



Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Toru 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 10 October 2025

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

We welcome Philippa Hilliard, who will join us in Whānui on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Philippa is an experienced teacher who will work with a regular group of our year six students on Maths No Problem content.

EPRo8

It was an exciting first day back with the EPRo8 Challenge. The children worked collaboratively, putting their problem-solving and technology skills to the test. Working together, each team interpreted instructions to construct a design. It was the first time any of our Whānui students had participated in an EPRo8 Challenge. Mr Miller and I commended the children for working together, showing resilience.

Literacy Speeches

"He ora te whakapiri i te taonga." *There is life in caring for a treasure.*

Protecting and valuing something brings it to life and sustains it for the future. **Kaitiakitanga**—"What should we protect?" *Children will explore this big question, beginning with things close to home that they can relate*



to (siblings, friendships, pets, gardens, family traditions, and home languages).

The children will connect the things they care for in their home lives with things they care for in the community and nature. To write a good speech, children need to draw on their personal experience and extend this by sharing these experiences with each other. The third stage is researching their themes more generally.

Throughout these stages, children will be recording ideas and information, using the writing process to craft them into persuasive speeches.

All the children share their speeches with their home learning teams, and some will go on to share them with the syndicate. A key aspect of this unit is that children will participate in assessment and evaluation. Finalists will present to a wider audience in the school hall. We are keen for parents to come along and listen. There will be a guest judge to evaluate the speeches and provide feedback.

Maths

This term, Whānui will continue working through the Maths No Problem lessons, focusing on building a strong understanding through guided practice and discussion. Classes will also have two problem-solving days to tackle real-world challenges and find solutions. These rich activities encourage students to work collaboratively, explain their reasoning, and try different strategies, helping them develop confidence and competence in mathematics.

Navigating Health

Hormones are all the rage this term! Akonga will explore the changes in their bodies and the different stages of development, helping them understand growth, identity, and how to care for themselves. As part of Navigating the Journey, they are also learning about healthy relationships, consent, and the influence of media, including how stereotypes and misinformation can affect their choices. We begin these lessons with agreements and shared criteria around respectful ways to discuss the subject within our home learning teams. An information evening to share more about the programme will be held in the **Whānui space on Wednesday, October 15th (Week 2), at 5 p.m.** We hope to see you there!

Science

In science, we are beginning a plant study. Students will observe plant growth, record data, and make connections to reflect on the stages of development of the natural world. This investigation develops key science capabilities, including making careful observations, asking questions, testing ideas, and reasoning with evidence.

Integrated Te Reo/PE

As part of our Physical Education programme, we will incorporate Ngā Taonga Tākaro (Traditional Māori Games). Through these games and interactive activities, ākonga will develop physical skills such as coordination, balance, and teamwork. They will also explore kupu reo, tikanga, and deepen their understanding of Te Ao Māori through play and reflection. In addition, we will be continuing sessions with Matua Jason, which will begin in week three. The children enjoy assessing and listening to Matua Jason share his knowledge and personal stories.

Social Sciences/Art

This term will see a blend of social sciences and art through the aural medium of music! The children will explore key musical concepts such as rhythm, pitch, tempo, and melody through the creation of their own homemade instruments. Simple instruments demonstrate how sound is created and can be manipulated to form notes, harmonies, and even symphonies. We will explore the cultural significance of music as well.

Sunhats

The New Zealand sun is fierce. In terms one and four, children are required to wear wide-brimmed hats when learning or playing outdoors. Children with forgotten hats will stay under the shade sails during break times. Please remind your child to check they have their hat each day. We also encourage tamariki to come to school with sunscreen, and to reapply it during the day.

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

Ngā mihi nui,

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