



ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge

Newsletter #6 2026 – Term 3 Week 10

FROM WHAEA SARA'S DESK...

Kia ora e te whānau,

Strategic Plan 2027-2029

Work on our new Strategic Plan is well underway this term, and the response from our families, staff, community, and students has been incredible. Your feedback has been deeply affirming and gives us a strong, clear direction for the future of Arapohue School.

Based on your input, we have grouped your feedback into four key priority areas:

- **Empowered Learners:** Students master real-world skills and take charge of their own learning journey.
- **Community & Environment:** Learning is linked directly to local community projects and our local environment.
- **Hands-on Education Outside the Classroom:** Learning outside the classroom keeps students curious, excited, and engaged with the real world.
- **Our Rural Identity:** Preserving the unique strength of our small, rural school, strong family feel, and small class sizes.

We would love to hear any additional thoughts or ideas you have to expand on these areas. Please email us at admin@arapohue.school.nz or complete this online survey -

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H3NXR6T>

Small School, Huge Energy, Big Opportunities!

One of the best parts of being a small school is the access our students have to hands-on learning, sport, and outdoor events across Northern Wairoa and beyond. Our students bring fantastic drive and enthusiasm to every challenge, eagerly jumping at every chance to test their skills alongside peers from other schools. We are deeply grateful to our amazing families - your support at these events make it all possible.

It's been a busy and inspiring term full of learning both inside and outside our gates:

- **Academic & Leadership:** Seniors took on the CAM assessments, students showcased their problem-solving at Whangārei Mathex, school and NW Speeches, and the whole school participated in a Sport Northland Positive Vibes workshop.
- **Arts & Culture:** Our students shone at NW Dance, connected with local kindergarten and schools through Kapa Haka on Tour event.
- **Sports & Environment:** Athletes challenged themselves at the Northland Cross Country, while others explored learning within Sustainable Kaipara Workshops. Thank you to KMR Kaipara Moana Remediation we received 280 native trees which were planted by the whole school to beautify and protect our environment.

Learning Celebration

We wrapped up our term with a fantastic Learning Celebration—a wonderful chance to connect as a school community, reflect on our students' growth, and look forward to the future together.

A massive thank you and special shout-out to our eight student volunteers - Rocco, Harper, Zara, Zane, Maia, Monty, Leila, and Leo, who took the stage to share their passionate, and inspiring topics. Your courage and enthusiasm made the night truly memorable.

We are currently looking into options and costings for an overnight camp at school some time next term. Once we have a fixed plan more information will be available. We estimate a small cost of \$10 per student would be required to cover catering costs.

The team at Arapohue School, wish you all a safe, relaxing, and well-deserved term break. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for more learning adventures in term 4.

Ngā mihi maioha
Sara McKinley

TEACHERS ONLY DAY

Our staff completed the final session on the new maths curriculum last week alongside Matakohē staff. **November 16th** is our final TO Day for 2026 so please make note of this on your calendars. This day will be spent report writing.

SICK BAY NOTICE EMAILS

We have implemented some features on our student management system and one is looping parents/caregivers in on emails when a child has attended sick bay. Depending on the circumstances, these emails do not necessarily require a reply; they are intended purely to keep you updated.



GROCERY RAFFLE

If anyone is still able to donate to the grocery raffle, we would be grateful. Please deliver to the office by Wednesday 14th (first week back for Term 4). Many thanks in advance.



AG SHOW DAY

Saturday 17th October 2026 is our Ag Show Day this year. A reminder that animals need to have born between 1 July and 15 September 2026. NW Central Day is Wed 4th November and we encourage every student with a calf, lamb or goat to attend if possible. Students have all been given their list of indoor entry activities that can be made at home over the holidays.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

A reminder if your children are not eating the School Lunch 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. **Please do not send you children with lollies, or foods that require heating as we are unable to accommodate those requests.**

SCHOOL DOCS

Remember to log on to Schooldocs to complete this terms reviews:

<https://arapohue.schooldocs.co.nz/>

User name: arapohue

PW: path

Term 3 policies	Review opens 20 July
• Kura Community Engagement Policy	Board review
• Inclusive Kura Culture	Board review
• Enrolment	
• Ākonga Attendance	Board review
• Ākonga Uniform/Ākonga Dress Expectations	
• Concerns and Complaints Policy	Board review

BUS/PICKUP CHANGES

Please ensure any changes to afternoon bus/pickup routines are phoned through 09 439 7513 or texted to 021 08826534 prior to 1pm. The office is unmanned after 1pm.

NEWS FROM KĀKANO

Here are some facts we learned about space this term.

