

PRINCIPAL KŌRERO

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the warm welcome and support I have received during my time as Interim Principal at Te Akau School. It has been lovely getting to know our tamariki, whānau and wider school community, and I have really appreciated the positive connections and conversations along the way.

It has been wonderful to see whānau getting involved in our recent school activities and events. A big thank you to our dedicated PTA for organising the school disco and creating another opportunity for our school community to come together. It was also great to see Playcentre included in our recent Book Character Day celebrations. Building these connections early helps create a sense of belonging and makes the transition into school a little smoother for our youngest learners.

What's Happening at Our Kura

Over the past few weeks, we have been settling into our classroom routines, establishing programmes and placing a strong focus on our school values. Each Friday, certificates are presented to recognise tamariki who have been demonstrating our values of Respect (Aroha ki te tangata), Responsibility (Kia mau tō tikanga) and Resilience (Kia kaha te mahi i tō mahi). It is wonderful to see these values being recognised and celebrated in our everyday learning and interactions.

Our focused literacy programme for Year 3–4 students has been running consistently each morning from 9.00am–11.00am. I have been working with the students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, with Mrs Reeves taking the Wednesday session. It has been great to establish this regular learning time and provide targeted support for our tamariki.

We have also introduced a new daily routine called 10 at 10! At 10.00am each morning, students have a 10-minute brain break to enjoy a healthy snack, recharge and get ready for the next part of their learning day.

Keeping Connected with Our Kura

Hero is our primary point of contact for school communication and is where whānau can keep up to date with notices, events, updates and important information. We encourage all families to ensure they are logged in and actively using Hero. We have recently checked our accounts and are pleased to see that most families are already connected, thank you!

A reminder that all student absences should be submitted through Hero so we can keep our attendance records up to date. If you need help accessing or using Hero, please get in touch with Gabbie at the school office.

We also have a Te Akau School Facebook page, where you can find additional updates, photos and information about current school events. Be sure to follow along to keep up with what's happening around our kura.

Behind the scenes, Gabbie is also working on a new school prospectus, which will provide an overview of Te Akau School for current and prospective whānau. We look forward to sharing this with you all soon!

Looking Ahead to 2027

We have officially advertised for our new classroom teacher for 2027 as we begin planning and preparing for the year ahead. We look forward to welcoming a new teacher into our Te Akau School team.

With the upcoming closure of Waingaro School, I know that school transport remains an important consideration for many of our whānau. Lex and I continue to work alongside the Ministry of Education to explore the possibility of securing a Ministry-funded Go Bus route for 2027. Discussions are ongoing, and we want to reassure families that this remains a priority. We will keep whānau updated as further information becomes available.

Moving Forward Together

As we move through Term 4, I recognise this is a time of change, reflection and preparation for the year ahead. I want to reassure whānau that I will continue in my role at Te Akau School until a new Principal has been appointed. From there, I will work alongside your new Principal and new teachers to support a smooth transition and ensure continuity for our tamariki, staff and whānau. My commitment is to continue providing stability and support for our kura throughout this process.

Maintaining positive and open communication between home and school is important, and I encourage whānau to continue sharing their thoughts, questions and ideas with us.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our dedicated staff, whānau, PTA, Board of Trustees and wider community for everything they contribute to our kura. The time, support and commitment of so many people make a real difference to our tamariki and school.

By continuing to work together, guided by our shared school values, we can ensure Te Akau School remains a positive and welcoming place for everyone. I look forward to making the most of the remaining weeks of Term 4 and finishing the year on a positive note.

Ngā mihi maioha,
Meralyn Te Hira (Mā Te Hira)
Interim Principal

Meralyn



Meralyn Te Hira
Interim Principal
Te Akau School

Important Dates

Term 4
12 Oct - 14 Dec

13th Nov 2026
Senior Cluster Athletics at Glen Massey

20th Nov 2026
Year 1-3 Jnr Games Ruawaro School

26th Nov 2026
WDC Road Safety Visit

14th Dec 2026
Last Day - Prize Giving

2nd Feb 2027
Term 1 Starts - Welcome Back!



Year 7 & 8 Tech Dates

3rd November 2026
17th November 2026
1st December 2026

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

Welcoming Our New Staff

A warm welcome to **Mrs Parrott**, who has been teaching in Room 1 while covering Whaea Hayley's leave through until Monday 30 November. Many of our whānau will already know Mrs Parrott, and it has been lovely having her with us.

We would also like to extend a special welcome to **Ella Caprice,** who has taken over from Whaea Mel as our learning coach. Ella is no stranger to Te Akau, having been a student here herself when she was younger! It's lovely to welcome her back to the kura in a new role. Ella will be joining us on Thursdays and Fridays.

We are delighted to have both on board and look forward to having them as part of our Te Akau School team!





