



Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Rua 2025

*Where students learn creatively and strive for excellence preparing for lifelong learning
Kia auaha te ako a ngā ākonga me te whai i te iti kahurangi mō te akoranga tūroa*

Friday 2 May 2025

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

We welcomed ākonga back this term with our 'Mellow Mondays' transition into the space. This 'soft start' approach gives children the opportunity to settle back into school at the beginning of each week. The children have a choice of activities which allow them to make, create, and mingle before the main mahi begins.

Nurturing relationships and creating a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and connected remains our focus. Upholding school values, modelling appropriate conduct, and problem-solving are at the forefront. Be assured that regular conversations occur to discuss strengths and solve problems. This process nurtures the Key Competencies, which underpin our school curriculum. They are the basis of learning how to be a citizen and a lifelong learner. It takes time and patience. We appreciate the partnership we have with whānau, and maintaining positive communications is vital.

A special thanks to our board members for providing additional learning support. Due to our larger class sizes, we need learning assistants to cater to the variety of children and their needs. We've valued the positive contribution our learning support staff have brought to the space. Their warm interactions, encouragement, and tutoring are invaluable. The result is pūkenagtanga in action, with children learning purposefully and enjoying success.

Assembly and mihi whakataua on Friday

Whānui will be hosting the first assembly of the term. Before assembly, we will welcome all new ākonga and their whānau to our kura with a mihi whakataua. This will begin at our new time of 1.50 pm in the hall. We would like to invite you all to this celebration. With our mahi underway, assembly is also a chance for you to get a sneak peek at what's ahead.

Literacy/Drama/Art/Social Science

This term, our focus will be on devising plays within our home learning teams. Drama plays a vital role in Kelburn's dialogic pedagogy, as it requires children to think critically, express their ideas, respond to one another, and collaborate to make and produce something together. Children will explore and connect learning across curriculum areas, integrating social science, art and literacy. We have begun by exploring and delving deep into stories from Greek mythology. These stories invite children to think about society and its values. These myths also offer a rich introduction to ancient Greek society, literature, art, and ideas. And let's not forget all the monsters and exploits!

Using a multiple literacies approach and multi-modalities of expression engages children with contemporary literacy. Also, it enhances reading skills and strategies and promotes oral language. The children get to engage in a variety of writing tasks, including character descriptions, narratives, letters, poetry, news reports, and scripts.

While the ultimate goal is to perform a play, the process itself is what makes the learning. Experimenting, critically exploring ideas, collaborating, embodying characters, and co-creating meaningful and purposeful work, all come together in the big finale, in front of a live and 'sure to be proud' audience.

If your child will be absent during week 9, please inform their home learning team teacher as soon as possible.

Here's a look into some of Whānui Tahi's writing so far.

I wrap my head scarf around my head. My Snakes hiss violently. -Nico

I was cursed by the goddess Aphrodite. What ever I look at (with my real eye's anyway) turns to stone. - Lexi

What actually happens is that when Thseus goes into the Labrynth and slays the minotaur but when Theseus trys to go back outside, he can't because he can't see the string since it was so dark in the Labrynth - Joseph

...and Theseus thought that the minotaur was going to eat him, but the minotaur said, "don't kill me, I'm a vegetarian, lets be best friends". - Gigi

Below are some pics of Whānui Rua performing freeze frames.



Maths

This term, we are exploring multiplication and division more deeply through our structured lessons using the Maths — No Problem! resource. To supplement the programme, students are also challenged with rich problem-solving activities and real-world maths tasks.

In Whānui Rua, card games have become a highlight! Students have been teaching their classmates games they play at home, providing fantastic opportunities to practice turn-taking, cooperation, and understanding the rules. It's encouraging to see the children applying column addition strategies from last term in a fun way.

Meanwhile, Whānui Tahi students have enthusiastically resumed their lessons and independent workbooks. It's been a positive start to the term for many students.

Physical Education

In PE, the focus is on playing games that promote teamwork and fun. Before each session, children help get equipment ready and help set the boundaries for the activity. To ensure everyone is involved, teachers organise team leaders and groups beforehand and use small groups when possible. Games are chosen so that children who are “out” can still stay active, like bouncing on the spot or jogging while others play. Teachers also aim to have a variety of quick-to-organise and enjoyable games that can be played in different sessions.



Te Reo

We are pleased to have Matua Jason back teaching te reo Māori. Te Reo and tikanga are incorporated into our learning to support language learning and cultural understanding. Tamariki practise vocabulary, phrases, instructions, and pronunciation through waiata, whakatauki, and karakia. This approach builds confidence in using te reo, while fostering respect and appreciation for Māori language and culture.

Home Learning

In Whānui, we recognise that our students engage in numerous extracurricular activities. However, we emphasise the importance of ensuring that everyone commits to the following two activities every evening:

- Reading before bed - at least 30 minutes most days. This could involve reading a chapter book from school, reading a chapter to someone in their whānau or listening to audiobooks.
- MathsWhizz - 10-15 minutes three times a week. MathsWhizz serves as an educational resource that reinforces the significant learning occurring in the classroom. If your child does not have their login information or has forgotten it, please remind them to ask their teacher for the details.

If you have any questions regarding the journey ahead, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Ngā mihi nui,

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Key Whānui Dates

Week Two	Thursday; Whānui School Photos Friday; 1.50 pm: Whānui host assembly
Week Four	Wednesday; Celebration of Learning 3-5 pm
Week Five	Tuesday; WZ Cross Country and School Disco
Week Six	Monday; King's birthday (no school)
Week Seven	BLAKE VR session (In school)
Week Eight	Wednesday; Community Matariki Celebration Friday Matariki (no school)
Week Nine	Tuesday 5pm; Play performance