



# ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

*Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge*

**Newsletter #12 2025 – Term 4 Week 2**

## FROM KYLIE'S DESK

Welcome back to Term 4 – we have hit the ground running and it is all go as we get ready for Ag Day. We look forward to seeing you all here on Saturday – fingers crossed for sunshine!

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

We have met as a new board at the end of last term and are pleased to welcome Lorraine Ripikoi to our board and to confirm Drew Gillespie as continuing in his role as Presiding Member. As he finishes his role, we would also like to take a moment to acknowledge Joseph Simpkin and the work he has done for our school. As a past student, a parent and a board member who has served for the last ten years Joe has been an avid supporter of our school. If there is work to be done Joe can be counted on to show up and contribute in any way he can. Thanks Joe.

Our Board focus currently is looking ahead to 2026, as we begin to prepare our Strategic Plan and the budget. If you can fill out the Strategic Plan survey attached to this newsletter and return to the office by the end of the week it would be appreciated. Over the next week or so we will also be confirming staffing for 2026 and hope to be able to update the community in the next newsletter.

Our Board have also been given warning of a possible NZEI strike on the 23 October. The union does not legally have to confirm this date until 3 days prior, but we would like to give advanced warning of the possibility to help you prepare. As this means our teachers will be taking industrial action on this day we would ask you to keep your children home for the day. Please contact our principal if this poses any problems for your family.

## GRATITUDE

Huge thanks to our wonderful workers who turned up to our Planting Bee at the end of last term. Many hands definitely made light work as we got through the work faster and it made for a successful afternoon.



Also a shout out to Riverview Gardens who have kindly donated kumara for both our Ag Day Kumara Creations and for the Contributing Camp for Years 7-8. Thank you – your support is greatly appreciated.

## WELCOME



Last week we welcomed Darcy and Ripeka to our school. Darcy is the third and final (??!!) member of the Jillett-Sorensen whānau to come to school and it feels like he was born to be here. Ripeka has come to us from Otamatea and has started in Rākau– she is a fabulous addition to our class!



## AG DAY 2025

Please see a timetable of the day attached. Can we please ask this year that students do NOT take home any entries on the day – last year entries were taken before everyone had the chance to look through the classrooms so we will wait and distribute them on Monday.

## UPDATING CONTACT DETAILS

Since enrolling your child at Arapohue School, have any of your contact details or their medical details changed that you may not have updated us with? If yes, please let us know in the office or use the 'Update Contact Details' button at the bottom of our website homepage so we can keep all information current.

## ASSEMBLY

On Friday our assembly was held by Rākau and was a quick welcome back to the term.

Class awards this week went to: Kurt, Hazel, James, Jackson S, Jackson A, Acacia-Rose and Ripeka.

PATH card winners this week were Alivia and Leon (third assembly in a row!) who both spun and won a game of pie face. We also had to catch up with Hazel who we owed a game to – cream flying everywhere!



We had 2 students who hit their 25 milestone – CONGRATS James who chose to dip in the treasure chest and Leo who enjoyed an ice-cream treat.

We also had several students who hit their 50 milestones so keep an eye on your letterboxes to see if you children have been extra-awesome!

BUT the hi-light of the assembly was most definitely filling the basket of awesome – YIPPEE – mystery bus trip here we come! In between Ag Day Planning and Camp organisation we will get this planned and executed – watch this space for more info!

### KĀKANO NEWS

Children in Kakano have been learning about using personification in their writing. Personification, as the word suggests, is when the writer gives an object human qualities to invoke a mood. Here are some examples of personification. Can you guess which two words the children were given? The object and the human quality?

