


# PRINCIPAL KŌRERO

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

True to our Te Akau School motto, “The Valley of Lifelong Learners,” I continue to grow our school values reflected in the everyday learning routines, relationships and continue the stability across our kura. It is encouraging to see the positive foundations being strengthened and the sense of purpose across our kura.

As we approach Week 8, I am looking forward to having our student reports ready for whānau, next week. These reports are an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, progress and individual successes of our tamariki. A heartfelt thank you to our teachers for the time, care and professional commitment invested in assessing and writing reports for every student. Whether recognising progress, skills practised or new knowledge gained, your efforts and pride in the learning journeys of our tamariki have not gone unnoticed.

**Enrolments are open!** I welcome visits from whānau and tamariki - new entrants through to Year 8.
I recognise the mana, history and generational connections that our community holds with Te Akau School. A strong Te Akau School is something we can all take pride in, and I warmly welcome both new and returning families to be part of our kura.

I am proud to serve as your Interim Principal and look forward to building on the foundations established this term. I am particularly excited about growing our academic, cultural and wellbeing success as we move into Term 1, 2027.

**A few reminders and celebrations:**

Lost Property: With the warmer days arriving, our tamariki are shedding their extra layers, and our lost property collection is growing! Please take a moment to check for familiar clothing and belongings and bring these home.

Weet-Bix Supplies: Staff and I continue to offer Weet-Bix to everyone, but we haven't quite made a dent in the supply this term! If you have any favorite recipes that include Weet-Bix, please share them with us. I would love to distribute some of our unused supplies to whānau, rather than waste it, before the end of term.

**A Special Acknowledgement:**
With gratitude, I'd like to give a special shout-out to Whaea Gabbie, who is truly a Te Akau superstar. Sometimes I don't say thank you often enough. So today, I simply want to say, “I appreciate you Gabbie and all the extras you do”. Your contribution makes a difference, and it deserves to be acknowledged everyday. Thank you Gabbie.

Our final newsletter for 2026 will be shared in Week 9, as we approach the end of another school year. Until then, thank you to our tamariki, staff, whānau and wider community for the part you each play in making Te Akau School a place where lifelong learning can flourish.

Aroha ki te tangata – Respect each person with kindness.
Ngā mihi maioha,

Meralyn Te Hira (Mā Te Hira)
Interim Principal



Meralyn Te Hira
Interim Principal
Te Akau School

## Important Dates

**Term 4**
12 Oct - 14 Dec

**28th Nov 2026**
Christmas Fete
- Complex 4pm

**9th Dec 2026**
PTA AGM
9.15, Library

**14th Dec 2026**
Last Day - Prize Giving

**2nd Feb 2027**
Term 1 Starts
- Welcome Back!

## School Values Poster




## Year 7 & 8 Tech Dates

1st December 2026

## Te Whare Pora (Room 3) - Novel study

Our class is currently enjoying the novel 'Can you see me?' as part of our literacy programme. We are strengthening our oral language skills by taking turns reading aloud to a small group, practicing fluency, expression and confidence.
As we read, we decode unfamiliar words, building our vocabulary and discussing the key messages, ideas and relating these to our own lives. These discussions encourage our tamariki to think critically, share their persectives, listen to others and make connections with the characters.








Mā Te Hira

# Housekeeping

**DAILY SCHOOL BELLS**



| | |
|---|---|
| 9am | School Starts |
| *10am -10.10am* | *Brain break* |
| 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

# 2026 Prize Giving Awards 🏆

Throughout the year, Whaea Gabbie has been keeping track of our students' sporting achievements, recording points for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings at both school and cluster events.

With our final sporting events now underway, we are excited to announce that our trophy winners have been decided! We can't wait to celebrate their achievements and share the results with you all at our Prize Giving on Monday 14th December, from 11am in the school hall.

On Wednesday, students had the opportunity to vote for their Junior and Senior Citizens. Our Junior category is Years 0–4, and Senior category is Years 5–8. Our staffing team also cast their votes, with these awards recognising students who best show our school values by their peers and teachers.

Academic awards have been determined by looking at each student's progress, effort and commitment to their learning throughout 2026.

We look forward to celebrating the many achievements and successes of our students at prize giving! - Please if you still hold a trophy at home from 2025 prizegiving we need these into the office ASAP for engraving.

# 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**
Room 2 will have a trip booked for the end of the year, this is looking to be on Wednesday 9th December to Raglan. Permission slips and more information to go home ASAP. We will be looking for parent help if you have space in your diary.

📚 **Scholastic Book Week – Week 5**
Thank you to all who helped with Scholastics Book week especially Laura MacDonald, who helped Gabbie set up and pack down. I am still tallying the funds as the final payments come in however it is looking promising that we made enough to get credit for our school libary.

🎶 **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!

