

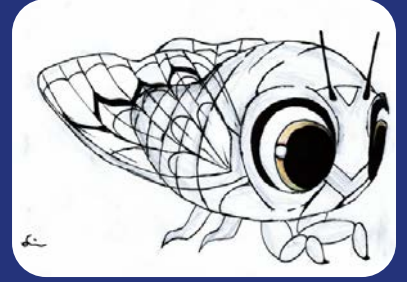


VOICE OF NGĀ TĀTARAKIHI DECEMBER 2025

NGĀ TĀTARAKIHI O AHUMAIRANGI

KELBURN NORMAL SCHOOL

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



PRINCIPAL'S/TUMUAKI UPDATE

Kia ora koutou

The school year is now officially over and it has been another terrific year for Kelburn – We have achieved so much in 2025! In the many end of year events this term and at School Hui, Y8 Leavers' celebrations, Musical Refreshments, 9 Lessons Carol Service, Tupu stealing the show singing Little Christmas Cracker and much more! We have seen time and time again the amazing talent and commitment from our tamariki in our learning, performing arts, music and sports programmes. The tamariki amaze me at how talented they all are!

Christmas is a special time in schools. Not just because holidays are close—although I know many of you are very excited about that—but because Christmas reminds us of the values that hold us together as a community: manaakitanga, kindness, generosity, gratitude, and hope. And when I look around our school, I see those values lived out every single day.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge our tamariki. You have worked hard, supported each other, and shown resilience and courage in your learning. Whether you are in Year 0 or all the way through to Year 8, you have each contributed something unique and important to our school this year. Thank you for the way you look after each other and the pride you take in being part of our kura.

Year 8 Leavers'

To our Year 8s who leave us today – You are ready. We have watched you grow, take on leadership, and become role models for our younger students. As you move on to college or high school, remember the lessons you've learned here: to try new things, to show respect, to ask questions, look after your friends, be kind and always put your whānau first as you navigate life after Kelburn. Ma te rangatahi te ao e arahi – Let the youth lead the world – it is young people who hold keys to the future, leadership, and potential for innovation and guidance – You all bring hope to the future positive growth of New Zealand and will empower the next generation to do the same.

We will miss you Year 8 and we are excited to see the difference you will make in the world. . Go well kids and do not forget to visit us at Kelburn once and a while and check in. We would all love this.

Whānau thanks

I also want to thank our whānau – parents, caregivers, and extended family and friends of Kelburn. Your partnership with our school, your support of your children, and your trust in us means more than I can say. You are a huge part of the success of our students, and we are truly grateful. It is a community that raises a child – and that is very true.

Road Patrol 2025

A big thank you to our Road Patrol tamariki who give up their time each morning and afternoon to help keep our kura community safe. Their sense of responsibility, teamwork, and care for others is something to be proud of, and they model our values so positively for our younger tamariki. We also want to acknowledge and sincerely thank the parents and whānau who support Road Patrol every weekday. Your commitment, reliability, and willingness to be there in all kinds of weather makes a difference. Because of you, our tamariki arrive at and leave kura safely each day, knowing they are looked after by a caring community. We are very grateful for the time and aroha you give to support our kura.

Staff Farewells

We farewell Mrs Kaajal Chambers, Ms Ruby Dickinson- Yeoman as Learning Assistants and wish them well in 2026 – Mrs Chamber's has a new role at Mt Cook School and Ms Dickinson- Yeoman has been accepted into the graduate teacher programme at Massey University and will be at Raroa Intermediate to complete her training.

Mrs Jackie Di Somma from Tupu Whā has completed her fixed-term role and we thank her for her mahi. We wish Mrs Di Somma all the very best for next year.

Miss Andrea Molloy completes her 6 years at Kelburn today – Miss Molloy has been an outstanding member of the Tupu Ara teaching team and she is heading to teach at Morrinsville School for 2026 and also to be closer to her whānau. We wish Andrea all the very best for her new position in the Waikato.

