



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term One - 14 February 2024



## Sunshine, heat, and air conditioning...

Kia Ora Whānau - well all complaints of not enough sunshine last summer have been answered with beautiful weather to start the year.

In this warm **sunshine** we have been able to welcome 30+ new students to our kura, with warm smiles and start of year events. The pool has been well used. I opened it at lunch today for over 50 excited kids. Great to see this resource being well used.

2024 is a year we are turning up the **heat** a little in our academic programmes while continuing to provide a range of sport, musical, cultural, and environmental opportunities for students. We are turning up the heat in ensuring clear progressions for learning are identified for each student, and they are making progress towards their goals. Thank you for engaging with your child's teacher with an initial goal for each child to crack into the year.

We are very grateful for our air conditioning in classes which allows us to focus. Teachers are working through some initial testing that leads to goal setting, and getting learning routines established. One of our visiting support workers commented today on how well settled into learning our students were. A great start everyone!

## *A letter from Sarah Paterson, Presiding Member of the Kaharoa School Board*

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa. **Welcome to both returning and new whānau to Kaharoa School.**

Yes 2024 is here, it seems the years speed by so fast! Probably because we all have such busy, full lives.

For the Board, 2023 was a productive year, and 2024 looks to be much the same. I remember this time last year feeling excited about the year to come and it certainly didn't disappoint. The Kaharoa School leadership team did a phenomenal job in carving out a strong, positive environment for our tamariki, with some new initiatives and a refocus. This year will build on last year and continue to strengthen what has been started.

For the Board the launching of SchoolDocs is due to happen soon and will completely change the way we work as a Board. Until now policy creating, reviewing and auditing took up a large portion of our role which limited the time we had to focus on other aspects of our job. The Board will now be able to spend more time checking in on the progress of strategic goals, and student progress across the curriculum. These aspects have always been important to us (and more enjoyable to work on than policy). This year you will see more questionnaires coming your way, please take the time to fill them in. It is how we can ensure we are advocating the values of our community, and make sure your voice is heard.

Kaharoa School is also looking to build on the connection and relationship it has with you, our school community. The school is always looking at ways to connect with you, but there are things you can do too. Many of the ways you can be involved happen outside of normal working hours, and there is always flexibility. Managing or coaching a sports team is one way, it involves commitment but doesn't need to be time intensive and is a great way to get to know other parents and connect with the school. Of course joining the PTA is a brilliant way to connect with the school, other parents and the wider community; and by doing so you will get to know what is going on at school and why. Or if you can, helping out at camps and day trips are ways to better get to know your child's teacher and child's peers. And make sure you come along to school events.

Something I've mentioned before but want to touch on again is the importance of creating a healthy working relationship with your child's teacher and the school as a whole. Kaharoa School shares your determination for your child to reach their full potential and thrive. In my experience misinformation and misunderstanding can create a lot of angst. If there is something you are concerned about, seek clarification and keep seeking it until your concerns are alleviated (familiarise yourself with the concerns and complaints process if you need to). Continue to work positively with your school to get the best outcomes for your child. When you speak positively about, and interact positively with your child's school, your child will pick up on that and their school experience can be a healthy, positive one.

This year the Board will continue to work hard to support Kaharoa School in creating an exceptional learning environment for our tamariki. Ngā mihi, Sarah Paterson, Presiding Member, Kaharoa School Board

## Notices:

### **New School Year - a good chance to review your child's contact and medical information!**

Has any of your contact/emergency contact or medical information changed? If so, please email [office@kaharoa.school.nz](mailto:office@kaharoa.school.nz) to let us know. You can check this on your @school app.

### **Important Email Check!**

Our Snapshots and newsletters include a list of whole school emails that have been sent out recently - please check that you are receiving these.

Sometimes new email addresses can be blocked by your incoming mail service because we send bulk emails out with you in the Bcc field for privacy reasons.

One solution to this is to send a once off email to [noreply@kaharoa.school.nz](mailto:noreply@kaharoa.school.nz) just saying a basic 'hello' and then your mail service will recognise the email address as friendly and not spam. It still helps to check your spam folder in case the messages are going there.

You will get an instant reply that the mailbox is not being monitored and that is fine, you can ignore that message.

### **2024 Triathlon Results**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help or came to watch and support our students who competed in the Triathlon last week. You all contributed to making the Triathlon a fun and successful event for our students. Please find the results attached to the email copy of this newsletter.

