



ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge

Newsletter #14 2025 – Term 4 Week 9

FROM KYLIE'S DESK

And here we are ... at the end of another year, where we start the intense juggle between trying to keep on top of all of the extra events and activities that arise, while keeping calm and settled and in some sort of routine. I hope you are all managing some success in this area and that you are on top of all of the school extras.

My sincere apologies for the last minute change of date for our prize giving – I appreciate the difficulties this may have caused for some of you. For those that are able to make it to our Prizegiving – we hope to see you at the showgrounds at 11am on **THURSDAY 4th**. A reminder you can take your children there with you (some prefer to stay home and get 'dressed up' for the occasion). Buses WILL run as normal – please let us know if your child will not come to school first that day. Please bring a plate of kai for our shared lunch that follows.

We are aware that we have new families that may be uncertain how some of our regular end of year activities look – please ring the office or flick me an email if you have any questions.

WELCOME

Last week we welcomed our newest student to the school – Alec Walker. Yes, I might be a little premature but we would like to congratulate Owen, Saffron and big sister Maia on the beautiful addition to their family. Nau mai ki te ao marama Alec!



CHURCH SERVICE

Once again this year we have been invited to join our local church for their Christmas Service on Tuesday 9th December. This will be a low key gathering where the story of Christmas is shared along with some carols. Our students will sing some Carols they have been doing and we will then have supper together. Please fill out the RSVP form attached so we have an idea on numbers for catering and it may also help guide our song choices??!

GRATITUDE

Sincere thanks to our local AFFCO suppliers who have nominated us as their Cash or Schools Programme recipients – your support is most appreciated.

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.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Our Board had a productive final meeting for the year last week. We were thrilled to have the 2025 achievement data presented to us and are so proud of the results. We are happy to say:

91% of our students are at or above expectation in reading

89% of our students are at or above expectation in mathematics

75% of our students are at or above expectation in writing, which is a lift from 61% at this time last year.

Huge thanks to our teachers for the fabulous job you do.

The Board also dedicated time to discussing the Government's removal of the legislative requirement for school boards to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We want to unequivocally assure our community that this change in legislation will not alter the fundamental direction and core values of our school.

As a board, we affirm that our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi is not a matter of compliance; it is a moral imperative and a foundational element of our identity as a learning community in Aotearoa New Zealand. We believe that honouring Te Tiriti is essential for:

1. **Equity and Success for Māori Students:** Ensuring that our ākonga Māori thrive academically, culturally, and socially, and see their identity, language, and culture reflected, respected, and valued in every aspect of school life.
2. **Enriching ALL Learners:** Providing a culturally responsive, inclusive environment that benefits every student. Our commitment enriches the education we offer by fostering skills in cultural intelligence, respect, partnership, and empathy—essential attributes for future global citizens.
3. **Local Partnership:** Maintaining and deepening our relationship with Mana Whenua whose guidance and wisdom are beneficial to our school's continued success.

What This Means Day-to-Day

We will continue to embed Te Tiriti principles through our:

- **Strategic Planning:** Keeping Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a core pillar of our strategic plan.
- **Curriculum:** Integrating local mātauranga (knowledge) and actively promoting Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori.
- **Decision Making:** Ensuring that all significant decisions are viewed through a lens of equity and cultural responsiveness.

Our commitment remains strong, enduring, and non-negotiable.

We also farewelled Mrs. Leanne Brown as our dedicated Board Secretary. Leanne continued on in this important role in 2021 after finishing her school administration duties. Her continuous service has been a tremendous asset; her longstanding knowledge and administrative expertise have guided the Board effectively. As her family expands, we understand and wholeheartedly support Leanne's desire to focus her energies elsewhere. We wish her immense joy as she prioritizes her time with her beautiful, growing circle of grandchildren—a role we know will keep her wonderfully busy!

ASSEMBLY



On Thursday our assembly was hosted by Māhuri who shared some of the amazing learning they have been doing. My personal favourite was their version of the 12 days of Christmas – hopefully you get to hear it before the year is out.

Class awards this week went to: Jariah, Ripeka, Leo, Layton, Bella and Alivia.

PATH card winners this week were Heidi, Leon and Alivia. They spun and won free time with a friend and dips in the treasure chest.



We had 4 students who hit their 25 milestone – congrats to Maia, Zane, Jackson S(Absent) and Darcy.

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

And finally congratulations to Natasha and Hazel who have hit the 75 milestone and will enjoy (hopefully) a pizza picnic next week!



KĀKANO NEWS

In Kākano we have been writing our reflections on 2025 and have shared some of these with you.

