



# ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

*Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge*

**Newsletter #3 2026 – Term 2 Week 4**

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

Kia ora e te whānau,

As we move further into the term, I would like to share some important updates regarding our curriculum, staffing, and upcoming community events.

### *Mathematics Curriculum*

The NZ Mathematics Curriculum has recently moved to a structured model. This framework is designed to provide students with a consistent, robust foundation from Year 1 through to Year 13. Our teaching team is currently immersed in ongoing professional learning to ensure we are delivering this model effectively. Our focus remains on:

- Developing a deep understanding of the new structured practices.
- Utilising mathematical tools to enhance teaching and learning.
- Implementing strategies that keep our students engaged, appropriately challenged, and provided with equitable opportunities for success.

### *Staffing Update*

We are delighted to welcome Leesa Andrewes to our team for the term. Leesa is joining us as part of a Ministry of Education pilot programme specifically designed to support rural teaching principals. She has already made a wonderful impact on our school environment by providing valuable leadership support, and we are grateful for her expertise.

### *Professional Learning*

At the end of May, I will be attending the Rural Principals Conference. I have selected workshops focused on leading change through curiosity, fostering team inquiry, and high-performance leadership. Most importantly, this conference provides a vital opportunity to connect with other rural leaders. I am truly grateful to our School Board and our dedicated staff for their hard work and support during my absence.

### *Reporting and Whānau Hui*

We'll be sending home student reports in Week 9, with our Kaiako/Whānau Hui following in Week 10. We truly value the partnership we have with our families and look forward to our hui. These chats are a wonderful way for us to work together to celebrate your child's successes and plan the next steps in their learning journey. Keep an eye out for booking details later in the term.

### *Matariki Hāngi Feast and Learning Celebration*

To honour Matariki and conclude our term of learning, we will be hosting a Matariki Hāngi Feast on 1 July. Our tamariki will be fully involved in the preparation and cooking process. We warmly invite our whānau and the Arapohue community to join us for this celebration. More specific details and timings will follow as we get closer to the date.

Ngā mihi maioha

Sara McKinley [saram@arapohue.school.nz](mailto:saram@arapohue.school.nz)

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

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)

## PIE DAY FRIDAY

Thank you everyone for your fantastic support of Pie Day Friday! It has been running for two weeks now and will continue for the rest of Term 2. Keep a look out for order forms every week to place your orders or contact the office before 10am Friday.



## SCHOOL LUNCHES

A reminder if your children are not eating the School Collective lunches please make sure they have adequate food for the day. We are seeing an increased number of students not wanting the lunches provided but are not bringing alternative food to sustain them for the school day.

## GRATITUDE

A super big thank you to Neil and Aroha Clements who donated a bull calf to the school – your contribution to our school is much appreciated. This calf is on-sold and the proceeds go into our fundraising for the year.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Our students are gearing up for the upcoming Cross Country events:

- School Cross Country: Friday, 15 May. We are grateful to be joining Ruawai Primary School for this event.
- Northern Wairoa Cross Country: Thursday, 28 May. Runners who excel in our school event will progress to compete at the Northern Wairoa level.



## 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 2 policies

Review opens 20 April

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| • <b>Daily Kura Bus*</b>                            |              |
| • <b>Kura Swimming Pool*</b> / Swimming Off Site*   | Board review |
| • <b>Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)</b>     | Board review |
| • <b>EOTC Governance Roles and Responsibilities</b> |              |
| • <b>EOTC Risk Assessment and Management</b>        |              |

## NEWS FROM MRS PIPER

Kia ora whānau,

As we head into another busy term, I wanted to share a brief update from my secondment with the Ministry of Education and to stay connected with you all.

My first term has largely been about settling in — learning the ropes and finding my way around our large regional office of around 145 incredibly committed professionals (remembering everyone's names and roles has certainly been a challenge!). The real privilege has been working alongside such knowledgeable, passionate people who are deeply committed to improving educational outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi across Tai Tokerau. I'm also part of a national team of 32 experienced primary and secondary principals who, like me, have been seconded as Leadership Advisors. Their collective knowledge and experience is incredible, and I feel like I'm learning so much every day.

The role takes me out on the road a lot too — from Kaiwaka right through to Awanui, Pouto, Kerikeri, and plenty of places in between — after learning to drive the rather “space-rocket-like” fleet EVs, which took some figuring out! They liken all of this new learning to drinking from a fire hose – hence the graphic I have included of my partner in crime, Murray Burton, and I doing exactly that!