Other Notices & Upcoming Events

🏫 **2027 Enrolments Now Open!**
Enrolments for Te Akau School in 2027 are now open! To help 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**

- Friday 20 November – Junior Games: Our Year 1–3 students will be heading to Ruawaro School. Parent transport will be required for this event. Please ensure your child's permission slip has been returned.

📚 **Scholastic Book Week – Week 5**
Scholastic Book Week has been a hit! Our goal is to reach $750 in book sales, which will earn us commission to put towards purchasing new books for our school library. Thank you for supporting our kura and helping us grow our library!

🎶 **Weekly Friday Assemblies**
Our weekly assemblies are held every Friday at 2.15pm and are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements, share music and come together to finish the week.
We warmly invite whānau and family members to join us for assembly whenever you can. Whether you can make it every week or just the occasional Friday, we'd love to see you there!

🎓 **End-of-Year Prizegiving**
Our end-of-year Prizegiving will be held on Monday 14 December at 10.00am in the school hall.
We look forward to celebrating the year and recognising the achievements of our tamariki with you all!

SCHOOL CONTACTS

School Phone		**07 825 4777**
Website		**www.teakau.school.nz**
Meralyn Te Hira	Interim Principal	meralyn@teakau.school.nz
Hannah O'Brien	Principal -On leave	hannah@teakau.school.nz
Gabbie Bregmen	Office	office@teakau.school.nz
Donna Palmer	Room 2	donna@teakau.school.nz
Jodie Redpath	Room 2	jodie@teakau.school.nz
Sandra Parrott	Room 1- Fixed Term	sandra@teakau.school.nz
Hayley Smith	Room 1- On leave	hayley@teakau.school.nz
Ann Reeves	CRT Release	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 & 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.





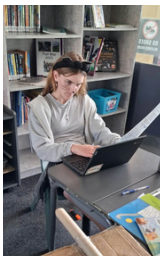
📚 Book Character Day – What a Hit! 🎉

What an awesome day celebrating Book Character Day at Te Akau School! It was fantastic to see our tamariki and staff dressed up as their favourite characters, with so much creativity and effort going into their costumes.
We also loved including our local Playcentre tamariki in the fun. Building these connections between Playcentre and kura helps strengthen relationships and supports a smoother transition into school for our youngest learners. 💚
A big congratulations to our costume competition winners, who each received a book from our Book Fair! 📖 Thank you to everyone who got involved and helped make the day such a fun and memorable one. We loved seeing all the wonderful characters come to life! 🌟

🏆 **Our Winners:**

- Preschool: Esmae as Old MacDonald
- Room 1: Ovelia and Otis as a Bluey duo
- Room 2: Kade as Riki the Mad Scientist
- Room 3: Sasha as a Wilson's sister










🐕 Smart Dog Visit!

Hailey and her clever four-legged companion, Cricket, from Animal Control visited our kura on Tuesday to teach our tamariki about staying safe around dogs.
Growing up in a rural community, many of our tamariki are very comfortable around dogs. They are part of everyday life, whether they're working farm dogs or much-loved family pets. However, it's important to remember that not all dogs are safe to approach. While we're familiar with dogs trained for farming, other dogs may have been trained for protection and can behave quite differently.
Hailey talked our students through the signs to look out for, how to recognise when a dog may be uncomfortable or feeling threatened, and what to do to keep themselves safe while respecting a dog's boundaries.

It's a great reminder that even when we're confident around dogs, we should never assume every dog is friendly or wants to be approached. Did you know? ACC records tens of thousands of dog-related injury claims each year, with some injuries serious enough to require hospitalisation. Learning how to read a dog's body language and approach dogs safely is an important skill for everyone.

A big thank you to Hailey and Cricket for coming along and sharing such an important message with our tamariki! 🐾








Focused Literacy Programme – Room 3



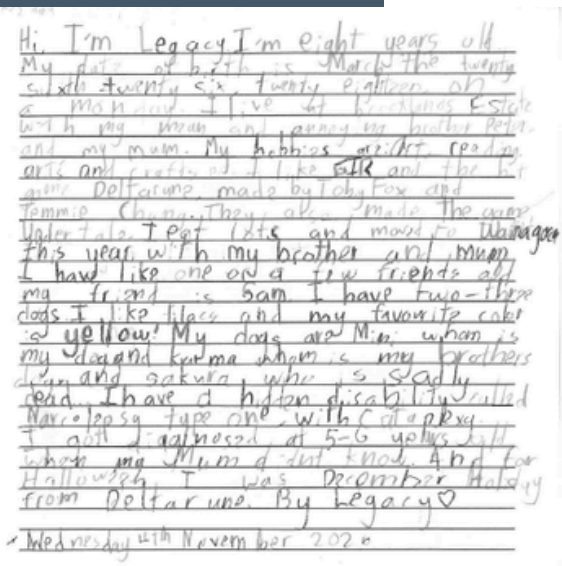
Each morning from 9am–11am, our focused literacy group works in Room 3, with a strong emphasis on developing reading, writing and language skills.

