



# ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

*Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge*

August 2024

Kia ora koutou, welcome to Term 3 – the term that always feels the longest as we slog through until the end of winter! Since joining this fabulous farming community, I have also learnt that it feels so much longer as so many of you spend the term up to your elbows in mud as you are calving and/or lambing!

We finished Term 2 with high numbers of sickness and from what I hear many whānau spent the holidays sick or recovering! Week 1 started with great attendance but already the winter bugs have started appearing again. Huge thanks to all those who contact the office before 8:30 to let us know of any absences for the day!

## INTERVIEWS

In week 1 the teaching staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet with many of you to discuss your child/ren's progress. Thanks for making the time to come in and see us – to those who forgot to turn up at their time, please contact your child's teacher if you would like to try and reschedule.

## FIREWOOD FUNDRAISER

We have another donation of firewood that we have been given by Ruawai Lions to raffle off. We are limiting the tickets this time to 100 and hope that you have all been busy selling them as tickets are due back by this Thursday (15<sup>th</sup> August). Huge thanks to the many families who have already sold their tickets and returned their \$\$.

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At our meeting last week we looked at the Interim Achievement Data for our students in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. At the start of the year goals were set to have 80% of our students working at or above expectation in Maths and Reading and 75% of students working at or above expectation in Writing. It needs to be noted that we are tracking well to meet these goals and I would like to add that our school data does **NOT** reflect the data announced by the government last weekend. In fact, the 2022 OECD PISA results reports that 71% of New Zealand students attained at least level 2 proficiency in mathematics, which is higher than the average across the OECD countries.

## ATTENDANCE

Our students reached their attendance goal at the end of last term and enjoyed a movie afternoon with popcorn, chocolates and ice cream! I am interested to see what goal they set this term and what incentive they choose!



## SCHOOL DOCS

School Docs is the online platform for our school policies. We encourage our families to visit the site – you can search, review and provide feedback to our Board. You will find

the link on our website under Parent Information – School Policies or type the link into your browser: <https://arapohue.schooldocs.co.nz/> User name: arapohue PW: path  
**Concerns and Complaints Policy (board), Media, Performance Management (board), Professional Development, Protected Disclosure (board), Staff Conduct, Staff Leave**

### BUS/PICKUP CHANGES

Please ensure any changes to afternoon bus/pickup routines are phoned or texted to the office prior to 1pm. The office is unmanned after that time and our other staff are in class teaching. While we do our best to accommodate, we cannot guarantee last minute messages are cleared in time.

### HEALTH & WELLBEING

Just a reminder that we have a supply of head lice treatments if any of our families need some. Just give the office a call/text and we can send some home.

### NEWS FROM FRIDAY'S ASSEMBLY

On Friday we finished our week with a great assembly run by Rākau. They shared a wide range of work they had been doing lately including Literacy Projects about Wellington, learning about Parliament, writing about why we should have longer holidays an artist study about Kandinsky. Gosh they have been busy!

**Classroom awards** this week went to: Whaea Philippa, Aaliyah, Hailey, Stella, Natasha, Matthew, Krisharn, Khaleci and Willow!



**PATH card prize draw:** Congratulations to Harper, Rocco and Devon.

We also caught up with Rowan, Matthew, Devon, Jariah, Leon and Cooper who have reached their 25 milestone. They chose a dip in the treasure chest, free time with a friend, extended break time and Principal for an hour – great options!



### AG DAY

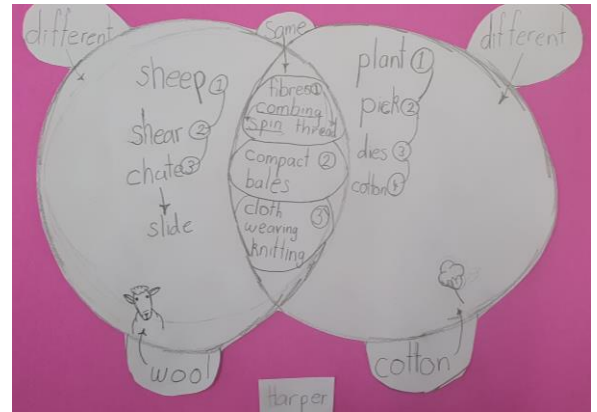
Ag Day this year will be held at the start of Term 4 on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of October and animals entered need to have been born between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> September. We are hoping to have a good number of animals entered into the ring and we ask that you register your animals ASAP on the form attached. Early entries will receive an animal care package kindly sponsored by Agrisea and Dominion Salt. **If you are unsure of what is required when rearing/showing an animal please contact us for guidance.**

Anyone with Arapohue School or Central Day trophies from last year, please return them to the office (we will deliver the Central Day ones to the organising committee). If you are looking for a lamb for your child, please contact Rochelle in the office to join the waiting list. Any lambs that come available are \$50 each and will be offered in order of the wait list.