➔ There is no gravity in space, when you are not near a planet or moon. – **Sadie**

❖ Our moon glows because the sun shines on it. It isn't a source of light. – **Bella**

➔ The moon takes about a month to go around The Earth. - **Hazel**

❖ The Earth makes a shadow on the moon that gets bigger and smaller. - **James**

➔ The Earth goes around the sun and it takes one whole year. **Alivia**

❖ Astronauts float around in space, and they bounced around on the moon. **Phoenix**

➔ They bounced around like happy frogs. - **Darcy**

❖ There is no oxygen in space, so you have to wear a helmet to breathe. – **Amelia**

➔ The Mars Rover sang a song just before he died and he lasted for a long time. **Emmanuel**



Kia ora e te whānau!

MĀHURI NEWS

TERM 3 – WEEK 10

Last Week of Term



A NOTE TO OUR PARENTS

Kia ora,

I can't believe we are at the end of Term 3! Thank you to all our families for their support throughout the term. It means so much and makes such a difference in our tamariki's learning and success.

Thank you so much!



SPEECHES

Wow! Our Māhuri students were absolutely amazing – getting up and sharing their speeches in front of the whole school. You showed real confidence, courage and pride. We are so impressed with how well you spoke and supported each other.

Well done everyone – you are all awesome!



SPEECH RESULTS

Special mentions in Māhuri:

- 1st Harper – Plastic Pollution
- 2nd Leila – Stop illegal fishing
- 3rd Maia – Bullying
- 4th Jackson – Protect the Panda
- 5th Monty – Stop making so much plastic.



DANCE COMPETITION

Well done to our dancers who competed in the NW Waioara Dance Competition –

- ♥ Zara, Harper, Leila and Bella in the Year 5 & 6 team
- ♥ Sara and Gemma in the Year 5 & 6 Pairs
- ♥ Maia in the Year 6 Individual

You should be really proud!

A big thank you to the parents who provided transport.



SCIENCE

3, 2, 1 ... Lift Off! and Spaced Out

This term, we explored the exciting 3, 2, 1 ... Lift Off! and Spaced Out science kits. We learned about the planets, our solar system and galaxies, and had so much fun with the rocket making activity!

Everyone loved building, testing and launching their rockets – it was a huge hit and such a great way to bring our learning to life!

Thanks to everyone for your enthusiasm and curiosity throughout this term!



AG DAY & ART

We have been busy prepping for our annual AG Day and creating some amazing art pieces:

- Underwater Scratch back art scene
- Paper Mache' Animal Habitats
- Clay Alien Sculptures
- Handwriting Poem
- Keyhole Art



Look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 4.



So proud of everyone and all the hard work you have put in this term.

Hope you all have a much needed break!



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

Ngā mihi,
Laura Mitchell
Māhuri Teacher



★ Student Voice ★

What is something you have enjoyed in Term 3?
And what are you looking forward to in Term 4?

This term I enjoyed preparing for A.G day and making all of the friendship bracelets to sell at the stalls. Next term I am looking forward to going to the wind mill farm and learning about how they work.



By Harper



In Term 3 I liked the mathex competition, being part of the Pals and a sports leader, finally finishing my ag day art, watch our first Film study movies and playing with friends.

For Term 4 I am looking forward to going to the windmill farm and hopefully getting a mystery bus trip if we get enough PATH cards.

By Layton

This term I have enjoyed our film study book and movie – Narnia the lion the witch and the wardrobe. Next term I Hope to have a mystery bus trip.



By Kurt

Something I really liked about this term is the way we have been active and have been doing lots of fun learning.

The things that I'm waiting for next term are a mystery bus trip, a camp sleepover that we might have soon and seeing the windmills.

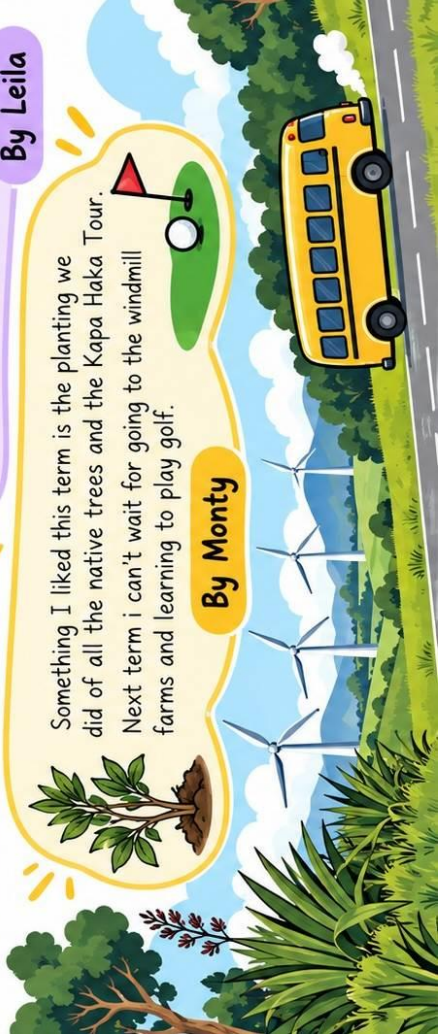


By Leila

Something I liked this term is the planting we did of all the native trees and the Kapa Haka Tour. Next term i can't wait for going to the windmill farms and learning to play golf.