Closer to home, it has been an absolute joy to keep connected with our kura. I've loved popping into school when I can and seeing students thriving. Hearing our Kapa Haka practise carry all the way to my kitchen table on a work-from-home day was a real highlight and reminder of what makes our place so special. The student successes last term were fabulous, and I love being able to see and celebrate these through our Facebook page — such a great way to stay connected. The EPro8 results were outstanding, and it was wonderful to see our strong capability in this area continuing to shine.

On a personal note, last term our whānau experienced the sudden loss of my dad, a much-loved father and Koko. As we move forward without him, I'm constantly reminded of the importance of appreciating people while they are with us and celebrating the strengths they bring. I'm deeply grateful for the memories we hold and for the care, kindness, and connection that I see reflected every day in the people around me.

Thank you to Whaea Sara and our amazing teaching team for everything you do for our students and our community. This term Sara is kindly allowing me to borrow the library office on my odd work from home day so I look forward to seeing a little more of everyone.

Mauriora koutou,  
Kylie

## STATIONERY

Reminders have been sent for any outstanding, thank you to everyone who has paid. 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



Following on from the Science Kit topic, we read a poem about Ernest Shackleton's expedition to Antarctica.

The class made paper plate models of Shackleton's ship named the Endurance.

## NEWS FROM MĀHURI

*Kia ora whānau,*

# MĀHURI NEWS

## TERM 2 – WEEK 4 UPDATE

We are now into **Week 4** of Term 2, and there has been so much **exciting** learning happening in Mahuri!

### READING

Our reading focus this term is exploring a range of non-fiction texts.

Topics include:

- ANZacs
- Antarctica
- New Zealand
- The wider world

### WRITING

In writing, students are:

- Exploring different types of poetry
- Using ideas from our reading to inspire writing
- Practising proofreading and editing skills

### HANDWRITING

Handwriting continues to be a big focus. We are working on:

- Correct letter formation
- Neat presentation
- Taking pride in our work

### MATHS

Our maths focus this term is:

$\frac{1}{2}$  0.75 75%

- Fractions
- Decimals
- Percentages
- Measurement

We are building strong number understanding through hands-on learning and problem solving!

### SCIENCE

This term we are learning about ANTARCTICA – the highest, windiest, driest, and coldest place on Earth!

Students are:

- Investigating Antarctic ecosystems
- Learning how plants and animals survive
- Exploring marine food chains
- Discovering the impact of unsustainable fishing practices
- Learning about the Southern Ocean and climate regulation

We are also exploring forest health in New Zealand by:

- Investigating native forests
- Studying plant and animal life
- Examining tree rings
- Learning about kauri dieback and myrtle rust
- Exploring seeds and their role in conservation and forest restoration

### P.E.

#### CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING

Our focus is on building:

- ✓ Endurance
- ✓ Stamina
- ✓ Fitness

A big thank you to our Sports Leaders, Layton and Leo, for creating fun and engaging games for everyone to enjoy!

#### SPORTS GAMES

We are developing:

- ✓ Teamwork
- ✓ Participation
- ✓ Fitness skills

### THE ARTS

In Visual Art, we are creating a collaborative ANZAC poppy artwork.

Watch this space for the finished piece!

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email: [laura@arapohue.school.nz](mailto:laura@arapohue.school.nz)

*Ngā mihi,* Laura Mitchell  
Māhuri Teacher

THANK YOU for your continued support!

Here is some learning from our previous Science unit, where Māhuri and Rākau explored oceans and different marine ecosystems through our science kit. Students researched different species of sea turtles and created informative posters to share their learning.

Featured below are posters on the Green sea turtle by Monty Douglas, Leatherback sea turtle by Natasha and Maia, Loggerhead sea turtle by Leila and Sara, and the Hawksbill sea turtle by Rowan and Lily.

### The green sea turtle

**Predator**  
 crab, birds and fish and plastic.

**Life span**  
 Some green sea turtles live up to 70 years some times 100. They have 112 eggs every year.

**Diet**  
 green sea turtles eat jellyfish as part of their diet. As well as...

**Habitat**  
 The green sea turtles live in the tropical coastal waters world wide.

**Appearance**  
 The green sea turtle is a large hard-shelled reptile with a smooth carapace. It has a grey or olive with dark mottling.

**Life cycle**  
 A female leatherback turtle can lay about 4000 eggs per season. They typically lay 60-100 eggs every 8-12 days. After entering the ocean, their whereabouts are unknown for the next 10-15 years.

**Interesting facts**  
 1. Leatherback sea turtles are the world's largest and heaviest reptiles weighing up to 4000kg and measuring up to 2 meters in length.

**Habitat**  
 The leatherback sea turtle has a wide habitat range occurring in every ocean except the cold polar seas. They nest on portulaca sandy beaches from Africa, India and Madagascar to the Caribbean.

