



# ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

*Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge*

**Newsletter #2 2026 – Term 1 Week 10**

## **FROM WHAEA SARA'S DESK...**

Kia ora e te whānau,

As we approach the end of Term 1, it's incredible to look back at just how much we have packed into these past 10 weeks. It has been a whirlwind of energy, community spirit, and giving it a go. Values our students have demonstrated in true Arapohue School spirit.

The Arapohue Show Day was a standout event. It was fantastic to see our students engaging with local traditions, showing off their entries, and representing our school with such enthusiasm.

With the summer heat, the pool has been the heart of the school. From daily swimming practice to our Water Safe lessons, the students have made massive strides in their confidence and competence. This hard work culminated in several competitive milestones:

- School Swimming Sports: Held with Ruawai Primary and Dargaville Intermediate, this was a day of great competition and personal growth.
- South Zone & Northern Wairoa Swimming: Our qualifiers represented us with pride, showing excellent sportsmanship against the best in our area.

Back on dry land, our budding innovators took on the Inter-school EPro8 competition, while others enjoyed in-school EPro8 activities, building complex structures and solving problems under pressure. On the courts and fields, teamwork was at its best through in-school Basketball and Cricket, where students focused on developing skills, coordination, and fair play.

We held a beautiful Mihi Whakatau, officially welcoming our new students and families into the Arapohue School whānau. This sense of belonging continued through to our Learning Celebration, where our students took great pride in sharing their mahi and progress with you all.

To wrap up this super sporty term, we are looking forward to our upcoming Ruawai Primary School Tryathlon. This event is the perfect way to channel all that daily swimming, running, and cycling energy into one final celebration of achievement.

Thank you to all the parents, caregivers, and staff who have transported, supervised, and cheered from the sidelines. We simply couldn't provide these opportunities without your unwavering support.

We have some exciting dates coming up on the calendar for Term 2. In the meantime, we wish all our students and their whānau a safe, relaxing, and well-deserved term break. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for more adventures next term.

Ngā mihi maioha

Sara McKinley

saram@arapohue.school.nz

## EPRO8

Our Years 5-8 have enjoyed working with the EPRO8 equipment in school before two teams ventured to the regional competitions in Whangarei on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Our students demonstrated fantastic skills and teamwork completing some challenging tasks. Congratulations to both teams who are heading to regional finals this week.



## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

We welcomed Sharlene from NZ School Boards Assoc. this week who shared structure, learning and professional development support information. Looking forward, we will be creating a new Strategic Plan for 2027. This is formed by drawing ideas from our school and wider community to identify targets for our school's development. There will be opportunities in the coming months to put your ideas forward, but you are welcome to forward them any time before then, just drop us an email at [principal@arapohue.school.nz](mailto:principal@arapohue.school.nz)



## KAURI COAST SURFCASTING FISHING COMPETITION

The weather was spectacular on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March for the Kauri Coast Surfcasting Competition at Omamari. This is an important fundraising event for our school and we extend our thanks to all the friends and family of the school who helped in various ways. In particular; Danya Hewetson & Hamish Douglas, Rochelle Cleary, Clive and Lin McDermott, Drew and Hannah Gillespie and Paul and Rochelle Jillett-Sorensen. As one of the 5 local contributing schools, it was awesome being part of such a successful and enjoyable event.



## PHONE ISSUES

A recent upgrade from our telephone provider has presented a few issues with the functionality of our telephones. Should you encounter a fault while trying to contact us please text the cell phone 021-08826534.

## SUN HATS

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

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

## STATIONERY

Reminders have been sent for any outstanding, please contact the office 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

*In Kākano we have been learning about water. We found some lakes, rivers and oceans and put them on our New Zealand maps. We asked lots of questions about The Earth and Kurt asked how we can be upside down and not fall off. This led to us finding out about gravity, and we observed how the lack of gravity in space affects the daily lives of astronauts. We watched as water droplets floated around in space and we wondered why they didn't completely fall apart. The answer is surface tension. Here are some investigations into surface tension.*



## NEWS FROM MĀHURI

Wow – we've made it to the last week of term, and what a busy and productive few weeks it has been for Māhuri! It's been fantastic to see just how much learning has taken place across all areas of the curriculum.

### Reading:

We have been exploring a wide range of engaging texts, including myths and legends, New Zealand landmarks and histories, and articles about our oceans and why they are so important. Students have shown great curiosity and have been building strong comprehension skills.

### Writing:

We have continued with our daily writing programme, with a strong focus on editing and improving our work. Students are becoming more accountable by checking their own writing before sharing it with our class "writing experts," who support proofreading and editing. A big thank you to our writing experts – Layton, Leila, and Maia – for the fantastic job they are doing.

### Maths:

In maths, we have been strengthening our understanding of the basics – addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students have been exploring different strategies

to solve problems and are becoming more confident in showing their working. Daily multiplication practice has also been a key focus.

### **Science:**

Our science learning has centred around water-based experiments and exploring the importance of sea turtles within our ecosystem. This led into a research project, where our Māhuri and Rākau students worked collaboratively to create informative posters about a chosen sea turtle.

### **P.E: (Physical Education)**

We have been very fortunate to have Northland Cricket and Kaipara Basketball working with our students. These sessions focused on developing fundamental skills, teamwork, and confidence, and have been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

### **EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom):**

It has been an exciting time for swimming, with students participating for the first time at Ruawai Primary, as well as South Zone and Northern Wairoa swimming sports. It was wonderful to see so many students involved, showing courage and enthusiasm.

