



Te Ara Māia Newsletter

Term Tahī 2026

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



5 February 2025

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

We are delighted to have our Year 7&8 rangatahi back at Kura! Term tahi is all about building a powerful learning culture and establishing the routines and rituals that set our ākonga up for success.

Thank you for attending our parent/teacher conversations and completing the student information form. We understand that parents are busy and really appreciate you taking the time to partner with us so that we can best meet the needs of your tamariki. We encourage you to reach out to your child's home learning teacher if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Home Learning Teams & Staffing

Māia Tahī: Jacqui Croft

Māia Rua: Libya Munn (Mon-Wed), Tom Pearce (Thurs-Fri)

Māia Toru: Sophia Wright, Tom Pearce (Wednes)

English Language Learning Teacher: Rachel Smith

Tom will also be working in Māia Tahī and Toru to cover teacher release time.

Camp - Tuesday 3rd- Friday 6th March (Week 5)

Our Riversdale camp is quickly approaching. Camp is a special time for our ākonga as they build relationships, learning connections, resilience, and leadership skills. A huge thank you to our parent volunteers who have signed up to help- we so appreciate your practical support. We ask that if you have not already filled in your child's permission slip, that you do that promptly, please [Waimanaaki Camp Permission Form](#). We require these ASAP in order to complete our health and safety preparations.

Camp activities will include:

- Visit to Te Rangimarie marae in Masterton
- Environmental art
- Place-based drama
- Sporting activities

Key dates for Term 1:

Week 2	11/02 5:30pm Whanau ara info evening (+ camp info) 12/02 Tech session 1/7
Week 3	19/02 Tech session 2/7 19/02 ELL Afternoon Tea- programme sharing & introductions 2:30pm
Week 4	26/02 Tech session 3/7
Week 5	03-06/03 Māia camp
Week 6	12/03 Tech session 4/7
Week 7	17/03 Portrait Gallery Trip (Parent help needed) 19/03 Tech session 5/7
Week 8	24/03 Western Zones Football (Parent help needed) 26/03 Tech session 6/7 27/03 Goal Setting Hui
Week 9	02/04 Tech session 7/7

- Ecology study
- Beach activities (not including swimming)
- Night walk on the beach to observe the night sky
- Visit to Aratoi Masterton

To hear more about camp please attend the Whānau Information evening **Wednesday 11th Feb 5:30pm** upstairs.

Multiple Literacies (English)

In our Portraiture unit, we examine the different ways in which people are presented and perceived. We will look at texts from a range of genres, and use these as models to explore how we represent ourselves and others. Students will be unpacking historical context, language choices, symbolism, and making text-to-text connections, whilst learning to communicate their understanding in both oral and written form.

Our Structured Literacy programme is designed to teach children the key elements of functional literacy. Syntax and morphology are the key focus areas we methodically work through, ensuring our students have a firm grasp of the tools they need for communication and expression.

Mathematics

Our focus in maths this term is on Number knowledge. We will be using a range of exercises, activities, and prompts to establish firm foundational knowledge of place value, order of operations, and proportional thinking.

Science & Social Science

Our students love science, and we want to set them up for success by providing them with opportunities to learn about the world around them from a scientific viewpoint. Science this term will centre around camp and will involve mapping exercises, identifying local flora and fauna in stream, estuarine, and beach environments.

Physical Education

This term, we will be focusing on small ball skills (first half of the term), and volleyball (second half), working through drills and mini-games to strengthen these fundamental skills. Given that there is a range of abilities within the area, we will give students the opportunity to share their skills with their less confident colleagues.



Te reo Māori

We are fortunate to have Matua Jason supporting us with our Te Reo and Tikanga Māori program. Lessons are fun and interactive. A key focus for these sessions is getting the children up and speaking te reo, and giving them the opportunity to explore some of the key cultural knowledge encoded in the language.

Social & Emotional Literacy

We are aware that adolescence is a particularly challenging phase. School is not just preparation for life; it *is* life, and we want to support our students to care for themselves and for each other. Twice a day, we sit down and eat in our home learning teams to build whānaungatanga- this also enables us to check that students are ready to play with hats, sunscreen, and friends! We also dedicate the last 15-20 minutes of the day to self-reflection, mindfulness, and social problem-solving. In order to work through challenges together, we are developing ‘brave spaces’ that allow for robust and empowering discussions.

Technology

Karori West Normal School is our Technology program provider. At KWNS, we will have three semesters throughout the year, each consisting of seven morning sessions (9.00 am-12.20 pm). Students will rotate around

hard materials, foods, textiles, STEM and multi-crafts over two years. KWNS is unique from other tech centres in that students have a large amount of time in each room to learn, practice and refine the skills required in each tech area. This also allows students to be engaged in larger projects of quality and value. Danielle and Libya visited KWNS last year to see the Technology education in action and were impressed by the quality of the students' output. As we will be catching the bus to KWNS to start at 9.00 am, we ask that on Tech days, the rangitahi are at school by 8.40 am. Tech days have been added to the community calendar for your planning.

A note from KWNS: In the occasional event that parents come to KWNS to pick up or drop off their child, they will need to sign in at the office before they come up to the tech centre. When you sign in, you will be given a sticker to show the tech teacher. Children will not be released to any parents/adults unless they have this sticker; there are no exceptions.

Home Learning

Please note that our expectations for home learning are designed to support learning in class and not overwhelm students who are busy with after-school activities and enjoying their youth.