Mrs Reeves has been focusing on the Code programme, which supports students to develop their decoding skills, giving them strategies to break down and read unfamiliar words. An important part of this learning is transferring these strategies into their writing.

Mā Te Hira has also been delivering a structured literacy programme that incorporates a daily routine of oral language, poetry, shared reading of texts, writing and the process of editing and publishing finished work.

Together, these programmes provide our ākonga with valuable opportunities to strengthen their literacy foundations, build confidence and develop skills they can apply across all areas of their learning.

Check out some of their awesome work this week!



Wednesday 4th November 2026

Hi. I'm Legacy. I'm eight years old. My date of birth was March twenty six twenty eighteen on a Monday. I live at Brooklands Estate, I live with my annoying and mean brother Peter and my Mum.

My hobbies are: reading, arts and crafts, DIY, exploration about nature, going to the beach, playing games, making mini huts at home, and last but not least. Eating food, such as rice, burgers, pizza, candy, seaweed, toast, etc.

I like GIR from invader zim. And the super cool hit game Deltarune, made by Toby Fox and Temmie Chang. They also made the other super cool game Undertale which I have now on my Xbox series s.

I have a friend named Sam. My favourite flowers would probably be lilacs and roses. And my favourite tree type would be cherry blossom. My favourite color is yellow. I have this hidden disability called Narcolepsy type one. Its just like a sleeping disorder. I got it at five years old when my mum didn't know. I got diagnosed at five to six years old.

For halloween I was this character from Deltarune called December Holiday.

By LEGACY.

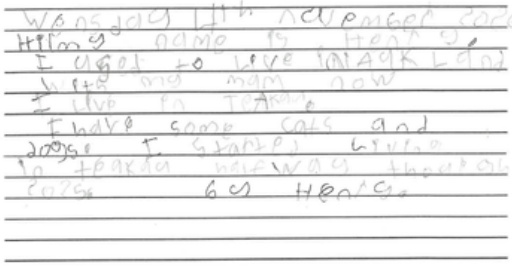


Information writing.

Wednesday 4th November 2026

Hi, my name is henry.
I used to live in auckland with my mum now i live in taokau. i have some cats and dogs i started living in taokau halfway through 2025.

by henry





The weekend

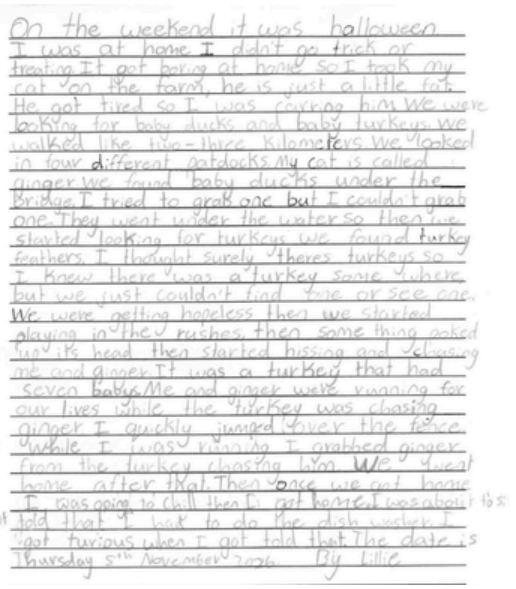
On the weekend it was Halloween. I was at home. I didn't go trick or treating. I was at home. It got boring at home so I took my cat on the farm. He is just a little fat. He got tired so I carried him.

We were looking for baby ducks and baby turkeys. We walked like two - three kilometers. We looked in four different paddocks. My cat is called Ginger. We found baby ducks under the bridge.I tried to grab one but i couldn't grab one. They went under the water so we started to look for turkeys and we found turkeys feathers. I thought surely there's turkoys somewhere but we just couldn't find one or see one.We were getting hopeless then we started playing in the rushes, then something poked up its head then started hissing and chasing me and ginger. It was a turkey that had seven babies. Me and ginger were running for our lives while the turkey was chasing ginger.I quickly jumped over the fence while i was running i grabbed ginger from the turkey chasing him. We went home after that.

Then once we got home I was going to chill. Then I got home and I was about to sit. Then I got told that I had to do the dish washer. I got furious when I got told that.

The date is thursday 5th november 2026

By Lillie



A Reminder – Lost Property

Our lost property collection is growing, and there are plenty of unnamed items waiting to be reunited with their owners! Please take the opportunity to have a look through and collect anything belonging to your tamariki before the end of the school year. Any items remaining at the end of the year will be sent for donation.











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

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 Aakau Hall carpark (next to the school).



AFFCO NEW ZEALAND

Jamie Ward
Te Akau & Raglan Livestock Buyer
021 947 321
Long time sponsor and supporter of Te Akau School



PGG Wrightson growing the COUNTRY | Cash for Communities



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

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

*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 agrichemical 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

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

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) - On Leave
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

7th December 2026
4.00pm
Te Akau School
All Welcome!