## 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.






# 🏃‍♀️ 2026 Te Akau School Athletics Results 🏅



What a fantastic day of athletics we had at Te Akau School! It was wonderful to see our students giving their events a go, showing determination, encouraging one another and putting in some great performances.
Congratulations to all our students who received placings. There were some outstanding results across the field events, distance running and relays.

A special congratulations to the following students on their achievements:




🏅 Field Events

**Discus**

- Junior Girls: 1st Sadie MacDonald, 2nd Paige van den Bemd, 3rd Lillie Crawford
- Junior Boys: 1st George Jackson, 2nd Blake Bregmen, 3rd Mason Purcell
- Senior Girls: 1st Billie van den Bemd, 2nd Jessica Horsley
- Senior Boys: 1st Aiden Chamberlain, 2nd Rory McRoberts-Maihi, 3rd Noah Crawford

**Long Jump**

- Year 0 & 1 Girls: 1st Katie Kereopa, 2nd Olivia Jackson, 3rd Ruby Horne
- Year 0 & 1 Boys: 1st Astro Dawson, 2nd Henley Johnston, 3rd Jamie van den Bemd
- Year 2 & 3 Girls: 1st Jocelyn Chamberlain, 2nd Rhyda Johnston, 3rd Esme Foley and Macey MacDonal
- Year 2 & 3 Boys: 1st Luka Bregmen
- Year 7 & 8 Girls: 1st Jessica Horsley, 2nd Samantha Towl, 3rd Billie van den Bemd
- Year 7 & 8 Boys: 1st Jaxon Purcell, 2nd Noah Crawford, 3rd Aiden Chamberlain

**Shot Put**

- Year 0 & 1 Girls: 1st Olivia Jackson, 2nd Katie Kereopa, 3rd Ruby Horne
- Year 0 & 1 Boys: 1st Astro Dawson, 2nd Henley Johnston, 3rd Jamie van den Bemd
- Year 2 & 3 Girls: 1st Jocelyn Chamberlain, 2nd Rhyda Johnston, 3rd Esme Foley
- Year 2 & 3 Boys: 1st Luka Bregmen and Lachie van den Bemd
- Year 7 & 8 Girls: 1st Jessica Horsley, 2nd Samantha Towl, 3rd Billie van den Bemd
- Year 7 & 8 Boys: 1st Jaxon Purcell, 2nd Benjamin Chamberlain, 3rd Noah Crawford

**High Jump**

- Year 0 & 1 Girls: 1st Ruby Horne, 2nd Katie Kereopa, 3rd Olivia Jackson
- Year 0 & 1 Boys: 1st Astro Dawson, 2nd Henley Johnston, 3rd Jamie van den Bemd
- Year 2 & 3 Girls: 1st Jocelyn Chamberlain, 2nd Rhyda Johnston, 3rd Piper Lilley, Macey MacDonald, Sasha Orlando-Reep and Esme Foley
- Year 2 & 3 Boys: 1st Luka Bregmen
- Year 4, 5 & 6 Girls: 1st Sadie MacDonald, 2nd Lillie Crawford, Paige van den Bemd and Reagan Lilley
- Year 4, 5 & 6 Boys: 1st George Jackson
- Year 7 & 8 Girls: 1st Jessica Horsley, 2nd Billie van den Bemd
- Year 7 & 8 Boys: 1st Aiden Chamberlain and Noah Crawford, 2nd Jaxon Purcell, 3rd Rory McRoberts-Maihi

🏃 **Distance Running**

- Year 0 & 1 Girls: 1st Olivia Jackson, 2nd Katie Kereopa, 3rd Ruby Horne
- Year 0 & 1 Boys: 1st Henley Johnston, 2nd Astro Dawson, 3rd Jamie van den Bemd
- Year 2 & 3 Girls: 1st Rhyda Johnston, 2nd Jocelyn Chamberlain, 3rd Macey MacDonald
- Year 2 & 3 Boys: 1st Luka Bregmen
- Year 4, 5 & 6 Girls: 1st Paige van den Bemd, 2nd Sadie MacDonald, 3rd Reagan Lilley
- Year 4, 5 & 6 Boys: 1st George Jackson, 2nd Blake Bregmen, 3rd Mason Purcell
- Year 7 & 8 Girls: 1st Jessica Horsley, 2nd Billie van den Bemd
- Year 7 & 8 Boys: 1st Noah Crawford, 3rd Aiden Chamberlain

🏆 **House Relays**

- 1st: Kauri House – Captain Noah Crawford
- 2nd: Rimu House – Captain Jessica Horsley
- 3rd: Totara House – Deputy Captain Rory McRoberts-Maihi

We are incredibly proud of all our students and their efforts. A big thank you to everyone who helped organise and support our athletics day. Congratulations again to all our placegetters!