Mrs Phillipa Hilliard completes her fixed-term contract at the end of this term. We thank Mrs Hilliard for all her huge mahi and positive can do attitude around kura this term. We hope to see Mrs Hilliard back in some capacity in 2026.

PTA 2025

Our thanks to the Kelburn PTA who meet monthly during term time to plan events and fundraisers for the benefit of our kura – the Matariki celebration, the Kelburn Talent Quest, the huge financial support of the PTA on the refurbishment and beautification of the Kelburn Gully playground and the Kelburn Tea towel and Peony fundraisers spring to mind in 2025. This friendship building and fundraising support for the kura and tamariki is incredible and we are very fortunate to have this kind of support. Thank you to all whānau who have contributed to the PTA in 2025 – we appreciate your support.

I would like to make a special acknowledgement of two parents whose leadership of the PTA this year, and over many years, has seen the Kelburn PTA flourish. Anneke Healy and Andrea Bergstrom, are both stepping down from leading the Kelburn PTA at the end of this year – they are both powerhouse organisers of events, fundraisers and also at being parent help at countless events and trips over the years. It is now their turn to hand the baton over to someone else from 2026. On behalf of everyone at Kelburn, I would like to thank Anneke and Andrea for all their huge mahi, manaakitanga and endless energy for everything Kelburn. We presented Anneke and Andrea with beautiful bunches of flowers as a token of our huge appreciation for what they have achieved over many years. Thank you Anneke and Andrea!

Staff

My huge thanks to our staff—teachers, support staff, office team, and everyone who makes this place hum—thank you. You show up every day with passion and commitment, and you make our kura the warm and vibrant place that it is. My huge thanks to the Ara team leaders – Miss Susie Brown, Miss Sophie Bishop, Miss Rebekah Rasmussen and Mrs Libya Munn – our outstanding leaders of teaching staff who lead by example and warmth. My huge thank you to my incredible Deputy Principal, Miss Danielle Sanders, Associate Principal, Mrs Libya Munn and Office Manager, Mrs Loraine Best whose love of all things Kelburn, huge institutional knowledge and huge capacity to provide the best outcomes for tamariki, whānau and staff is remarkable. Thank you to all our hard working staff team of 2025 – it has been such a pleasure for me to work with you all this year.

Kelburn Board of Trustees

In 2025, we have farewelled long standing Presiding member Mrs Nickie van der Beek and Mr Michael Fraser and Mr James Tipping in September and welcomed new members Mrs Amy Austin, Mrs Beth Keightley and Mr Nick Whittington to the team along with returning members Ms Fiona McLean as our new Presiding Member, Mrs Nicola Stigley and Mrs Andrea Keenan and Staff Representative, Miss Susie Brown.

I thank the Kelburn Board for their governance and support of our kura in 2025, especially Nickie and Fiona for their leadership this year. The Board's support of everything Kelburn around student achievement, staff, whānau, policy review, health and safety, property, finances, strategic thinking and planning is massive. I look forward to working with the Board again in 2026.

Meri Kirihimete

As we finish the year, I want to leave you with a simple thought for the holidays – look after one another. Whether you are spending time with family, travelling, relaxing, or enjoying some sunshine, remember that small acts of kindness make a big difference. Be patient with each other, be grateful, and take time to rest and to come back to kura ready to go!

Aru-hia te harikoa, kei tu-tuki koe i te mārie" – Pursue happiness, and you'll find peace

On behalf of everyone at our school, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a safe and happy summer break, and a wonderful start to 2026. For those of us returning to Kelburn we will see you all on the first day of term – Monday/Rāhina 2nd February 2026!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou.
Kent



HEART Awards

Heart Awards are given out every fortnight at our Friday afternoon School Hui in the Hall. The HEART awards represent tamariki who are outstanding citizens of Kelburn Normal. Recipients who receive a HEART award show Hauora, Excellence, Aroha, Resilience and Teamwork as they go about their day in their Ara Teams and also when they represent Kelburn. Recipients are quality role models who inspire others! Kai pai to the following tamariki who have been acknowledged this term:

Week 8 Term 4 HEART Recipients

Imogen P, Jason N, Imogen W, Anh P, Sam W, James W, Kayla W, Sam C, Annabel T, Thomas W, George W, Mia Y, Huicheol K

Ho Ho Ho from the Tupu team



After an action packed year in Tupu, that has been filled with new learning and adventures, there is nothing better than celebrating with our whānau and past pupils to create so many Christmas delights. We have enjoyed sharing laughter and building joyful memories as we fill our reindeer bags with treasures to decorate our kāinga.