**Diet**  
 Leatherback sea turtles exclusively prey on soft-bodied invertebrates. They eat jelly fish, saps, and hatchlings. In their second season they eat a hard-shelled prey. They also eat a hard-shelled prey.

**Predators**  
 As adults, the leatherback sea turtles have fewer predators but they are occasionally preyed on by orcas, Great white and tiger sharks. It's been hunted for jaguar is heart the nesting female.

**Threats**  
 The black leatherback turtle are critically endangered, mainly because of humans, getting caught up in commercial fishing lines, sea level rise, plastic pollution, and some parts of the world, eggs and adults are still hunted.

### LEATHERBACK

**Appearance**  
 The leatherback sea turtle is the world's largest turtle with a dark, rubbery shell instead of a hard one, giving it a smooth, leathery appearance. Its body is shaped like a barrel and has a long ridge along its back.

**Habitat**  
 Leatherbacks have a wide habitat range occurring in every ocean except the cold polar seas. They nest on portulaca sandy beaches from Africa, India and Madagascar to the Caribbean.

**Diet**  
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**Life Cycle & Threat**  
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### Green sea Turtle

### HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLE

**Appearance**  
 The Hawksbill sea turtles have a dark tiger pattern on their shells. Due to the beauty in these shells they were hunted and killed for many years and as a result, endangered today. They are about 100cm long and 100kg weight.

**Diet**  
 The Hawksbill sea turtles main food source is sea sponges, with other occasional mollusks and small fish. The turtles also eat their eggs to stay cool and safe from small and fish crabs!

**Habitat**  
 The Hawksbill sea turtles live in the Northern hemisphere on the tropical and sub-tropical regions like coral reefs, rocky shores, and shallow water. They live in the shallow, tropical and sub-tropical regions like coral reefs, rocky shores, and shallow water.

**Life Cycle & Threat**  
 Hawksbill sea turtles can lay about 1000 eggs per season. They typically lay 100-150 eggs every 8-12 days. After entering the ocean, their whereabouts are unknown for the next 10-15 years.

**Interesting facts**  
 1. Hawksbill sea turtles are the world's largest and heaviest reptiles weighing up to 4000kg and measuring up to 2 meters in length.

**Predators**  
 As adults, the hawksbill sea turtles have fewer predators but they are occasionally preyed on by orcas, Great white and tiger sharks. It's been hunted for jaguar is heart the nesting female.

**Threats**  
 The black hawksbill sea turtles are critically endangered, mainly because of humans, getting caught up in commercial fishing lines, sea level rise, plastic pollution, and some parts of the world, eggs and adults are still hunted.

### LEATHERBACK

### Loggerhead Research

**Diet**  
 The loggerhead eats crabs, whelks, conch, horse mussels, clams, jellyfish, sponges, sea urchins, and small fish.

**Habitat**  
 It lives in tropical and subtropical coastal waters worldwide, primarily foraging in shallow seagrass beds, lagoons, and mangrove ecosystems.

**Appearance**  
 The loggerheads appearance is an especially large, log-shaped head and a thick, reddish-brown head shield which is hard and bony.

**Size & weight**  
 They are 2.5 to 3.5 feet (0.75 to 1.07 meters) and also weigh between 155-375 pounds (70-170 kilograms).

**Life cycle**  
 They have between 3 to 5 nests full of between 100-126 eggs. They can live to 47-67 years.

**Threats**  
 Crab catches, recreational and various subsides hunt loggerhead sea turtles.

### LOGGERHEAD RESEARCH

By Leila and Sara

## WHĀNAU INFO

### BLENDS AND DIGRAPHS

**Do you know what a digraph is?** A **digraph** is a pair of letters that creates one unique sound (e.g., *sh*), whereas a **blend** is a group of letters where you can still hear each individual sound (e.g., *st*).

Here are some common digraph examples:

#### Consonant Digraphs:

- **sh** (ship), **ch** (chop), **th** (thin), **wh** (whip), **ph** (photo), **ck** (lock), **ng** (ring).

#### Vowel Digraphs:

- **ai** (rain), **ea** (read), **ee** (feet), **oa** (boat), **oo** (moon), **ou** (shout), **ow** (snow).

See if you can spot any more digraphs in this week's newsletter!