# Room 2 - Te Whare Ngā Pou - Shape Poems

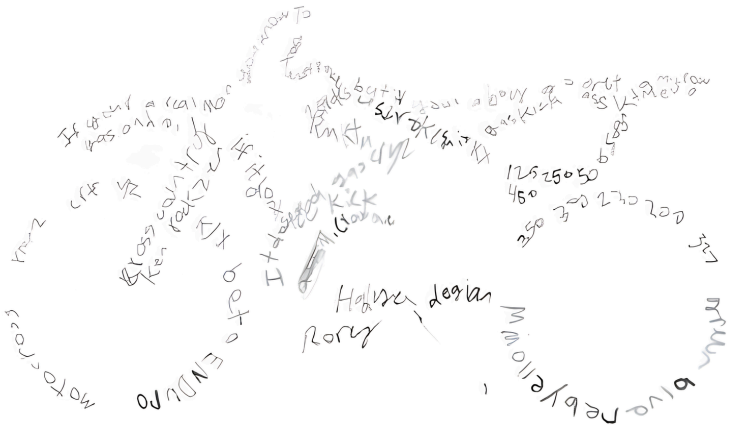





Room 2 have been reading Wonder, by RJ Pallacio. The idea of a precept recurs in the book, being a phrase or saying to use a guide for living your life. We drew a self portrait in the same style as in the book, and write a paragraph explaining our chosen precept. Here are some examples.

Shape Poems. We write a poem about the shape, and the lines are written to make that figure.



My precept

I chose this precept because you should be kind, nice, respectful and responsible. It is always good to be nice.

Peter

# Junior cluster sports



What a fabulous day!

We were very lucky with the weather and certainly appreciated the cloud cover.

As always, it was a very well-organised event, and I was incredibly proud of our class. Their behaviour was exemplary, everyone looked out for one another, and all had a go at the activities. They demonstrated all our school pillars beautifully – resilience, responsibility and respect.

A huge thank you to all the parents and caregivers who came along to support our tamariki. Your support is always appreciated!

Nga mihi Mrs Parrott











# Community Notices

**Carol Service** – Friday 11 December 7pm at St Alban's Church, Waingaro

**Christmas Day Service** – Christmas Day 25 December 10am at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Te Akau.

Rev Ruth Smart
St Stephen's Parish
Te Kowhai
Ph 07 829 7655




**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 ESTABLISHED 1903

**Jamie Ward**
**Te Akau & Raglan Livestock Buyer**
**021 947 321**

Long time sponsor and supporter of Te Akau 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.

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

# PTA AGM



Kia ora everyone,
Our PTA AGM will be held on Thursday 10th December at 9.15am, after school drop-off in the school library. Everyone is welcome! We need at least 5 PTA members present to vote, so your support would be greatly appreciated.

We are looking for volunteers to fill the Secretary and Treasurer roles, with Sarah stepping down as Chair and Caitlan as Treasurer. Laura is happy to step into the Chair role, but nominations for all positions are welcome.

Our PTA is a relaxed, supportive team that works together to raise fantastic funds for our school through fun community events. It's a great way to get involved and support Te Akau School!
If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Sarah, Laura or Caitlan at pta@teakau.school.nz.
We'd love to see some new faces!
Thanks,
Te Akau PTA

# BOT UPDATE

*Happy end of Week 7 everyone!*

*It has been a very busy and exciting term already, with junior and senior athletics - congratulations to every student for the incredible effort and making Te Akau proud. Also, Book Character Day which was brilliant! The costumes were some of the best we've seen. A special thank you to our staff for putting on such a fun morning for both our school and Playcentre children, and for getting dressed up themselves! It is always exciting to see the adults dressing up as their favourite book characters.*

*By-Elections – Parent and Staff Representatives*
*In Term 1, we will be holding by-elections to fill two casual parent representative vacancies and one staff representative vacancy. Further information about the election process will be shared during the first week back in Term 1. If you are interested in contributing to the governance and future direction of our school, we would love to see you put your name forward.*

*In the meantime, to support the Board over the coming months, we have co-opted two parents from our school community, Josh MacDonald and Matt Pitts. We sincerely appreciate them giving their time and expertise to support us during this transition period and election process.*

*Principal Appointment Process*
*The principal appointment process will begin next year, with Meralyn continuing in her role as Interim Principal role term 1 2027 until a permanent appointment is made. The recruitment process will take some time as we work to identify the best fit for our students, staff, whānau and wider community. We are very grateful to Meralyn for her ongoing leadership, support and commitment to providing stability and continuity during this period.*

*That's all from us for now. We look forward to celebrating another successful year together at Prizegiving on 14 December.*

# 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
**Josh MacDonald**
josh@teakau.school.nz
**Matthew Pitts**
matthew@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!