



ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge

24 January 2024

Kia ora, ngā mihi mahana mō te tau hōu – warm New Years greetings to you all! I trust you are all busy enjoying the last few days of the summer holidays and are starting to think about the 2024 school year! My family and I have had a great break, staying in Northland and enjoying the lakes and the beaches and the beautiful warm weather. We are now trying to get back into routines and work out what life will look like with three children all attending high school now.

We have had some behind the scenes work happening at school over the holidays with all of our buildings being washed and bug sprayed, water blasting and cleaning the pool area, fencing work repairing damage from Cyclone Gabby and Neil has been busy completing the final part of our Te Wā project.



The teaching staff have also been in school this week, planning and setting up for the new year. We are excited by what looks to be a fun term and can't wait to have the students back with us. We have loads of things such as tennis, cricket and swimming coaching, Epro8, Sailing, and a triathlon to look forward to on top of our already fun learning programmes.

2024 CLASSES + STAFF

We are thrilled to be able to again have consistency of staff this year and our classes are as follows:

Kākano, Year 1 – 3 students. Whaea Philippa Kelsall, philippa@arapohue.school.nz

Māhuri, Year 4 – 8 students. Whaea Lyn Jackson, lyn@arapohue.school.nz

Rākau, Year 7-8 will come out of Māhuri to work with me, Mrs Piper, daily for literacy and mathematics, with a focus on leadership. kylie@arapohue.school.nz

We also have Miss Mitchell, laura@arapohue.school.nz working on Wednesdays in all classes while I continue with my role co-leading the Kāhui Ako schools across the Kaipara.

Our fab support staff, are all on board and ready to continue their great work. We have Mrs Christey, Whaea Sheryl and Whaea Annie working in classes and in the playground and providing additional learning support programmes.

And of course Mrs Cleary, rochelle@arapohue.school.nz will be in the office 8 – 1 daily and will be available to answer all of your questions!

We will also have Tammy from Mana Ake working in our school every Friday.



CYBER SAFETY PRESENTATION

We want our school to be a safe place. Because of the rapidly changing times, our tamariki are growing up in, and the mounting challenges and harms they are facing online we need to start talking about and tackling this as a community.

As such, our Kāhui Ako have organised Filmmaker, Author and Speaker Rob Cope, producer of the documentary "Our Kids Online" to come and give what promises to be a humorous and eye-opening evening talk to our parent community.

His talk will cover

- **Cyberbullying** - How bullies can reach our kids 24/7
- **Social media** - How social media is affecting the mental health in 3 out of 5 children. FOMO, depression, anxiety.
- **Gaming and the developing brain** – An oversupply of dopamine leading to dopamine deficiency, synaptic pruning, and the underdevelopment of social skills and empathy
- **Naked Selfies** - The pressure to send nudes from intermediate up through high school
- **Online predators** - The methods they use, how to spot them.
- **Online porn vs healthy sexuality** - How consuming online pornography as a child or teen can create a sexual template where violence, aggression, and dominance are seen as normal and consent can become very blurry

Solutions

- **Filters** - Which filters are best and how to install them
- **Smartphones** - How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone
- **Boundaries** - How to put good boundaries in place around device use
- **3 golden rules** - The 3 golden rules that will keep your kids safe
- **Talking to your kids** - How to have difficult conversations with your kids
- **Challenging our own phone and device usage** - Reconnecting as a family.

The talk will be held in Dargaville High School hall on Wednesday 14th Feb at 6:30pm

We would request that at least one adult from each family attend, this topic is too big for us not to pay attention.

"We need to tackle this as a community so that all of our kids are safe. When I protected my kids online, I also protected yours, so please, please protect your kids online so that you are also protecting mine" Rob Cope

ATTENDANCE

Student attendance, along with effective teaching, has the greatest influence on student engagement and achievement. All students must be present at school so they can participate and engage in learning. Parents and Boards are legally responsible to ensure students' regular attendance at school. Students with high absenteeism are less likely to succeed in their learning. If a student misses five school days each term, or one day a fortnight, they will miss the equivalent of one year of school over 10 years. As the level of absenteeism grows, the difficulty of re-engaging in learning can grow exponentially.