## NEWS FROM RĀKAU

### DARGAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

*After tech, we walked over to the high school for a visit. First, we went to the office to meet the principal, Mr. G, for our tour.*

*He walked us around the school and showed us the new homerooms. Mr. G also took us to the gym to try out the equipment, which we thought was amazing! After that, he showed us the spot where the new library is going to be built. Finally, we went to the current library and stayed there for the rest of our visit.*

*It was a great day, and we all loved the gym. When we go back next time, we would love to ask a few questions, such as:*

- *Are there any after-school clubs?*
- *Is there a music room?*
- *Are there sports teams we can join?*
- *Do we get to choose our subjects?*

*Whaea Sara said..*

*“Taking our students to visit the high school was a great step in demystifying their next learning journey and reducing worries some students were feeling. It was wonderful to see nerves turn into excitement as they started picturing what is to come. We’re all looking forward to our next visit”.*

**By Rocco & Matthew**



## ANZAC

Dear Whānau,

In class lately, we have been learning all about ANZAC Day. We've been talking about the incredible courage of the soldiers who fought to keep us and others safe. We've learned how much they sacrificed, and why it is so important that we never forget their service.

We also looked at how other countries show respect today. For example, in Ukraine, everyone stops exactly what they are doing at 9.00am every single day. Whether people are driving their cars, walking to work, or eating breakfast, they stop for one minute of silence to honor those they have lost. It is a powerful tradition that they have kept up for four years now.

To help teach others about the ANZAC spirit, our class performed a play at assembly. We thought this was a great way to share our learning and commemorate ANZAC.

*By Jonathan, Zane & Jackson*



## ANTARCTICA VS. THE ARCTIC: A POLAR COMPARISON

This term, we have been exploring the fascinating worlds of Antarctica and the Arctic using a Science Kit provided to our school. While we explored both regions, our primary focus was on Antarctica.

Throughout our study, we researched various polar animals, identified the key differences between the two regions, and even discovered the science behind why salt water is colder than fresh water when mixed with ice.

### Wildlife and Adaptations

The two poles host very different ecosystems. Some of the animals that live in Antarctica include Emperor and Adélie penguins, Leopard and Crabeater seals, Orca and Blue whales, and seabirds like Petrels and Albatross. In contrast, the Arctic is home to the Polar bear, Arctic fox, Walrus, and Narwhal. Arctic animals have unique adaptations to survive the extreme cold, such as thick coats of fur or heavy layers of blubber.

Antarctica is home to an estimated 235 animal species despite the extreme conditions. This includes eight species of penguins, seven species of seals (such as the Weddell seal), and ten species of whales, including the migratory Humpback. These animals rely heavily on smaller creatures like krill, which form the base of the Antarctic food web.

### Key Differences

We have learned several major geographical and social differences between the two regions:

- **Geography:** Antarctica is a continent surrounded by ocean, whereas the Arctic is an ocean surrounded by land.
- **Population:** The Arctic has a permanent human population of approximately 4 million people. Because Antarctica is the coldest and driest place on Earth, it has no permanent residents—only scientists who visit to conduct research.
- **Temperature:** Antarctica holds the record for the coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth: -89.2°C, registered on July 21, 1983, at the Russian Vostok Station. On average, temperatures range from -10°C on the coast to -60°C in the high interior.

**By: Stella M.H., Natasha N.B. & Rowan V.D.B**

## SMART - Student, Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool

Arapohue School has been doing online assessments for students in Year 3 and above. These tests include maths, reading, and writing.

In the maths assessment, we had to answer questions about fractions, multiplication, algebra, shapes, and heaps more. For some questions, we were able to use an online calculator and ruler. It was a very challenging test.

For our reading assessment, we had to read different stories and then answer questions about them. This was another assessment that was both challenging and fun to do.

In the writing assessment, we were asked a series of questions and then had to write a paragraph about a specific subject. Because this assessment was online, it made the whole process much easier to complete.

Overall, the assessments were both challenging and fun!

**By Elsie**



**Maths Whizz** is a new online learning programme that we have been experiencing! We are trialing it for a term and have been using it to learn addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, shapes, and time.

We have really enjoyed using it so far. It begins with a test, then builds a personalised programme around what we are already good at and what we still need to work on. Our aim is to spend 15 minutes on it at the end of every maths lesson.

*By Ripeka*

**DARGAVILLE CIRCUS**  
with **CIRCUS KUMARANI**

**KIDS CIRCUS CLASS** **Monday**  
*Dargaville*  
15 Onslow St

Learn, play and make new friends, all while improving coordination and confidence!

4 - 5pm  
**Kids Circus**  
Ages 5-12 yrs

**FREE TRIAL CLASSES!**

Discounts for families and full term

Visit our website to enrol

[www.circuskumarani.co.nz/classes](http://www.circuskumarani.co.nz/classes)

## 2026 Save the Dates

Friday	15 May	Cross Country with Ruawai School
Thursday	28 May	NW Cross Country
Monday	1 Jun	King's Birthday
Friday	5 Jun	Book Battle in Whangārei
Friday	19 Jun	School Reports to go home
Tuesday	24 Jun	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Friday	18 Sept	Teacher Only Day - professional learning day for teachers