



ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge

Newsletter #1 2026 – Term 1 Week 5

FROM WHAEA SARA'S DESK...

Kia ora whānau,

I feel incredibly privileged to be stepping into the role of Acting Principal here at Arapohue School. My journey in education spans over 20 years, and I remain just as passionate about teaching today as I was when I first started. I find children endlessly inspiring and truly love the opportunity to learn and grow alongside them. For me, the heart of education is walking that learning journey in partnership with both the students and their families, and I look

forward to building those connections with you all.

On a more personal note, I live just down the road in Ruawai, where my husband Max and I run a farm. It is where we raised our three boys, who have now all grown into adults. Family is my greatest joy; I have a beautiful granddaughter who knows me as 'Kui,' and we are currently eagerly awaiting the arrival of a wee grandson.

As a school team, we are currently focused on several key initiatives to enhance our classroom practice. We are actively engaging with the new Mathematics and Statistics curriculum and exploring SMART, an assessment tool that will help us better track student progress to support our teaching and learning. Additionally, we are continuing to refine our Structured Literacy approaches within our new learning spaces.

There are some exciting dates coming up on the school calendar. We'd love to see you there and share these experiences together. I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know the whānau that make Arapohue School so special.

Ngā mihi nui,
Sara McKinley
saram@arapohue.school.nz

MIHI WHAKATAU & LET'S MEET AND GREET

We are delighted to invite our school whānau to join us for a Mihi Whakatau on **Thursday 19 March at 4:00 pm**, where we will officially welcome our new families into the Arapohue School community. Following the formal welcome, we will move into the classrooms for a brief overview of daily learning routines and expectations, providing a wonderful opportunity to explore our learning spaces and chat with teachers. To wrap up the afternoon, we'll open the pool for a swim and share some kai together, the perfect



chance to chill out and connect with one another. We look forward to seeing you all there as we celebrate the start of our journey together. Invites will be sent out closer to the event.

SWIMMING

Swimming is part of our daily curriculum during the summer months so children are expected to participate. Please ensure they come to school with togs and towel every day. If there is a reason for your child not to swim, please advise the office.

SUN HATS

A reminder that sun hats are required every day for outdoor learning and play.

BANKING DETAILS

For our new families or anyone needing to update their bank details, our school account name and number are as follows:

Account Name: Arapohue Primary School

Account Number: 12-3098-0257114-00

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

Term 1 policies	Review opens 26 January
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances Policy	Board review
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sun Protection	Board review
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Technology and Online Safety	Board review
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety and Welfare for Students on Work Experience (composite/secondary only)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Firearms (optional policy)	

STATIONERY

Thank you to everyone who has already paid for their children's stationery packs. Invoices have been issued but if you require another copy please contact the office or if you wish to set up a payment plan. Payments can be made either in cash or via online payment (Ref: Students name).

BUS/PICKUP CHANGES

Please ensure any changes to afternoon bus/pickup routines are phoned (09 439 7513), texted (021 08826534), or emailed (rochelle@arapohue.school.nz) to the office prior to 1pm. The office is unmanned after 1pm.

NEWS FROM KĀKANO

Our Kākano students are having a wonderful time in the swimming pool, building their water confidence and developing essential water safety skills. It is a joy to see tamariki learning to float, kick, and breathe correctly while discovering how much fun being active in the water can be. Here is what our tamariki had to say about their experience.

"I can put my head underwater now". Alivia



"I like diving in and catching things under water". Alani



"I have learnt how to do underwater tricks in the pool". Bella



"I can dive under the water and grab the sinkies". Amelia

"I can swim the whole pool". Emmanuel



"I'm pretty good at diving down deep and putting the sinkies in the bucket, in one breath". Phoenix

"I really like going down to the deep end of the pool". James



"I can grab the sinkies with my feet". Darcy



"I'm good at floating on my back and my tummy and diving down for sinkies". Sadie

"I'm good at grabbing sinkies and I like swimming around and kicking". Willow

NEWS FROM MĀHURI

Kia ora whānau

It has been a wonderful start to the term as we settle back into our school routines. I have really enjoyed hearing about everyone's holidays and spending time getting to know your tamariki.

Our main focus this term is Mathematics, where we are currently learning Number and Algebra, followed by Statistics later in the term. We are also practising basic facts daily to build speed and accuracy—any extra practice at home would be hugely beneficial.