This year I achieved level 21 in reading because I worked really hard. Phoenix

I'm looking forward to getting even smarter at reading and writing next year. Kurt

I liked going to the Ninja world because it was good fun with the big slide. Emmanuel

I got some free time with a friend from the PATH card draw. Alivia

I have been good at doing Lego with Matua John and Mrs Christey. Willow

I like being on the trampoline with four people doing knees and butt slams. James

I like the swimming pool, and I want to have a turn in it. Sadie

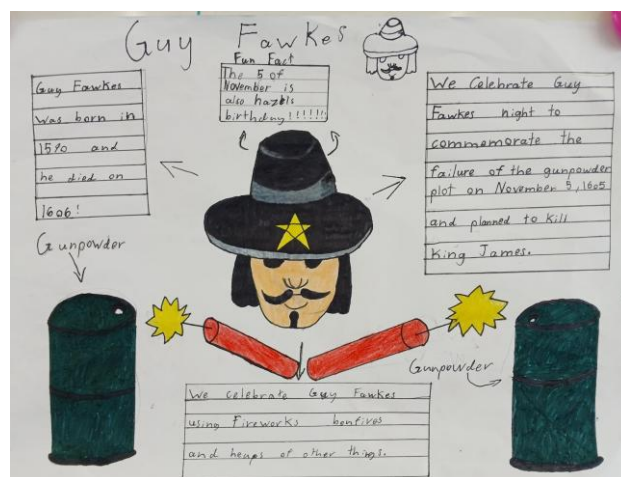
Sitting in the big old tree and reading at the same time is fun. Monty

Kia ora e te whanau,

I would like to thank our beautiful whanau for being so supportive to work with. It's been a pleasure and privilege working with your children over the last five years. It's certainly been a highlight in my teaching years. Whakaaro ki a koe. Whaea Lyn

Valentines Day originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named Valentine, and through later folk traditions it has also become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world. Valentine's Day started on February 14th in the year 496 AD by Pope Gelasius 1st.

The first recorded Valentine's letter, written by Charles, Duke of Orleans, was penned in 1415. When he was 21, Charles wrote to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. The letter is currently on display at the British Library in London. Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, but it is celebrated differently in different cultures.



Please see our insert page.

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

Tuesday	2 Dec	Prizegiving rehearsal at Arapohue Hall
Thursday	4 Dec	Prizegiving – 11AM start followed by a shared lunch
Tuesday	9 Dec	Carols Service – All Saints Church Mititai – evening please send back slip so we know who will be attending
Thursday	11 Dec	FUN WATER DAY – TBC
Friday	12 Dec	Last Day of Term 4 – finish at 12pm. (buses will only run in the morning on this day.

2026 Term Dates

Tuesday	3 Feb	School Starts
Friday	6 Feb	Waitangi Day
Saturday	14 Feb	Arapohue Show day

Join us at **Sportsville Dargaville** on **Wednesday, 3 December, from 3–7 PM** for ReSport Charitable Trust's annual Gold Coin Entry Christmas Gift Giving Day; a celebration of play, connection, and community. We're opening our pātaka of sporting gear to share the last of what's inside for the year, helping whānau access gifts and gear for the season ahead. Our colour counter system ensures everyone gets a fair go.

Community Touch Finals kick off from 4 PM (seniors from 5:30–7:30 PM), so bring the whānau, grab a gift, and stay to cheer the teams on!

- Light festive music, fun, and plenty of Christmas cheer.
- **Registrations required (see link below)**

Together, let's give the gift of play, connection, and joy this Christmas



Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1DiWhRmWx5/>



Registration link: <https://forms.gle/PAE3QCwdU5YUTBuu5>



RSVP

Name: _____

I confirm attendance of _____ people (total number including students)
to attend the Christmas Church Service 9th December 6:00pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Rākau Reflections 2025



Rowan Van Den Berg

A funny thing that happened this year was on April Fools, when Heidi brought a dead rat - flat, scentless, furry - to school and put it in Miss M's papers. When she lifted the papers up, she screamed so loud!

Something that was pretty hard for me was camp, when I had to sleep without my parents for the first time.

I am grateful for Mrs Piper, because she is the BEST principal ever, and I am so sad that she is leaving.

Something I want to focus on for next year is trying a little bit harder at athletics.

My final message for you all is: remember, there are only 365 days in a year, so try your hardest, and have fun!

Acacia-Rose

I am most proud of my reading and that I have gotten better at figuring out words

I have learnt that I am good at math and when I practice more I get even better

Something that was pretty hard for me was writing and expanding my feelings and to make it flow

I am grateful for how my teachers talk to us like how our friends do.

Something I want to focus on for next year is math, reading and writing.

My final message for you all is have a good time and treasure all of the time you have together

JARIAH

I AM MOST PROUD OF MY PROGRESS IN ART WHICH HAS GOTTEN SLOWLY BETTER EVERY SINGLE YEAR FROM STICK FIGURES TO SLIGHTLY CHUBBY FIGURES TO MY FULLY SHADED FACE.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE TEACHERS WHO HAVE WALKED ALONGSIDE ME ALL THESE YEARS AND PUT UP WITH ALL OF MY SILLINESS.

SOMETHING I WANT TO FOCUS ON FOR NEXT YEAR IS MY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN HIGH SCHOOL LIKE MUSIC,ART,AND MATH.