### **STEM:**

We were lucky to have the EPro8 kits again this year. These provided a fantastic opportunity for students to work collaboratively, think creatively, and develop their science, engineering, and problem-solving skills through hands-on challenges.

A huge thank you to all our parents and whānau who have supported these events—whether through transport or encouragement. We truly appreciate your support, as these opportunities wouldn't be possible without you.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Easter and a relaxing school holiday break.

Ngā mihi,  
Laura Mitchell  
Māhuri Teacher



## NEWS FROM RĀKAU

### Rākau: Our Term One Learning Journey Reflection...

#### Rocco:

I competed in the Epro8 challenge and qualified for the swimming finals. During a challenging moment in the Epro8 competition, I supported my teammates. I also helped a younger student on the flying fox. I am keen to participate in Mathex next term.

#### Zane:

I really enjoyed participating in the swimming competition and Tech this term. My favourite Tech project was making a chocolate mug cake to share with Matthew, though I also loved creating fruit kebabs with banana, apple, mandarin, grapes, and marshmallows. I was appointed as a librarian alongside two others; I'm finding the role very rewarding and am keen to learn how to use the library computer.

#### Rowan:

This term, I am proud of my achievements in Epro8, the swimming competition, and completing my maths grid in under three minutes. I also thoroughly enjoyed technology with Miss Truter and Mrs Hewetson, where I explored cooking, sewing, and woodwork. Also, I showed kindness by supporting a younger student when she hurt her nose, walking her to her cubby for water and comforting her with a hug.

#### Natasha:

This term, I am proud of competing in the Epro8 finals and qualifying for the Northern Wairoa swimming competition. I have enjoyed supporting others by helping Stella with her basic facts and math grids, and I now aim to improve my own speed with grids and my understanding of decimals and fractions. Next term, I am determined to do well in cross country, the Book Battle, and Mathex.

#### Stella:

Next term, I am excited to participate in the Battle of the Books and to join the Mathex team. I plan to focus on maths, reading, and writing so I can get high scores in my CAM exams. Beyond the classroom, I look forward to competing in cross-country and athletics, continuing my roles as a librarian and enviro leader, and earning more awards for prize giving.

#### Ripeka:

I am proud of achieving a personal best in our Rākau math grids and enjoy bonding with the Year 7s in our class. Last year, I stepped up as a leader by being an MC at the prize giving and leading our waiata, and I have also enjoyed supporting Elsie with her own math grids. After representing our school at the learning celebration, I am now focused on doing well in cross-country and the upcoming Book Battle competition.

#### Elsie:

I've enjoyed competing in swimming and qualifying for the Northland finals. At Tech, I achieved a new skill by learning how to bake cakes and brownies in the microwave. I also really valued participating in the in-school Epro8 challenge. I am proud to have been appointed to the librarian and enviro leadership teams, and I haven't regretted the commitment at all. I am excited to try Mathex for the first time this year and hope to be part of the team.

#### Jonathan:

I have achieved progress in my maths and writing this term, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as a librarian. My next goals are to improve my performance in GEMA - order of operations in maths and to do well in the upcoming cross-country race.

#### Jackson:

I am making great progress in maths, particularly with GEMA and my maths grid. My freestyle swimming speed is also improving, and I am learning from my mistakes and to keep going through challenges. I am focused on being a kind, more positive and patient person.

#### Matthew:

I am getting better at reading and writing, and I have really enjoyed swimming and improving my basketball skills. I love helping people when they are feeling hurt or sad. My goals for next term are to keep working on my reading, handwriting, and coloring.

## 2026 Save the Dates

Thursday	2 Apr	Tryathlon at Ruawai Primary School & last day of Term 1
Monday	20 Apr	Term 2 begins
Friday	24 Apr	Teacher Only Day - Maths Curriculum PLD for teaching team
Monday	27 Apr	ANZAC Day observed
Tuesday	5 May	Board hui at 6.30pm
Monday	1 Jun	King's Birthday
Friday	5 Jun	Book Battle in Whangārei
Mon-Fri	8-12 Jun	Assessment week
Friday	19 Jun	School Reports to go home
Mon-Fri	22-26 Jun	Parent/Teacher Interviews - date to be confirmed.
Friday	18 Sept	Teacher Only Day - professional learning day for teachers



**Whangarei HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**

**Northland FC Junior Holiday Programme!**

School Holiday Football Camp for ages 7-12 running from 9am - 3pm. Fun, friends, skill-building, and confidence all in one, with limited spots available. Sign up via the link - <https://northlandfc.friendlymanager.com/public/register?form=17&pre=>

AGE	7 - 12 YEARS
LOCATION	KENSINGTON SPORTS PARK
FEE	\$120 PER CHILD
DATES	15, 16, 17 <sup>th</sup> APRIL

Speedy Signs | hotprintz | McDonald's | The Holmes Clinic | weston design



**gb Eggstravaganza**

Cost: Koha  
 Who: ALL Girls 5-18yrs  
 Where: TLC Normanby St  
 When: Thursday, 2nd April  
 What time: 3-5pm.

For more info call 0212637446  
 1st Dargaville Girls' Brigade  
 The Lighthouse Church