



PRINCIPAL KŌRERO

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

It has been lovely to meet most of you so far this week as I settle into my role as Interim Principal at Te Akau School, thank you for the warm welcome. I am looking forward to getting to know our tamariki, whānau and wider school community over this term.

I look forward to meeting other whānau at the disco our dedicated PTA are hosting this Friday. It will be a great opportunity to connect in a relaxed setting, and I hope to see many of you there!

Keeping Our Whānau Connected

As we navigate this time of change at our kura, I recognise how important it is to keep our school whānau informed, connected and up to date with what is happening. To support this, we will be publishing a school newsletter every two weeks. This will give us more regular opportunities to share school updates, celebrate our tamariki achievements and keep everyone informed.

Term 4 Teaching Schedule

I confirm our teaching staff through Term 4

Room 1 Years 1-3

Whaea Hayley: Monday to Friday

Whaea Jodie: Covering Whaea Hayley for Classroom Release every second Wednesday

Room 2 Years 4-8

Whaea Donna: Monday to Wednesday

Whaea Jodie: Thursday and Friday

Mrs Reeves: Covering Whaea Donna for Classroom Release on Wednesday afternoons

Room 3 – Focused Literacy Mornings, Years 3-4

Mā Te Hira: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 9.00am to 11.00am.

Mrs Reeves: Wednesday, from 9.00am to 11.00am.

School Office

Whaea Gabbie: Monday to Thursday, 8.30am–3.30pm.

Friday, 8.30am–12.30pm.

Mā Te Hira Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 11.30am following teaching.

All day Wednesday.

Grounds

Matua Garry

School Transport for 2027

With the upcoming closure of Waingarua School, I expect there are questions or concerns around school transport. I want to reassure you that I am working with the Ministry of Education to secure a Go Bus MOE funded route for 2027. I heard this raised a number of times, and I hear you. I understand the importance of reliable school transport for our families when making decisions about your children's school, so confident I am actively working on this. While there is still work to be done, watch this space for further updates as information becomes available.

Moving Forward Together

I recognise that change can bring uncertainty, and my focus is on ensuring stability. I value open communication and encourage whānau to reach out, ask questions and positively contribute to ideas shared.

Working together guided by our shared school values is what continues to make our kura so special.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Meralyn



Meralyn Te Hira
Interim Principal
Te Akau School

Important Dates

Term 4

12 Oct – 14 Dec

PTA disco

Friday 30th October
3pm–5pm

4th Nov 2026

Whaea Mells last day

9th Nov 2026

Te Akau School Athletics

Week 5

Scholastics Book Fair

–11th Nov 2026 Book
Character Day

13th Nov 2026

Senior Cluster Athletics
at Glen Massey

20th Nov 2026

Year 1-3 Jnr Games
Ruawaro School

14th Dec 2026

Last Day – Prize Giving

Year 7 & 8 Tech Dates

3rd November 2026

17th November 2026

1st December 2026

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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



Lunches

Monday and Friday

Hot lunches can be heated by staff



Every day

Ice Blocks \$1.00

to raise money for the token prize box



Water bottles and hats this term

Acknowledging Our Cluster Schools

Te Akau School is part of a cluster of rural schools alongside Ruawaro, Glen Massey, Waingaro and Waikaretu Schools. We value the connections we share as a group of small rural kura and the opportunities to work together to support our ākonga and wider school communities.

As part of our wider school community, we would like to acknowledge the upcoming closure of Waingaro School in January 2027, marking the end of an important chapter in its history. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to the Waingaro school community, including its ākonga, whānau and staff, as they navigate this significant change and move into the next chapter.

On a more positive note, we would also like to extend a warm congratulations to Karyn McNally on her appointment as Principal of Ruawaro School. We wish Karyn every success in her new role and look forward to seeing Ruawaro School continue to thrive under her leadership.

Our cluster schools share valued connections, and we acknowledge both the changes and new beginnings within our wider rural education community.

Other Notices & Upcoming Events

PTA Disco – Friday 30 October

Our PTA Disco is happening tomorrow from 3pm–5pm in Room 3! Come along for a boogie and take the opportunity to meet our new Interim Principal, Meralyn Te Hira.