### **@school App**

You will have received an email on 5 Feb with the instructions and your User ID for downloading and accessing our @school app. It will enable you to; securely access personal information about your child (and advise us of any changes), receive school notices and reminders of upcoming events and information, **inform us about absences (by 9am please)**, access information about your school account (fees and charges) and access our website via a direct link.

### **Lunch Online (Pita Pit) orders**

Orders for Pita Pit via Lunch Online are available for Thursday lunch. Please see the email sent 5 February with the information about how to set up an account and order online.

### **Gardasil (HPV) and Boostrix Vaccination Clinic for Year 7/8 students - 20 February**

Public Health Nurses will hold an Education Session for Year 7&8 Students regarding Gardasil (HPV) and Boostrix vaccinations. Parental consent forms will be handed out to the students to bring home.

### **Swimming Sports - 23 February**

All children will need warm clothes, a hat, sunscreen, a packed lunch, togs and towel for the swimming sports. Events will begin around 9.10am and finish about 12pm for Seniors, and Juniors will begin at 1pm. Parents are welcome to come and support the children - we look forward to seeing you there! See our email sent yesterday which gives more details.

### **Sun Smart!**

The minimum expectation for all students in Term 1 and 4 is a wide-brimmed or bucket hat (covers face, ears, and neck) of any style or colour. This hat will need to be named and remain in class to be used for break times, and when outdoors during the school day. These can be purchased for under \$10 from various stores.

The office will continue to sell Kaharoa Hats for \$24 while stocks last. Children catching the Hamurana bus home are to bring their own named mufti sunhat (i.e. any style) to wear while waiting for the bus in the afternoons. This will stay in their bag until after school.

## **What's on?**

### **19 February**

**Kaharoa School Board Meeting  
5:30pm in the Staffroom**

Parents and Caregivers are welcome.

### **20 February**

**Gardasil (HPV) & Boostrix Education  
Session (Y7/8 students)**

### **23 February**

**Swimming Sports**

### **1 March**

**Stepping Up Assembly**

Whole school assembly. Stepping Up Awards will be presented and school leaders announced. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

-and-

**House Sports Day**

Dress in House Colours!

### **5-8 March**

**Team Totara Camp (MiCamp, Taupo)**

### **Recent Whole School Emails**

- **Kaharoa Snapshot** (sent 9 Feb)
- **Parent App / 'Lunch Online' - available Thursdays from 08 February / Seesaw** (sent 5 Feb)
- **Start of 2024 Kaharoa School Information SUMMARY** (sent 25 Jan)

Note: We ask parents/caregivers to provide their child with a SPF 30+ sunscreen to keep in their bags and encourage students to reapply sunscreen throughout the day.

## Tarawera Ultra Marathon - helpers still needed for the aid station this weekend!

The PTA is organising our first fundraiser - an Aid Station for the popular Tarawera Ultra Marathon on 17-18 Feb. They are still looking for helpers, particularly 3 adults to help from 10pm on the 17th. If you are able, please email Michelle at [marinom@kaitao.school.nz](mailto:marinom@kaitao.school.nz). See the [TUM post](#) on our website for more information.

## Community Notices:

Keep an eye on our website for community notices or opportunities being offered. These will be shared on the main homepage of our website and/or the "Community News" page. Most recent additions include; **Play with Paint with Kiri Honey (see below)**, **Wanted: A House to Rent** and **Girl Guiding NZ**.

### Play with Paint

Kiri Honey, Life Coach for Mum's and a parent at Kaharua, will be commencing monthly Play with Paint sessions in the Kaharua Hall on 17 February, 7-9pm. Unleash your inner creative and have some fun! See the details on our website!



### Kaharua Community Association(KCA) Social Night- 5 April, 5:30pm

A message from the KCA: **We will be opening the hall for our first social night on Friday 5th April from 5.30pm.** Come along to catch up with neighbours, friends and see the improvements the Rotorua District Council and your Hall Committee have made to the hall.

**Do you have your own business? Are you interested in supporting Kaharua School and advertising with us?** Let our school community know what you do and how to access your services. For \$200.00 plus GST pa. your business will have the exposure of your logo displayed on our website, a "Get Info" page for your business displaying your contact information and a description of what your company offers, and your logo appearing on our regular digital and hardcopy newsletter. If you are interested, please contact [sarahn@kaharua.school.nz](mailto:sarahn@kaharua.school.nz) for more information.



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