## NEWS FROM KĀKANO

In science we examined some different fibres using magnifying glasses and a digit microscope. Then we learnt about where some different fibres come from and how they are processed.

We found out that wool and cotton are similar in that they are compacted into bales before being taken to a factory. There, they are carded to make them fluffy with the fibres all facing the same way. The fibres are then spun into yarn and knitted or woven into cloth.



There is one important difference between cotton and wool as shown in Harper's diagram. We relaxed on Friday afternoon with floor puzzles.



## NEWS FROM MĀHURI

Kia ora e te whānau,

Term three has kicked off for Māhuri and Rākau full of science and art. We began the term learning how to collect evidence possibly left at a crime scene, such as fingerprints, footprints and fibres. We've looked briefly at New Zealand's Justice system and held court to find the possible 'ice-cream thief'.

With Ag Day looming, students have begun working on ideas for stalls and artwork. A list for home crafts will go home soon.

With glorious sunny days, students have continued keeping our school grounds beautiful and tidy.

Māhuri students are preparing for speeches, practising persuasive writing. They are considering what topics might be more meaningful and therefore more interesting for them. Conversations at home might help them in their decision.

Ngā mea pai katoa, all the best, Whaea Lyn



## NEWS FROM RĀKAU

On Friday at assembly we shared about some of the learning we have been doing lately. Here is some of what we shared:

### Parliament

We had to go into groups and research about parliament - we have learned a LOT. Did you know that the sovereign is not allowed to enter the house of representatives and interfere with the work of parliament? This rule was made because King Charles the first tried to enter the debating chamber and tried to arrest members of parliament because they offended him. Also, the word parliament originally came from the word paler which in French means to talk so the word parliament was a discussion for important business. Our parliament is modelled on the British parliament so sometimes our parliament is also called the Westminster system, under this system our government must have over half of the support of parliament. Laws are necessary for our safety and it protects you and me. But sometimes it doesn't really work, sometimes the law can be sometimes a bit faulty, people can find ways to slip past the law and the government.

*By Leon*

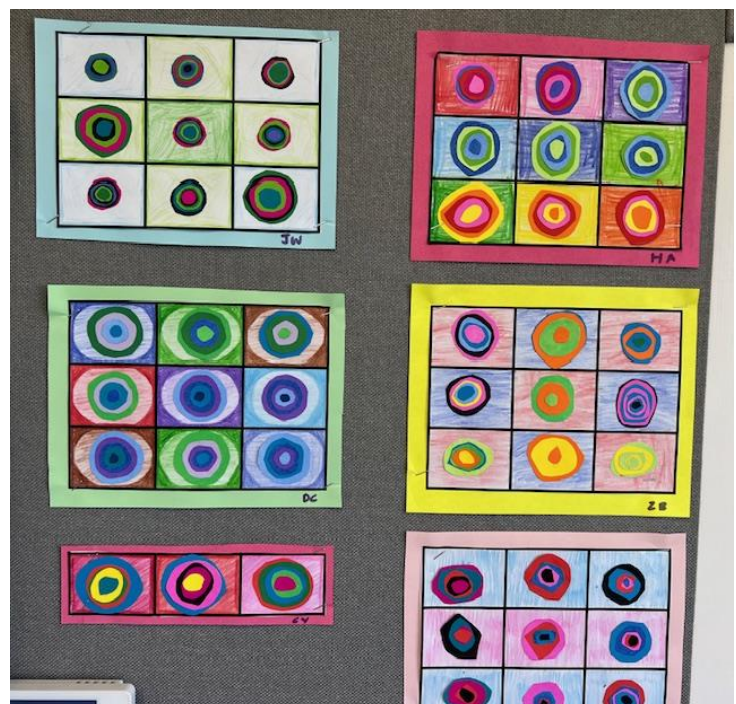
### Kandinsky

Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian artist who lived from 1866 to 1944. He was known for working with concentric circles, which are circles that share the same center. His most famous piece is called "Several Circles". We have been studying Kandinsky's works this term. We are studying them because we are being inspired by his works to create our calendar art. Currently, we are making the circles out of coloured paper.

Here are some examples of work we have created.

*By Hailey*

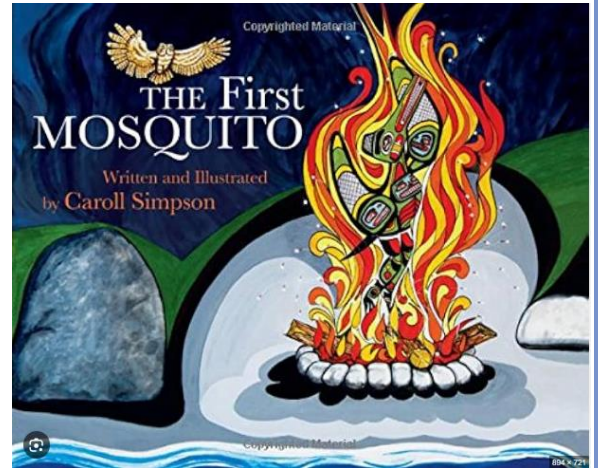
We also shared our Wellington Literacy assignments and some persuasive writing about why we need more school holidays. Unfortunately, we can not fit ALL of our work in the newsletter!