Please note that food will not be supplied, so remember to pack an afternoon snack for your tamariki.

2027 Enrolments Now Open!

Enrolments for Te Akau School in 2027 are now open! To assist us with planning and classroom placements for next year, we encourage any whānau wishing to enrol their child to get in touch with the school office as soon as possible.

Upcoming Athletics & Junior Games

We have a busy few weeks of sporting events ahead!

- Monday 9 November – Te Akau School Athletics:** Whānau are warmly invited to come along and cheer on our tamariki!
- Friday 13 November – Cluster Athletics:** Our Year 4–8 students will head to Glen Massey School. Parent transport will be required for this event, and further information will be sent home as soon as details are confirmed.
- Friday 20 November – Junior Games:** Our Year 1–3 students will head to Ruawaro School. Parent transport will be required for this event. Please note this is a date change, so be sure to update your calendars!

Scholastic Book Week – Week 5

Scholastic Book Week is back!

To celebrate, we will be holding a Book Character Dress-Up Day on Wednesday 11 November.

Tamariki are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite book character!

We have also invited our Playcentre friends to join us for the fun. We can't wait to see everyone's creative costumes!

SCHOOL CONTACTS

School Phone

07 825 4777

Website

www.teakau.school.nz

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

meralyn@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

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TERM 4, WEEK 3

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
Te Akau School PTA
R & B Crawford

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.



House Points – The Race Is On! 🏆

TERM 4, WEEK 3

A huge congratulations to Totara House, who finished Term 3 on top with an impressive 1,707 points! Their efforts earned them a delicious lunch shout on Wednesday, enjoying pizza, hot chips and ice blocks!

But let's not forget... the race for the End of Year House Trophy is far from over! The trophy is awarded to the house that earns the most points across the entire year, and our running totals are getting VERY close!

Current House Standings:

- 🏆 Totara – 3,998 points
- 🥈 Rimu – 3,846 points
- 🥉 Kauri – 3,542 points

With only 152 points separating 1st from 2nd, it really is anyone's game!

There are plenty of opportunities coming up to gain more house points, we have Athletics Day, tokens (which also count towards house points), house challenges and of course attendance points still up for grabs, every point counts!

Keep showing our school values, collecting those tokens and supporting your house, tamariki. We can't wait to see who takes home the trophy at the end of the year! 🏆



🐮 AGRIKIDS IS BACK FOR 2027! 🚜

We're looking for expressions of interest from our Te Akau tamariki aged 8–13 years old as of 1 February 2027 who are keen to give Agrikids a go on Saturday 10th April 2027!

Teams consist of 3 students, and each school can enter a maximum of 5 teams.

Last year, we went in blind, with not a lot of clue about what to expect... and still managed to get TWO teams into the final race-off at the end of the day! The kids had an absolute blast, and when we asked them this morning, "Should we do it again?" the answer was a definite YES! 🙌

🌱 What will this look like for 2027?

Mrs Reeves is keen to work with our teams on Wednesday afternoons, alternating between theory and practical skills. We're hoping to get Hugh back on board to help teach the practical side again!

Morgan Lilley will once again take care of registering our teams, and being that liaison person with the event organisers.

🚗 What about travel?

The Waikato Round is being hosted by Te Kawa West Club, which appears to be based in the Te Awamutu area. The venue is still to be confirmed, so we'll share more details as they become available.

📢 Keen to be involved?

Please email your expressions of interest to office@teakau.school.nz, and Gabbie will add you to a group chat so we can share information and organise teams.

🕒 Please get your expressions of interest in by Wednesday 4 November! Teams and spaces are filling up fast online, so we need to get our registrations in ASAP.

Let's get behind our tamariki, build some practical skills, have a heap of fun, and see what Te Akau can achieve in 2027! 💚💛

Token Prize Box – Ice Block Fundraising 💚💛

We will be making a change to how we fund our Token Prize Box. Moving forward, we will be selling Lemonade Ice Blocks for \$1.00 each, available every school day, with all proceeds going towards purchasing prizes for the token prize box.