Justified absences are situations such as your child is sick, attending a medical or dental appointment, funeral or tangi. This needs to be communicated to the office to ensure it is recorded correctly. Unjustified absences are situations such as holidays during term time, shopping trips, or lack of interest/motivation!

While unjustified absences have increased dramatically across the country, here at Arapohue our data looks quite positive and is definitely above the norm for Northland. Last year in Term 1 we had 91% attendance (approx. 25% higher than the Tai Tokerau average!) Our goal this year will be to hit above the **90% mark EVERY term**. You can help us by ensuring that, assuming your child is healthy, they are at school! If they are not attending PLEASE communicate with the office asap.

Thanks to some funding from the MoE there will be some additional acknowledgements for students who are meeting these targets.

NEW STUDENTS

We already have 3 new students enrolled to start next week, if you have any new neighbours, family or friends that have children likely to start this term, please encourage them to email or call me to complete enrolment paperwork so we can plan accordingly. We will start our school term with a Mihi Whakatau, welcoming these new students and their whānau. Feel free to join us at 8:30 on Wednesday 31 Jan.

STATIONERY

This year our stationery packs will cost approximately \$25 for each student. (Rochelle will confirm this next week!) All students will be issued with the required stationery and we ask that you make payments to the school to cover costs as soon as you are able.

Please contact Rochelle if you would like to start weekly payments, our school account number is **School Bank a/c 12-3098-0257114-00**. Please be sure to include your child's name and 'stationery' in the reference.

If you do NOT want school to provide your stationery and would prefer to purchase your own from an alternative supplier please contact Rochelle before 31 Jan and she will provide you with a class list.

As we have opted into the MOE donations scheme there are no school fees required.

All children who have paid in full by the end of the month will go into a draw to win their \$25 back!

SWIMMING

We will begin swimming from day one so please ensure your children come prepared. Swimming is a core part of our curriculum and **ALL** students are expected to participate. Please send togs AND a towel in a bag each day with your child, or a note to their teacher if they are unable to swim for any reason.



A reminder that students need TOGS to swim in – not their

clothes and long hair needs to be tied up.

FACEBOOK/WEBSITE

I am aware of how easy it could be to feel disconnected with the school when you are working long hours and unable to pop in. Therefore, I would encourage you, if you are a Facebook user, to PLEASE follow our school facebook page, Arapohue School, we post notices about what is happening in classes, and information about any events coming up. Our school website is hopefully another helpful source of information and we aim to update it regularly. Every notice we put on the website should generate an automatic email to our families – **if you do not receive these please let us know.**

ARAPOHUE SHOW



A reminder that the local show is coming up on the 10th. Students will be completing some indoor entries at school and as such we would love any available flowers sent to school on Friday 9th.

We will also be inviting students to be part of a team for the Agrikids Challenge on the day. More info will come out about this if your child expresses interest.

MUSIC LESSONS @ SCHOOL

Unfortunately Creative Co, Performing Arts will no longer be operating so we are unable to offer the guitar and vocal lessons at school this year.

In the meantime, enjoy the last few days and don't forget – 1 more week until school starts, sunhats and togs for day one. Let me know if you have any questions 😊

Mauriora,
Kylie Piper

kylie@arapohue.school.nz

2024 Term 1 Some Dates to Remember

Wednesday 31 Jan	First day of school – chn need togs/towel and a sunhat
Monday 5 Feb	School closed – Teacher Only Day
Tuesday 6 Feb	School closed – Waitangi Day
Thursday 8 Feb	Tech starts for our Yr 7/8s – they need covered shoes on these days.
Saturday 10 Feb	Arapohue Show (flower contributions at school Friday please)
Tuesday 13 Feb	Tennis Coaching sessions
Wednesday 14 Feb	Cyber Safe session
Thursday 15 Feb	BOT meeting – staffroom at 6:30
Wednesday 6 March	Term 1 Learning Celebration – pool session and sausage sizzle
Friday 8 March	Year 7/8 Sailing at Kai Iwi Lakes
Friday 15 March	Southern Zone Swimming Sports
Friday 22 March	Cricket Fun Day

We are also like to have an early finish (1pm) in Week 4 to allow staff to complete some Professional Development but we will confirm when MoE have confirmed dates with us.