TE ARA WHANAKE

Whanake Update



What a fantastic year we have had in Whanake. It has been so exciting to see the children's determination and hard work reflected in their learning, and we are very proud of their achievements. A special thank you to everyone who has helped us on trips and with putting books away. Have a happy Christmas!



TE ARA WHĀNUI

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Note: Important Camp Notice at the end of this Update.

In Whānui Rua, we continued persuasive writing by convincing Santa to take us off the 'Naughty List'. A selection of 'explanations' for our misguided deeds has been lightly edited and compiled below.

Dear Santa,

I am a good kid who can sometimes be a bit random and make mistakes. I am not naughty! Please, let me explain.

I know it seems naughty when I eat most of the Christmas cookies, but I was just making sure you won't get a sugar rush.

I know, I also spray-painted the dog, but to be fair, it was not a very colourful dog, and my sister hated the colour of it. Now it is pink, and lots of people have admired it. Lucky, it was not permanent.

Oh, and I really am so terribly sorry about putting our beloved family cat, 'Shakespeare', in a reindeer costume. You see, dear Shakespeare looked so gloomy... I had to act! He is a black cat, and it was December, not October!

Also, I overheard my mom talking about the blank white wall in our school, and she said that it should be decorated. So I took matters into my own hands. So I splashed three buckets of paint on the wall. Now it looks much more colourful!

My sincerest apology for dropping Dad's wedding ring down the sink. I was just trying it on, but it was too big and slipped off my finger.

Then there was the iPad. It was dirty, so I washed it in the bath. I was only trying to clean it.

The truth is, I didn't mean to flick peas at my sister's face. It's really hard with a broken arm to feed yourself. I was just trying to scoop up peas with my fork.

Oh, and I'm sorry for dropping a brick on my friend's foot. But he had a very, very, very big spider on his foot, so I picked up the first thing I saw and dropped it on it.

I guess I should explain the neighbour incident too. You see, my neighbour was wearing green cactus pyjamas. She wasn't very happy when I water gunned her, but I really did think that she was a cactus in her garden.

I'm not a bad kid. You know, the time when I stole the postman's motorbike? I have an explanation. I was really late for school, and I'm quite a keen learner.

Oh, and about the Christmas tree thing, I did not mean to. My mum asked me to get a Christmas tree. So I went to get one and realised I had sawn down a whole forest. At least we don't need to worry about getting a Christmas tree next year.

When I rigged the arcade machines, I wasn't trying to do it in the wrong way; I did what I did because people got scammed! You wouldn't want your fellow nice listers (including me) getting scammed, would you?

And yes, I did cram a tea towel into my baby sister's mouth, but if you knew why, you would 100% take me off the naughty list.

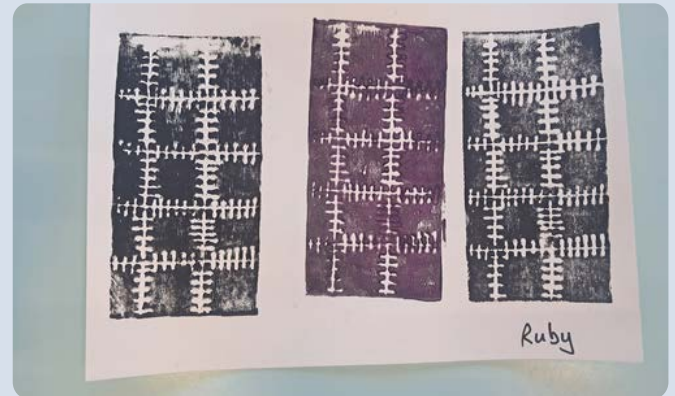
Please, Santa, No Coal for Christmas!