I HAVE LEARNT ABOUT WRITING STYLES, UNDERSTANDING READING ACTIVITIES, BUT MY FAVORITE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH OTHERS AND KNOWING THAT I CAN HELP.

MY FINAL MESSAGE FOR YOU ALL IS THAT IF YOU'RE IN NEED OF HELP THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE TO HELP YOU OUT AND BE BY YOUR SIDE.

Ripeka ❤️

I am most proud of...my maths

I have learnt...songs in kapa haka

Something that was pretty hard for me was...having to speak louder in bigger crowds

I am grateful for... my friends being by my side

A funny thing that happened this year was...double bouncing each other on our trampoline

A surprising thing that happened this year was...me getting to lead ki-mai in kapa haka

This year my teacher...let us sing new waiata

*Something I want to focus on for next year is...my cursive writing.
My final message for you all is...to be confident and you'll make it*

LEON

I AM MOST PROUD OF MY OVERALL WORK AND ART DONE AT THE START OF THE YEAR. I DID A LOT OF THINGS INCLUDING BACKPACK ART, MY PUZZLE PIECE AND THE SELF PORTRAIT. AND I AM SURE NEXT YEAR THERE WILL BE MUCH MORE ART

SOMETHING THAT WAS PRETTY HARD FOR ME WAS CATCHING UP WITH WORK AND TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING TOO MUCH AS IT CAN MAKE ME VERY NERVOUS. THE FIRST YEAR IN THE INTERMEDIATE CLASS I WAS NEVER REALLY SURE AND ALWAYS RESPONDED WITH SOMETHING LIKE "YEAH IM FAIRLY CERTAIN" OR "UM I THINK SO". BUT THE SECOND YEAR I WAS A LOT MORE CONFIDENT.

SOMETHING I WANT TO FOCUS ON FOR NEXT YEAR IS OVERALL SUCCEEDING IN THINGS AND TRYING TO JUST BE THE BEST I CAN BE BUT I ALSO DON'T REALLY WANT TO DRAW TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO MYSELF. I JUST WANT TO SUCCEED AND GO AT MY OWN PACE.

MY FINAL MESSAGE FOR YOU ALL IS TRY NOT TO BE TOO NERVOUS FOR SOMETHING, TRY AND LOOK AT THINGS AT A DIFFERENT ANGLE, AND JUST GO AT YOUR OWN PACE AS LONG AS THE SPEED OF YOUR PACE MEETS EXPECTATIONS.

Natasha

I am most proud of getting a personal high score in basic facts and improving in lots of other subjects. I'm also proud that I have expanded my vocabulary in writing and reading.

Something that was pretty hard for me was speaking out loud in class for reading, maths and especially speeches, but I do believe I have grown more in confidence so I'm not as anxious anymore.

Something I want to focus on for next year is getting my work done when it's due, instead of a term later. And being able to explain better when asked on.

Jackson

I am most proud of my progress in Steps - I get my weekly goals.

I have learnt maths

Something that was pretty hard for me was writing

I am grateful for everything

A funny thing that happened this year was telling jokes

A surprising thing that happened this year was getting the new basketball hoops

Something I want to focus on for next year is doing my writers toolbox

My final message for you all is have a great year in 2026

Heidi

I am most proud of pushing myself out of my comfort zone, socially, academically, and physically in areas such as EPro8, NW Speeches, and NW Mathex. Usually, I would be proud of myself for just getting there, and others would be too, but this year I focused on pushing further even though I was already above the standards. In some areas, I learned that it isn't about other's standards of 'winning' or 'losing' or 'doing great', it is about my personal best and how I feel I did. Of course, a medal is nice too.

Over the past year I have learned that learning doesn't have to be just at school, and it doesn't have to be academic either. I have become better at studying my own passions and getting interested in topics that I would usually ignore; there is something we can learn from everything. Next year, I will focus on keeping a positive attitude around my learning and remember that if things are too hard, or even too easy, I can improve on it away from the classroom.

Something that was pretty hard for me this year was being patient and letting others figure things out themselves instead of taking over and feeding them the answers. Often I have to actively remind myself to step back and let other people do the work—otherwise they learn nothing, I get annoyed, and we have to do it again.

Overall, I think 2025 was a great year for self-improvement. One final message I have is to manage yourself, and that you don't have to worry about other's problems. However, you can still help and support them without getting tangled up in the chaos of someone else's life.

Have a great 2026 [or something cringe like that]

Matthew

I am most proud of my maths and my reading

I have learnt a new haka and it is fantastic.

I am grateful for my teachers and Mrs Cleary .

A funny thing that happened this year was playing with JJs orbies

Jonathan

I am most proud of the information report I did on the bald eagle.

I acknowledge that I have expanded my understanding of math and writing.

Something that was pretty hard for me was my speech on animal testing.

A funny thing that happened this year was when Heidi put a dead rat in between Miss Mitchells papers on the desk.

Something I am excited for next year is having some of my friends from Māhuri come to Rākau