



# ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

*Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge*

21<sup>st</sup> August 2026

Kia ora e te Whānau

As we move through another busy and exciting term, it has been wonderful to see our kura continuing to grow and thrive. I was privileged to attend our Matariki celebration last term and, although I was disappointed to leave early and missed the chance to connect with many whānau, it was a fantastic evening. The hāngī was absolutely delicious and a wonderful experience for everyone involved, especially those of us lucky enough to enjoy eating it!

My work with the Ministry of Education continues to challenge and inspire me. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside and support schools and clusters across Tai Tokerau, learning from a wide range of contexts and communities. The experience has been incredibly rewarding both professionally and personally.

I am also pleased to share that I have been invited to extend my secondment for a second year. This is an amazing opportunity to consolidate the learning and relationships developed so far and continue contributing positively to schools across our region. I accepted the offer with confidence because our own school continues to flourish in my absence. If that were not the case, I would be back at school in a heartbeat!

I am deeply grateful to Whaea Sara, Rochelle, Laura, Philippa, and Catherine for the outstanding work they are doing every day, and to our Board for supporting the extension of my secondment. Your leadership, care, and commitment ensure that our students remain at the centre of everything we do.

Looking ahead to 2027, there will be some changes as Whaea Sara steps down from her Acting Principal role to enjoy some very well-earned time away from full-time work. We are delighted to have appointed Ms Jess Lowe as Acting Principal for the 2027 school year. Until earlier this year, Jess was the Principal of Waiotira School and more recently has been working across Northern Wairoa as a Learning Support Coordinator. Jess brings a wealth of leadership experience, is an exceptional educator, and is simply a wonderful person. We are thrilled she will be joining our kura and know she will fit seamlessly with our existing team and community.

Sara and I are looking forward to working closely with Jess over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition and continued success for our students, staff, and whānau.

Ngā mihi nui,

Kylie Piper

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