By Monty



★ Spaced Out! ★

Exploring Our Solar System and Beyond



Exploring the planets and their distance from the sun.



Making water and air powered rockets.



Learning about the galaxies and stars.



Testing and measuring how far our rockets travel.



Discovering how far the planets are from each other.



Working together, sharing ideas and solving problems.



Seeing our rockets in action!



Learning about the solar system, planets, distance and the universe.



Hands on learning – real science, real adventures!



Big questions ★ Hands on learning ★ Future explorers



NEWS FROM RĀKAU



Planting - Matthew, Zane, Jonathan + Others

The whole school was involved in planting 280 trees donated by KMR. we planted the trees next to the old rugby field and we hope to use them for shade a learning space and stabilize the ground for the future bike track.



Northland Cross Country - Elsie, Stella + Others

One of the athletic activities that we have done this term is Northland Cross Country. Stella, Elsie, Sara, Layton, and Gemma were ones that qualified from the Northern Wairoa at Ropes Farm - which happened last term - to Northland which was at barge park Whangārei. Many students said "Even though it was a shorter run than NW, it was much more difficult because all the other runners were trained or had just recently had their first Cross Country. It was more of a sprinting race than endurance." The hardest part of the race was the windy track down the bottom of the field which the year sevens and eights had to do. There was a really mudding puddle at the bottom of the track where many girls tripped or got stuck in. Overall, the race was challenging but fun to run.

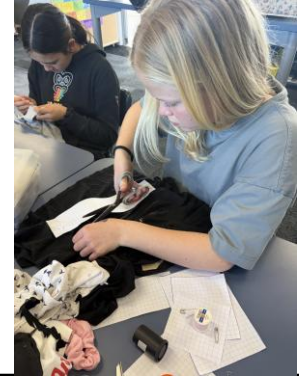


RECIPE BOOK

Next term we are planning to collate a recipe book full of favourite recipes from our families, staff and students. If you have a recipe you could share we would love to include it. Please forward to rochelle@arapohue.school.nz

Sustainable Kaipara Work Shops - Elsie, Stella, Ripeka + Others

This term we have been very grateful for our opportunity to be made a Sustainable Kaipara School. With Kerryn - one of the people who has helped us on our sustainable journey - we have explored many ways to keep our Kaipara eco-friendly, from composting to reducing waste from our daily lives. For example, instead of using plastic pegs, you could use steel ones that wouldn't break or rot. Kerryn taught us better ways to look after our environment in a healthy and sustainable



Kapa Haka On Tour - Ripeka, Rowan + Others

All students from our school set off to four schools on the 6th of September. We visited Ruawai Primary, Ruawai Kindergarten, Matakohē school then Tino Pai school. The students channelled their inner Mana to the furthest- making a thrilling performance for other schools to watch. Luckily, we had a guitarist+ tutor ready to help us out- Whaea Mia & Whaea Raiha! The kapa haka leaders were Rowan, Ripeka, Leo, Layton, Maia and Leila. Kia kaha!



Speeches - Rocco, Rowan + Others

During this term we have been working on speeches, practicing at school and at home. Some speech topics were: Why Farming Life Is Better Than City Life, Why AI is More Dangerous Than It Looks and Why Horses Are Better Therapists Than Humans. Students have been working on their speeches for the entire duration of this term. On the 16th of September, Rocco Douglas went to the lighthouse to compete in the finals, presenting his speech on Why The Dopamine Hit on a Device Is Bad For You. Sadly, Rocco did not place, but did his best to get there!

TRAFFIC AT OUR FRONT GATE

Our front gate turnaround is for quick drop offs only. Please keep clear for our buses 8:10am - 8.25am. Thank you.

2026 Save the Dates

Friday	25 September	Last day of Term 3
Monday	12 October	Term 4 begins KUMARA VINES TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL
Saturday	17 October	Arapohue Ag Day 2026
Tuesday	20 October	Rippa Tournament (Years 3-4)
Monday	26 October	Labour Day - Public Holiday Assessment Week
Friday	6 November	Kaiwaikawe Wind Farm Visit
Friday	13 November	Athletics RPS (Yrs 1-6)
Monday	16 November	Teacher Only Day
Friday	20 November	Athletics DIS (Yrs 7-8)
Monday	23 November	Contributing Schools Activities – Years 7-8
Friday	27 November	NW Athletics
Tuesday	1 December	Dry Land Water Safe Sessions
Friday	11 December	Prizegiving
Tuesday	15 December	Last day of Term 4 (12:30 finish)