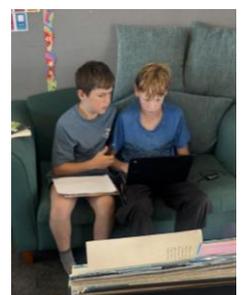
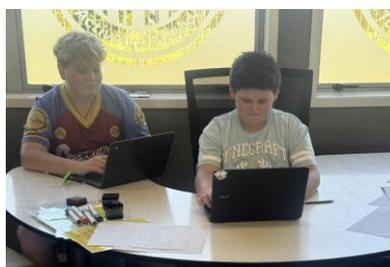
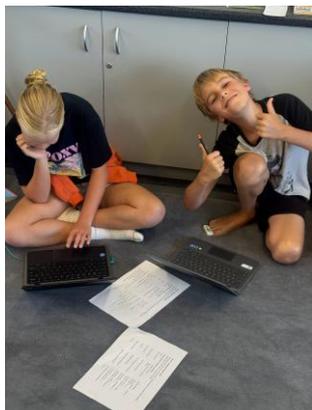
Here's a snapshot of what else we have been learning:

- Writing: We are writing every day, focusing on using more interesting vocabulary to make our writing engaging, alongside developing strong proofreading and editing skills.
- Reading: Students are exploring a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, with a focus on vocabulary, comprehension, inference, and building reading fluency.
- Science: We are excited to be using our science kits again this year. This term we are exploring two topics:
 - *Big Blue Future* – learning about marine ecosystems, why they are important, and how we can protect them.
 - *Wonderful Wai* – investigating water in its different states (solid, liquid, gas), the water cycle, and its impact on ecosystems.
- Physical Education (P.E): Swimming lessons, where students are developing their skills in freestyle, backstroke, and breaststroke.
- Art: "*All About Me*" *backpack art* – a creative way for students to share where they come from, their families, and their interests.

It has been a very busy and exciting start to the term, and I am looking forward to all the learning ahead.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact the school or email me at laura@arapohue.school.nz.

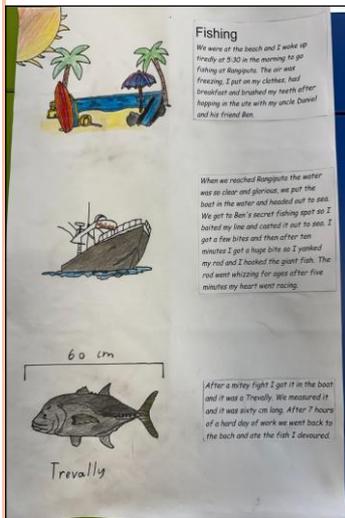
Ngā mihi,
Laura Mitchell
Māhuri Teacher



My holiday writing is about fishing at Rangiputa Beach up North in the Bay of Islands.

I really enjoyed creating my story board writing and learning how to stencil images. I was chosen to be a writing expert because I am good at spelling and I am able to edit and proofread well.

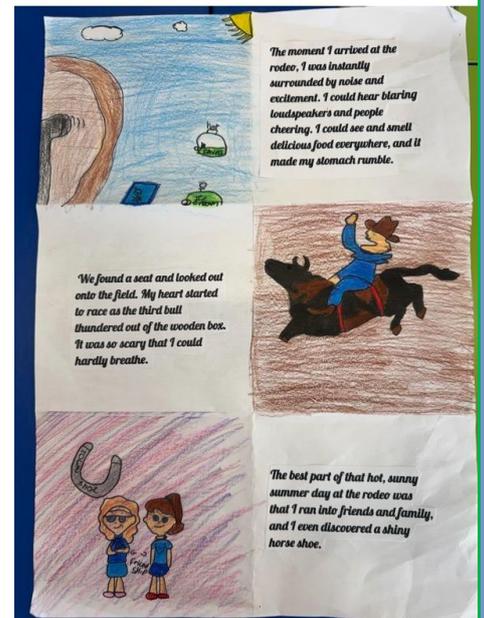
By Layton Lugtigheid.



My holiday writing is about going to the rodeo.

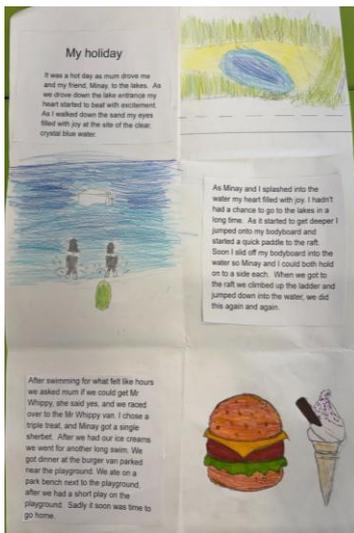
I enjoy writing because it is peaceful. In writing we are learning to use 'WOW' words to make our writing better. We are also learning to proof read and edit to make our stories better and use our writing experts to help us.

By Gemma Brogden



My holiday writing is about my time out at the Kai Iwi lakes with my friend and my family. I enjoy writing about all sorts of things. I am learning to proofread and edit so my writing makes sense and to add more interesting words to make my writing better.