*The lightning raced across the sky.  
The backpack groaned as it fell out of my cubby.  
The backpack groaned as it swallowed up my lunchbox.  
The jazz music floated through the salty air. **Monty***

*My backpack groaned when I got off the bus.  
The moon watched the snapper swimming in the coral reef.  
The flowers danced across the museum entrance.  
The waves ran at my feet. **Phoenix***

*The moon watched the flowers sleeping.  
The backpack groaned when a big hand grabbed it. **Kurt***

*The rabbits spoke to each other with twitching noses.  
The flowers danced happily together at the park.  
The happy moon sang to the tired flowers.  
My backpack groaned because my dog ripped it.  
The beautiful music floated from the piano. **Bella***

### MĀHURI NEWS

Kia ora e te whanau, talk about hitting the ground running – one week in and it feels like we've been back much longer.

As you can imagine, students are busy getting on with Ag Day entries, as I hope they are at home. We've already started this term's first science kit with: 'How Do We see The World?' A unit on light and colour, which has blended in extremely well with the colour theory we have been learning during Ag Day art. It is interesting to note what students think they know and what they can explain.

This term we continue with our final units of learning for the year - maths: Algebra and Probability and literacy – opportunities to practice the range of genres we have covered over the year from different perspectives. The students groan at the thought of the end of year testing but are always excited to see the progress they have made over the year.

I will include two examples of the slam poetry students created last term, which I felt was very successful. It is always good for students to have reasons to practice their best publishing handwriting as you will see at this year's Ag Day.



### **From Little Seeds Grow Mighty Trees**

Small trees can make a big difference too,  
They grow each day, just like we do,  
They bend and sway, they learn the breeze,  
From little seeds grow mighty trees.

At first, they're tiny, soft, and slow,  
But day by day, the branches grow,  
They reach for light, they grow with ease,  
And soon become such mighty trees.

Just like trees, we start off small,  
We trip, we try, we learn it all,  
With Family, Friends and dreams to chase,  
We all can grow to take our place.

Just like a tree, we find our way,  
Growing big and strong day by day,  
A better world begins with you,  
It's what we make it, what will you do?

**Written By Alex Neighbours**

### **Bad Reputation**

Hey, you do you really want that cup?

There are heaps of micro plastics, but,

Bottoms up!

Get up, help, we are polluting the ocean

and people need help!

Humans have a bad reputation.

We are hurting our animals and that is not  
good.

Help the animals and stop!

Polluting the ocean too!

Hey you, do you want that cup?

**By Maia Tomlin**

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Ag Day. Any suggestions for 'fruit or vegetable' cake making this year would be appreciated.

Nga mihi nui, Whaea Lyn

### **RĀKAU NEWS**

*Welcome to term 4!*

*This term in Rakau we are missing Heidi who is in Scotland. We're thrilled to be welcoming Ripeka to our school. Be sure to make her feel welcome.*

*With Ag coming up in the next few weeks we have been doing lots of art and crafts. In Rakau for art, we've been exploring still arts, geometric fruits, and patterns. We've been focused on fruits and vegetables for the theme of Ag day. During time with Mrs Piper we have been planning on making products such as, lemon curd, cake in a mug, and hot chocolate on a spoon. We hope you get to enjoy eating or drinking our products. Don't forget to bring your spare coins you find underneath the couch, so you get to experience the bath bombs and or sugar scrubs that were making with Miss Mitchell.*

*We're looking forward to meeting new faces at camp later this term. Camp will be at Tangihua Lions Lodge for the year 7&8 students. Camp will also be happening from the 29th-31st of October 2025.*

Nga mihi.

Natasha 😊

## SCHOOL DOCS

Don't forget to log on to Schooldocs to complete this terms reviews:

<https://arapohue.schooldocs.co.nz/>

User name: arapohue PW: path

## BUS/PICKUP CHANGES

Please ensure any changes to afternoon bus/pickup routines are phoned (4397513), texted (02108826534), or emailed (rochelle@arapohue.school.nz) 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.

