Many thanks Carol MacDonald & Lynda Broughton
defibteakau@gmail.com

ST ALBAN'S CHURCH & CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, TE AKAU

We are now holding regular monthly church services at St Alban's Waingaro and The Church of the Good Shepherd, Te Akau.

23 August and 25 October will be at St Alban's. 27 September and 22 November will be at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Te Akau.

Fourth Sunday of the month at 10am. Shared morning tea will follow the service.

Anyone interested in baptism or confirmation are welcome to contact Rev Ruth Smart directly, or come along to a service. Many thanks

CONTACT:

REV RUTH SMART
ST STEPHEN'S PARISH
TE KOWHAI
PH 07 829 7655

FUNDRAISER
WAIKARETU SCHOOL

QUIZ NIGHT

10 OCTOBER

GLEN MURRAY COMMUNITY HALL

6.30PM DOORS OPEN 7PM START
SUPPER PROVIDED - BYO DRINKS
TEAMS OF 6 TO 8 - \$30 P/P
FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT EMILY 021776486 OR
SCAN QR CODE
RAFFLES AND AUCTIONS

Nga mihi nui,

Strategic Planning

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete the strategic plan survey. There is still time to have your say, and we encourage every family in our school community to provide their feedback. The survey is anonymous, and your thoughts and ideas will be really valuable as we move into the planning stage and look at what is important for our school, where we want to focus our efforts, our school activities, and our longer-term goals for the future. If you haven't completed the survey yet and would like to, the link can be found in a Hero post on 27 August.

Bus

To our bus families, a letter and form regarding the new user-pay system were sent out last week. If you did not receive a letter or have any questions, please contact Hannah. Thank you to our Bus Committee - Rob Horsley, Andrew Crawford, Sarah Glenn, Hayden Johnston, Tom Jackson and James Jackson for all the work and continued support to keep our school bus running. It is truly appreciated.

SchoolDocs

Just a reminder that each term we have policies available for review through SchoolDocs. It's a great opportunity to have a look through the policies and provide your feedback. There is a schedule showing which policies are up for review, so please jump in and take a look - login details are below.

Pet Day

The countdown is on for Pet Day! A big thank you to our Pet Day Committee, who are working hard behind the scenes to make this such a special day. We're looking for a few baking donations for our judges, so please let Gabbie know if you're able to donate a little treat.

We look forward to seeing our wonderful school families, community members, and valued sponsors next Friday for a day of fun, great food and plenty of much-loved pets in action!

Many thanks,
Chrissy Johnston, James Jackson and Dani van den Bemd

Board Of Trustees Contact Details - bot@teakau.school.nz

Christina Johnston

chrissy@teakau.school.nz

James Jackson

jamesjackson@teakau.school.nz

Danielle van den Bemd

danielle@teakau.school.nz

Hannah O'Brien (Principal)

hannah@teakau.school.nz

Hayley Smith (Staff Rep)

hayley@teakau.school.nz

School Policies

All of our policies are available from the office or online on our SchoolDocs page:
teakau.schooldocs.co.nz
LOGIN: teakau
PASSWORD: lifelonglearners

Next Meeting

19th October 2026
5.00pm
Te Akau School
All Welcome!