## NEWS FROM LIBRARY

The library has been open Tuesdays and Thursdays this term and the librarians have had a great time organising the different books and shelves. We have recently introduced our Junior Chapter books, the easy reads with a pink or orange sticker. A reminder that the people with overdue books need to return them or you can't be issued an new books. We have had a couple of incidents where people have borrowed books from the library, given to their friends, then they can't get any more books out because their friend lost the book. We also have lots of new books that have not been on the shelves yet. Here is a review of one of our new books ... *The First Mosquito* – Written by Carroll Simpson.

*This story, The First Mosquito, is about a family who lives in a village in the wilderness surrounded by forest gods. Yax, the boy, has been warned of the dangers in the forest, but he believes that he is old enough o go looking for his lost spear all by himself. No sooner does he venture into the dark woods when the Wild Man of the woods and the Monster begin to chase him. It is up to Yax's mother and sister, with the help of Thunderbird and his Lightning Snakes, to set a trap that will save Yax. The trap gets rid of the monster but leaves a pesky swarm of mosquitos.*



## GOVERNMENT RELEASES – a thought to finish on!

Our new government are currently bombarding our schools with curriculum changes and delivery expectations with minimal consultation with the education sector, without any acknowledgement of the different ways that children learn and the varied skills, strengths and needs that they come to us with – our craft and our professional knowledge enables us to meet these needs.

The media spokesperson for the Tai Tokerau Principals Association, Pat Newman, has released the following statement which I share with you as a different perspective to what you are hearing on the news.

### TTPA PRESS RELEASE

**Aotearoa's "choir boy of crisis", Christopher Crisis Luxon strikes again. As always, never letting the evidence get in the way of a good story, he misuses the suspect data gathered in mid-2022 on math achievement in New Zealand schools to authorise the dogmatic "one solution works for all" mandating of pedagogy in New Zealand education**

*He has used questionable data from mid-2022, taken during the height of Covid, to achieve his political goals of grabbing power from our community schools, whilst at the same time doing the opposite with Seymour's Charter Schools!. It is nothing but a blatant push for a standardised approach to education, run by the politicians and bureaucracy in Wellington, whilst ignoring the complex factors at play.*

*In the biggest bit of political cynicism seen in ages, he blatantly uses data that was collected during Covid's extended shutdowns, social upheaval, and challenges from the global pandemic.*

*He quotes overseas countries but fails to report that even with the new promised money, the funding for New Zealand students is notably low, compared to the countries quoted.*

*It is clear that political ideology has driven these decisions without considering the diverse needs of students. The approach overlooks the multiple challenges faced by New Zealand learners.*

He further exercises his power to threaten every teacher every principal no matter the problems, needs of their students, that if they don't come up to his standards they will be punished, they will be vilified, they will be fired.....

In the current situation, when nobody wants to be a teacher, when Training establishments are shutting their doors due to no applicants, when relievers in our schools are non-existent, when schools are doubling up classes....is this actually a smart move by the Prime Minister.... Alternatively, does he even care?

Is waving the big stick to show he has power. The best way to help children in the current situation?

Teachers have been asking for proper resourcing and access to good Professional Development for years.

**What we have instead, is an approach more akin to "I'm the Chairman of the Board... Although I know nothing about education, just do as you are told"!**

Mauriora,  
Kylie Piper

[kylie@arapohue.school.nz](mailto:kylie@arapohue.school.nz)

### 2024 Some Dates to Remember

Thursday	5 Sept	Body Jam Competition – check date change
Wednesday	11 Sept	Board Meeting
Friday	13 Sept	Teacher Only Day
Sunday	15 Sept	Last birth date for Ag Day Animals Northern Wairoa Speech Competition School speech comp



## DARGAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENING THURSDAY 29 AUGUST

Nau mai, haere mai! We welcome prospective parents and students to our Open Evening. Come and find out what our school has to offer your whānau.

Learn about subjects, meet our teachers, and discover what Dargaville High School can add to your child's education.

**DATE: THURSDAY 29 AUGUST**  
**TIME: 4-6:30PM**  
**LOCATION: SCHOOL HALL**

Phone: 09 439 7229 | Email: [office@darghigh.school.nz](mailto:office@darghigh.school.nz)  
[www.dargavillehighschool.co.nz](http://www.dargavillehighschool.co.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/dargavillehighschoolnz](https://www.facebook.com/dargavillehighschoolnz)

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Respect - Responsibility - Contributing - Integrity