### 2025 Some Dates to Remember

Monday	13 Oct	White Elephant Items to school
Friday	17 Oct	Ag Day entries to school – Flowers, baking
Saturday	18 Oct	Ag Day
Monday	20 Oct	PLAY WEEK RIPPA Rugby session
Tuesday	21 Oct	Yr 6,7,8 Enviroschools trip
Thursday	23 Oct	Possible NZEI Strike-no school for children if this goes ahead.
Monday	27 Oct	Labour Day Holiday
Wed	29 Oct	Contributing Schools Camp (29-31 <sup>st</sup> Oct)
Wed	5 Nov	Central Ag Day
Monday	17 Nov	Teacher Only Day
Wed	3 Dec	Prizegiving
Friday	12 Dec	Last Day of Term 4

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

As a school our Strategic Plan is based on three pou, or three areas - **Our People, Our Place and Our Learning**. Recent years has seen some positive work in each of these areas including the following:

Embedding our **PB4L values** into our school including purchasing **school shirts** and new school **signage**, increasing **shade provision, tree plantings, Enviroschools** Kaupapa - **garden and composting** developments, introducing termly **learning celebrations, Relationship Based Learning Practices**, making **connections** in the wider **community** to provide **enrichment opportunities** for our students and developing our **localised curriculum**. As we look at our mahi for the coming year staff will continue to develop their understanding of the new curriculum and how this impacts our **assessment** and **reporting**. We will also focus on the development of the **bike track** but would also like to ask our community if you have any other suggestions for future priorities? Please fill out the form and return to school BEFORE our next board meeting on the 22nd.



Goal suggestions:

### PEOPLE:

- Develop relationships with ECE providers
- Induct New staff
- YOUR IDEA:

### PLACE

- Continue development of vege gardens/fruit trees
- Bike Track project
- YOUR IDEA:

### LEARNING:

- As Government confirm the curriculum documents and assessment expectations, develop on practices accordingly.
- YOUR IDEA:



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13 October 2025

Dear Parents/Caregivers

## ENVIRO-SCHOOLS TRIP

Our students in Year 6, 7 and 8 have a fantastic opportunity to take part in an Enviro-Schools discovery day at **Te Houhanga a Rongo Marae** in **Dargaville** on **Tuesday 21 October**.

During the day, students will:

- Participate in **Ngā taonga tākaro** (traditional Māori games)
- Explore **Te Ao o te tuna** (the world of the eel)
- Discover **Te mana o te whakairo** (the prestige and significance of carving)
- Connect with the local environment, scientists, and local experts
- Learn more about the Enviro-Schools kaupapa and make links to our local curriculum.

## Travel details:

- We will depart school at **9:00am** and return by **2:30pm**, in time for the school buses.

## What students need to bring:

- Sunhat
- Warm clothes
- Comfortable shoes
- Water bottle
- Morning tea snacks and a packed lunch

We are fortunate to have enough staff to cover supervision and transport, so parents do not need to take time off work to support this trip. However, if you are free and would like to join us for part of the day, you are very welcome – please let Kylie or myself know.

Laura Mitchell

***Growing greatness – thriving together!***

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## Ag Show Day – 18 October 2025

- Please ensure ALL home entries are at school on Friday 17th by 9am
- Please bring flowers for our floral displays that we will be making on Friday morning.

### **SATURDAY** *(times are an approx guide only)*

10:00            Arrival of those showing animals

#### **10:30            Animal events commence**

**Ring ONE with judge – Terry North / Craig Kelsall steward**

- Junior Lamb
- Senior Lamb

**Ring TWO with judge – Belinda Harris / steward TBC**

- Junior Calf
- Senior Calf
  - Please ensure you have transferred to Show Day NAIT # and emailed ASD to school by Friday.

**Market Open:** students have been busy making products to sell and they have been cleaning out their bedrooms to donate much loved quality items to on-sell.

Raffles etc

Food stalls

**11: 15**            Classrooms open for viewing of indoor events – Parents we are opening this early due to feedback – PLEASE supervise young children as we would hate for any work to be damaged!

#### **12pm (approx.)**

Staff & Board cake auction

Prize giving

Draw raffles

**1:30pm**            Pack up, Please note that indoor entries are NOT to be taken until Monday

Raffles will be available during the morning; Food and beverages will be for sale

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO EFTPOS THIS YEAR!!!