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy and support to Jaxon, Mason, Karen and Brent following a devastating fire that took not only their home but their business too. Previously, Karen and Brent have generously sponsored our Token Prize Box, and we cannot thank them enough for their kindness, thought and effort they have put into keeping it filled with wonderful prizes for our tamariki.

To Jaxon, Mason, Karen and Brent – your Te Akau School whānau are thinking of you all. As you find your feet, resettle and begin rebuilding your lives, please know that your school community is right behind you. Your generosity has brought so many smiles to our tamariki, and we hope that when the time comes, we can return even a little of that kindness as you begin to rebuild and find your feet again. 💚

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Here are some examples of poetry we have been writing in Room 2. Year 7 and 8 students drew inspiration from the published poem *Wild Ideas*, using extended metaphors to compare their ideas to an animal. Meanwhile, Year 4, 5 and 6 students took inspiration from *Plastic Planet*, a poem written in rhyming couplets, and reimagined its theme as a Natural Planet. They will be bringing a copy of their published poem home.

My Fearless Ideas

They're fearless my ideas.

You can see them,
lurking, swimming, attacking, chilling,
adventuring.

They can glow under water like a
hi-vis bullet.

I try to make peace with them.

But my family says to stay out of
their way.

Someone says how majestic they
are, but very dangerous.

What I'd like to do is swim with them
again.

Where do my fearless ideas go
when they descend back to the
depths of the ocean.

By

My Natural Planet

There is a problem on planet Earth
People don't appreciate what it's
worth.

We need to keep our beautiful trees!
And plant flowers to feed the bees.

Healthy cows grazing
on clear, green hills
No more plastic in fishes gills.

Put your recycling in the proper bins
Paper plastic glass and tins.



By Blake

My Natural Planet

NO more plastic, that's fantastic
So much less made of plastic.

Natural flowers, soft green grass
Clay baked bricks and proper glass

Beautiful birds singing songs
In the trees where they belong

Beneath your feet feel the grass
Not messy rubbish and broken glass.

Join this cool team
To help get this beach clean.

Only clean water when it rains
So no plastic goes down the drain.

Good to think that when we're gone
Much less plastic will live on.

By Sadie

My Annoying Ideas

They're annoying my ideas

Screaming in the growing trees in my heads,
Flying swiftly scoring across the sky,
Feathers white and pale yellow, more white but yellow
head piece looking like what you'd see from Rio,
Nothing more then screaming and scoring, bright and
cute, but awfully annoying.

I've thought about petting one, smiling and forgetting
the noise, ruffling their soft smooth feathers

'Best not to bother them,' my friends say 'Once you
considered bringing in one of your ideas, theres no
stopping them,' they say

Though what could happen if I actually considered
them? I can't not wonder about it.

By Ariana

Careers education is a compulsory, integrated component of the national school curriculum for students in Year 7 and above. With that in mind, our Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed an exciting day exploring career opportunities right here in the Waikato.

Our first stop was Hill Labs in Frankton, where students were welcomed by staff and given an insight into the fascinating world of science and laboratory testing. They tackled some measuring challenges, sampled honey and enjoyed a tour of the laboratories. What an amazing facility! Students discovered that career opportunities at Hill Labs extend well beyond laboratory technicians, with roles in computer programming, 3D printing operations, security and much more.

Next, we headed to McDonald's Five Cross Roads, where the students were once again treated like VIPs! The manager shared insights into career pathways within McDonald's, highlighting how starting in one role can open doors to exciting future opportunities. Students got hands-on experience making frozen Cokes, preparing coffees and cooking fries, and enjoyed a well-deserved McDonald's lunch!

What an incredible day of learning, discovery and new experiences! It was inspiring to see our students engaging with local businesses, discovering the diverse career pathways available to them and gaining a first-hand appreciation of the amazing enterprises right here in our own Waikato community.



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Friday 30th October marks Aotearoa Teachers' Appreciation Day!