Yours sincerely,

A selection of Not so Naughty Children from Whānui Rua

TE ARA WHĀNUI

Whānui enjoyed a visit from Harold from Life Education Trust. Harold touched on topics related to staying safe online, protecting passwords and addresses, and problem solving friendship issues. Video examples provided relevant and thought-provoking examples of what to do (and what not to do) when confronted with tricky situations. Thank you to Emma and Harold for their engaging and informative performance.



In Art, Whānui Tahi have explored a printing technique whereby a pattern is etched into a foam block and paint is rolled over top and then stamped onto a piece of card. The resulting image carries the reverse of the pattern and interesting textures of paint.



Inspired by our rogaine in the Botanical Gardens, during maths time Whānui Tahi looked at the permanent orienteering course that hugs the waterfront in Wellington. Using rulers and the available scale, the tamaraiki measured how far in centimeters the course ran on the map, and then how far that distance would be when multiplied by the scale factor of 1:5000. The Wellington Orienteering website has free courses on the waterfront and Mt Victoria for the aspiring navigators to complete during the holiday break.

Shared Morning Tea on the last Day (17th December)

Children only need to bring a small plate or contribution for a shared morning tea. Please label homemade goods with an ingredient list. This helps those with specialty diets or allergies avoid allergens.

Important Camp Notice – Please click on the link and complete the form.

[El Rancho Whānui Camp Permission Form](#)

Permission forms for camp are due back before Thursday, the 5th of February 2026. However, please complete the form sooner rather than later, as the information helps with planning.

For more information on camp, we will be holding a whanau information evening in Term 1 (before we go on camp). Please be on the lookout for the dates in next year's weekly coms. We will also send relevant information and a camp packing list at this time.

Enjoy your summer break!

Ngā mihi nui,
Rebekah Rasmussen, and Hugo Miller
rebekahr@kelburnnormal.school.nz
hugom@kelburnnormal.school.nz

TE ARA MĀIA



What's Happening in Māia?

The end of our term has been a busy one! After spending the term learning the skills to play **Rippa Rugby** we have had some robust games with some of our more experienced players supporting their peers. Special thanks to Jamie, who has been coaching classmates along in Maia Rua. Māia Tahi has enjoyed our ever-popular **Newcombe Ball**, **Hadrian's Wall**, and **Multi-Sports**. Thank you Anna, Annabel, and Michaela for arranging equipment for our PE lessons, and instilling good cheer among classmates.

On December 1st we had our annual speech competition. Our question for **Speech** writing was: What is the most important skill for the future? The competition was judged by Eliza Bartlett, who teaches in the English department at Wellington Boys' College. Our finalists did an excellent job, and placings were awarded as follows:

First: Fiona (topic: Media Literacy)

Second: Simone (topic: Media Literacy)

Third: George (topic: Building Connections)



In Maths, **Geometry and Measurement** have been our focus, culminating in the completion of sculptures designed for the Wellington Waterfront. Students paid homage to local pūrakau whilst incorporating platonic and non platonic polyhedra. One of the criteria for the sculpture was that it had to feature an arch, this enabled us to create an obstacle course for our Sphero robots to tour the various sculptures! The students enjoyed this **STEAM** unit, and were thoroughly challenged by it.



We have been **Navigating the Journey** in Health, learning about changing bodies, relationships, responsibilities, and rights. Adolescence can be a challenging time, and talking about it (although uncomfortable at first) really does make a difference. Normalising and validating the difficulties our students face empowers them to support each other.

On Thursday last week we had a delightful evening celebrating our **Year 8 Leavers'**. To be a year 8 in a full primary school is a significant year of responsibility and leadership. Our Year 8 students are confident, capable learners who look for the best in each other and have risen to the challenge of leadership. Below are some words about the Year 8s from some of their Year 7 peers.