- We expect that a Māia student will read independently for at least **30 minutes each day**. The focus here is on encouraging learners to make reading a recreation they can turn to throughout their lives. By encouraging the reading habit, we help the tamariki to develop critical life skills independently.
- Your child will also have a Maths Buddy log-in. **Maths Buddy** is an online program that we expect students to utilise for **10-15 minutes 3 times per week**. Students each have their own login details for this that they have sent to their school email accounts.

Careers Education

Our learners are going into a world of bewildering complexity, in which many will work in fields we can only anticipate. It is important to highlight the myriad of possibilities open to today's learners, and the learning pathways that they aren't aware exist. Throughout the year, as part of our Careers Education programme, we would like to invite parents to come into the school and speak to the children about their careers. This would involve telling the children about how you came to your career choice, the educational pathways you had to follow, and the sacrifices that were necessary to achieve your goals. A particular point we would like to convey is the idea that unexpected opportunities often lead to unanticipated careers. This will be a semi-regular event, usually on a Friday morning, though we will, of course, strive to work with your schedule. If you happen to be available to talk to us, please contact Libya Munn to schedule a time. Ideally, the talks would be evenly distributed throughout the term.

As always, if you have any questions about our programme or would like to discuss anything concerning your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We are only too happy to help.

Nga mihi,

Libya Munn, Jacqueline Croft, Sophia Wright, & Tom Pearce

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Weekly Timetable

	Mane	Turei	Wenerei	Taite	Paraire
	Croft Munn Wright	Croft Munn Wright	Croft Munn Pearce	Croft Pearce Wright	Croft Pearce Wright
Performing arts ensembles	Lyrica		Orchestra	Piccolo	Kapa Haka
8:50-9:00	Roll/Panui	Roll/Panui	Roll/Panui	Tech	Roll/Panui
9:00 - 9:15	Non-Lyrica children Singing/Social Science	Morpheme Magic/ Spelling/Handwriting Lexia/Stepsweb	Morpheme Magic/ Spelling/Handwriting Lexia/Stepsweb		Morpheme Magic/ Spelling/Handwriting Lexia/Stepsweb
9:15-9:30	Syntax Project - Intro	Syntax Project- Practise	Syntax Project- Consolidation		Syntax- Reflection
9:45-9:50	Brain Break				
9:45 - 10:30	Multi-Literacies	Multi-Literacies	Multi-Literacies		Multi-Literacies
10:30-11:00	Writing focus	Writing focus	Writing focus	Morning tea 10:30-10:50am	Writing focus
11:00-11:40	Break 1 (10 mins eating together in HLT + 30 Min play)				
11:40- 12:00	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.		P.E.
12:00-1:00	Maths	Maths	Maths		Maths
1:00-1:45	Break 1 (10 mins eating together in HLT + 30 Min play)				
1:40- 2:00	SSR & Roll	SSR & Roll	SSR & Roll	SSR & Roll / Te reo with Matua Jason	SSR & Roll
2:00-2:40	Art/Science/ Social Science	Art/Science/ Social Science	Art/Science/ Social Science	Art/Science/ Social Science	Art/Science/ Social Science
2:40 -3:00	HLT Hui	HLT Hui	HLT Hui	HLT Hui	HLT Hui

Information for Māia Camp 2026

- We will meet in the hall at 7:30am on Tuesday, 3rd March, departing 8am.
- On arrival at the hall, students with medicines (including OTC medicines) are to hand them in to our experienced medical coordinator, Katharina Vautier. Please place items in a plastic bag with clear instructions for administration.
- Please ensure that your child does not consume any confectionery prior to departure, given that Remutaka Hill has a powerful emetic effect even at the best of times.
- We also ask that children not bring any sweets to the camp.
- Cellphones and smart watches are not permitted at camp. Please leave these at home.
- Baked items for morning/afternoon teas are to be entrusted to Jacqui Croft on arrival at the hall. If homemade, please label any possible allergens.
- There are multiple occasions that your child will get soggy, so please bring togs.
- We will distribute camp updates daily through the school app.
- If you urgently need to contact us at camp, please direct communications via the school office.
- We expect to arrive back at school at 4pm on Friday 6th March. If we are delayed, we will notify parents through the school app.

2026 Senior Camp Gear List

Sunhats (2)
Warm hat/ beanie
4 T-Shirts
Raincoat with a hood

2 pairs of sturdy shoes
Warm clothes for the evenings
Shorts
Long trousers (quick drying, not jeans)
5 pairs of socks
5 pairs of underpants

Spare dry shoes (for use at or near our accommodation)

Pyjamas

Toiletries (NO aerosols)

Toothpaste and toothbrush

Soap/ shower gel

Face cloth

Deodorant

Sunscreen

Insect repellent

Tissues

Feminine sanitary items

Towels (2)

Small bottle of hand sanitiser

Sleeping bag

Pillow case

Pillow

Day pack (e.g. school backpack)

Lunch box

Water bottle (preferably 750mls)

Torch and spare batteries

Plastic bags for wet clothes

Book

Swimming Togs

Small first aid kit (sticking plasters etc.)

1 batch of baked items for supper/morning tea/ afternoon tea (these will be collected at departure and distributed when appropriate; if baked items contain potential allergens, please label)

Any medication required in a named plastic bag. (Handed in at roll call and dispensed by medical staff as necessary)

NO sweets

NO money (there is nowhere to spend it).