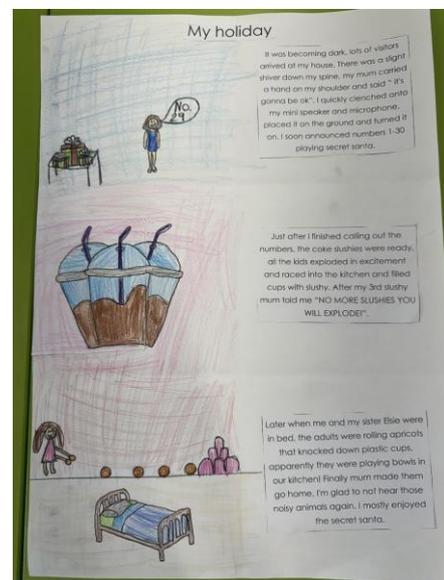
By Lily Meduna



My holiday writing is about having a Christmas party at our house.

I enjoy writing because it helps me to improve my writing skills. In writing we are learning to proof read and edit our writing. I have been picked to be a writing expert to help others in my class.

By Leila



Our Voice

Student & teacher voice gathered and presented
by *Natasha Batistich & Rowan Van Den Berg*

Jonathan: One of my goals for this year is to become really fast and more accurate at Maths. I have enjoyed having a new learning routine, along with having a new Principal this year.

Rocco: A goal of mine is to try to win a trophy at Prize Giving. I am also excited for camp, Tech, and meeting new people.

Elsie: I want to try to win the sports award again, as I have really enjoyed swimming this year and improving my skills. I am very excited for the contributing schools' camp and Tech.

Ripeka: My goal is to finish a Maths grid in under three minutes. I am excited for trips, especially camp, and I am enjoying Tech, having new people in class, and having a new teacher and Principal, Whaea Sara.

Rowan: My main goals are to win the Kapa Haka award and the Spirit of Arapohue award this year. I am excited for camp, Tech, being a Year 8, and being one year closer to high school!

Jackson: My goal is to make some good friends. I have enjoyed Tech this year and I like being a Year 8 because it's fun.

Matthew: I'm looking forward to Athletics and swimming.

Natasha: I am enjoying swimming, looking forward to Athletics, and I love being back at school with my friends.

Stella: I want to win the Spirit of Arapohue award at Prize Giving, as well as the All-Around Excellence award. I have enjoyed Tech and am very excited for camp.

Zane: I want to win the Writing award at Prize Giving. I am excited about camp and hopefully getting a bike track! I have also enjoyed being back at school and being with my friends.

Whaea Sara: I am incredibly excited to start my journey of teaching and learning alongside the students in Rākau as we grow together as school leaders. I am passionate about building strong relationships for learning and supporting our students to become innovative, creative problem solvers.



2026 Save the Dates

Thursday	26 Feb	Intro to Basketball with Basketball Northland
Friday	28 Feb	Intro to Cricket with Cricket Northland
Mon-Fri	2-6 Mar	EPro8 resources – Y4-8
Thursday	5 Mar	Intro to Basketball with Basketball Northland
Friday	6 Mar	Swimming Sports at Ruawai Primary School Year 0-6 Swimming Sports with Dargaville Intermediate at the Town Pool Yrs 7-8
Tuesday	10 Mar	Swim Safe with Joanne
Friday	13 Mar	South Zone Swimming Sports
Tuesday	17 Mar	Swim Safe with Joanne
Thursday	19 Mar	Mihi Whakatau & Let's Meet and Greet
Wednesday	25 Mar	EPro8 competition in Whangarei Y5-6 & Y7-8
Tuesday	31 Mar	School Board training and meeting
Thursday	2 Apr	Tryathlon at Ruawai Primary School & last day of Term 1
Monday	20 Apr	First day of term 2
Friday	24 Apr	Teacher Only Day - professional learning day for teachers
Friday	18 Sept	Teacher Only Day - professional learning day for teachers



SATURDAY
28
MARCH

2026 KAURI COAST SURFCASTING CONTEST

MAJOR SPONSOR

 **firstnational** | Kaipara
REAL ESTATE

FIRST PRIZE \$3000
HEAVIEST KAHAWAI

CREATIVE
NORTHLAND
is proud to present:

FREE!
COMMUNITY
EVENT



CREATIVENORTHLAND.COM/ARTBEAT

JOIN THE
CREATIVITY

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY IN KAIPARA

21ST MARCH 10^{AM} – 2^{PM}
DARGAVILLE RIVERSIDE GARDENS

THANKS TO: grassroots trust KAIAPARA DISTRICT creative NZ COMMUNITIES THE PACKAGING FORUM

Girls' Brigade

1ST DARGAVILLE

Girls' Brigade: Where the fun begins.
Thursday after school from 3 to 5 pm!

Held in TERMS 2 AND 3.
PLUS, EASTER and Halloween/LIGHT PARTY
Ph Pauline 0212637446

REGISTER NOW



Register online - 1st Dargaville Girls' Brigade 2025 Registrations