When we first came into the Maia Ara, we were a bit nervous but the Year 8's were really welcoming. Most of them have been here since they were around five years old. They have changed quite a bit since then and some have become a bit more zesty than others. But it's ok I guess because everyone has a little bit of zest in them, including us. The year 8's have always got ideas and never leave us hanging when we need help. For example when I had to sing my solo in Hamlet, A few of the year 8's jumped up immediately to help me and it made the whole thing way easier for me. And this year i was on the same netball team as some of the year 8's and they are always supportive and made me feel very welcomed to the kahu team. They have always got our backs, they help us when we are not sure what to do and are always making up funny jokes that make our day at school that little bit better. We really enjoy their presence. Every year 8 is different and that's what makes them each funny, special and unique. The year 8's contributed massively to our Maia Tahi and Rua plays back in term 3. Hamlet and the Tempest would definitely not have turned out as well without them. We look up to all the year 8's who have led the ensembles throughout the years. Obviously we are very nervous for next year as the year 8s have left some pretty big expectations. And we have some pretty big shoes to fill and make them proud. We are really really really going to miss them. The year 8s have made us into the people we are today and we hope that they walk in to college proud that they went to KNS. Good luck year 8s and thank you for everything you have done for us.

We will miss you year 8's!

- Makayla and Ellie



2026 Māia Camp – Waimanaaki – Tuesday 3rd – Fri 6th March 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, we are planning the biannual Māia Camp. It will be at Camp Waimanaaki in Riversdale. The camp's primary purpose is to set the stage for the year's learning and establish positive relationships between tamariki.

We have a comprehensive permission form to collect necessary information about your child. We would be grateful if you would please complete this by Term 1 2026!

[Year 7/8 Camp 2026 Permission Form](#)

For all whānau, the requested donation towards the cost of the camp is \$388 per child. You can pay by depositing money into the school bank account, using account # 12 3223 0190001 00. (Please add your child's name and camp as a reference.) You can also pay at the school office, and if you would like to set up a payment plan, please arrange this through the office.

As we approach the end of 2025, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude to the school community. Serving as your PTA Co-Chairs has been an incredible journey, and we are truly thankful for the support and enthusiasm from our community and the PTA Committee, whether it was sorting over 400 pies, putting out lost property, flipping sausages. The list is endless.

This year, we are proud to report that we have invested over \$31,000 in our gully, enhancing our school environment and providing valuable resources and events for our students. Your participation in our events and fundraising efforts has made this possible, and we couldn't have done it without you.

While we are stepping down from our roles at the end of this year, we are excited to see what 2026 holds for the PTA. We encourage everyone to continue supporting our initiatives and look forward to even more successful fundraising in the coming year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Andrea and Anneke



DECEMBER 2025 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

KELBURN NORMAL SCHOOL

		Mon 15 December	Tues 16 December	Wed 17 December	Thurs 18 December	Fri 19 December
WEEK 1	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY
	No Holiday Programme today, usual Kelly Club after school care applies.	No Holiday Programme today, usual Kelly Club after school care applies.	No Holiday Programme today, usual Kelly Club after school care applies.	No Holiday Programme today, usual Kelly Club after school care applies.	BALL BLAST!! Get ready to show what you're grateful for. Make a snack to share with new friends. You might even get a chance to make a special gift for someone you love.	SHARE THE JOY! Get ready to show what you're grateful for. Make a snack to share with new friends. You might even get a chance to make a special gift for someone you love.
WEEK 2	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY	SCHOOL DAY
	KIWIANA CHRISTMAS Get ready for a summery Christmas celebration! Have some fun in the sun with a gumball toss and beach flag races.	CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN Santa & his elves are readying the sleigh for the big present drop off! Let's make sure we have everything ready!	CHRISTMAS EVE No Programme today	CHRISTMAS DAY Merry Christmas from Kelly Club!	BOXING DAY Boxing Day!	PUBLIC HOLIDAY No Programme today

Pricing:

FULL DAY: \$60 **HALF DAY:** \$40
8am-4pm 8:00am – 12:30pm or 12:30pm – 6:00pm

SCHOOL DAY: \$48 **EVENT DAY:** Extra \$15-\$20
8.45am-3:15pm

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