On Wednesday, while we had most of our team together, we were treated to a delicious morning tea by our wonderful Board of Trustees Chrissy, James and Dani, to show their appreciation for our teachers and staff, and to warmly welcome Meralyn to our kura.

A huge thank you to our Board for this thoughtful gesture and for recognising the hard work, care and dedication our team puts into our tamariki and school community every day.

We certainly felt appreciated! ❤️❤️



Community Notices

- **General Elections 2027** - Advanced voting Sat 31 Oct Te Akau School 9:00 am - 12:00 pm followed by Waingaro School 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- **Election day**, Saturday 7 November, all voting places will be open from 9am to 7pm.

TE AKAU KIDS DAY IN THE DIRT 2026

AGE RANGES FOR ALL RIDING KIDS
LOCATION
 1202 RUAKIWI ROAD, TE AKAU
SAFETY FIRST
 HELMETS AND BOOTS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE RIDING

FULL MINI MOTO TRACK 4-7PM 4TH DEC

PETER GLIDDEN HONDA MOTORCYCLES
MOTUL
CONTACT JACK BREGMEN: 027 8277 291

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

WDC - 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).

AFFCO NEW ZEALAND
 ESTABLISHED 1960

Jamie Ward
 Te Akau & Raglan Livestock Buyer
 021 947 321

Long time sponsor and supporter of Te Akau School

TE AKAU WAINGARO COMMUNITY COMPLEX CHRISTMAS FETE

- Santa
- Live music
- Face painting
- Food
- Pony club display

NOV 28 2026
 4pm - band till late
 616 Te Akau Road

COMMUNITY AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE FETE - GET YOUR NOMINATIONS IN NOW

Stall holders contact Dani
 dmbemd@gmail.com
 027 420 6902

PGG Wrightson growing the **COUNTRY** | **Cash for Communities**

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.

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Sharne Purchase
 027 704 8806 sharne.purchase@pggwrightson.co.nz

*Open to PGG Wrightson Ltd account holders for purchases during the qualifying period 1 September 2026 - 30 November 2026. Excludes Lime, Gypsum and 1000 L agricultural drums. Donations limited. First in first served. See full Terms and Conditions and list of participating products at cashforcommunities.co.nz

*** 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.

Waikato District Council
 For Education & Community Services

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

Nga mihi nui,

Welcome, Meralyn

A warm welcome to our interim Principal, Meralyn. It has been great getting to know you over the past week as you settle into Te Akau School and begin connecting with our amazing tamariki, staff, and wider school community. We are grateful that you have chosen to join us and support our school through this transition period. Your experience and leadership will be greatly valued as we continue to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to working together over the coming weeks.

Alongside welcoming Meralyn, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge some farewells. Next week, we say goodbye to Melissa, our much-loved Teacher Aide, whose dedication and care have made a lasting impact on our tamariki. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Hannah for all she has given to Te Akau School as both a teacher and principal, and to Donna and Hayley for the care, dedication, and support they have given our students over the years. Their contributions to our school community have been deeply appreciated, and they will be greatly missed by students, whānau, and colleagues alike. We wish them all the very best!

School Bus

Term 4 User Pays fees are now in effect, and we'd like to thank all our families for their continued commitment to using the school bus service. We'd also like to extend a very special thank you to the Crawford and Culley families for their incredibly generous donation towards the bus. Support like this makes a real difference and helps us sustain this valuable service for our school community.

10-Year Property Update

There are some exciting things in the pipeline for our 10-year property plan. We're looking forward to getting started on some smaller projects around the school this term and over the holidays, with another bigger project planned for next year. We look forward to sharing more with you as things progress.

Halloween Disco

We're looking forward to seeing all the brilliant dance moves at our Halloween Disco tomorrow! We hope everyone has a fantastic time dressing up, having fun, and enjoying an after-school boogie with friends. A big thank you to our amazing PTA for organising this event and helping make it happen. We really appreciate the time and effort they put into creating these fun opportunities for our tamariki.

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

Meralyn Te Hira (Interim Principal)

meralyn@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

9th November 2026
4.00pm
Te Akau School
All Welcome!