ARAPOHUE SCHOOL

Te ara ki mātauranga • The pathway to knowledge

Newsletter #7 2026 – Term 4 Week 5



FROM WHAEA SARA'S DESK…

An amazing start to the term: AG Day Success!

What a fantastic start to the term! Our recent Ag Day was a resounding success, and it was wonderful to see such strong support from our families, friends, and wider community.

A huge congratulations to all our students who put so much effort into rearing and caring for their animals, as well as creating such beautiful artwork. The dedication and hard work displayed by our students were truly inspiring.

Assessments & upcoming Teacher Only Day

We are currently in the middle of our end-of-year student assessments. These assessments provide crucial data to help us analyse student progress and prepare end-of-year reports.

- Reminder: We have a Teacher Only Day on Monday, 16th November. School will be closed for students on this day so teachers can focus on analysing assessment data and writing student reports.

Exciting communication upgrade: @school Caregiver App

We are currently setting up the @school Caregiver App through our student management system (eTap). This platform will help us streamline all school communications, making it much easier to access newsletters, submit permission forms, and stay up to date.

Please keep an eye on your email inbox over the coming weeks for setup instructions and further information.

Join us in starting a School PTA

To help support future initiatives and school projects, we are looking to establish a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) focused on school fundraising and EOTC events.

- If you are keen to get involved, share ideas, or lend a helping hand, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office to register your interest.

An action-packed term ahead

Term 4 is packed with exciting events for our students, including a possible mystery bus trip! We are just waiting for the *Basket of Awesome* to overflow before finalising details.

Thank you all for your continued support in making our school community such a great place to learn and grow.

Ngā mihi maioha
Sara McKinley

CALENDAR ART ORDERS

Calendar art orders will be sent home in the next few days and orders/payments must be returned to the office by Friday 20th November.

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.

PRIZEGIVING 2026

Our School prizegiving will be held on Friday 11th December at the Arapohue Hall. Start time 11am and we invite all whanau to attend. Please bring a plate of kai to share afterwards. You are welcome to bring your children with you that morning and take them home afterwards. Buses will be running as usual at both ends of the day.

TRAFFIC AT OUR FRONT GATE

Our front gate turnaround is for quick drop offs/pick ups only. Please keep clear for our buses 8:10am - 8.25am & 2:20pm – 2:40pm. Thank you.

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 food that requires heating as we are unable to accommodate those requests.**

SCHOOL DOCS

Remember to log on to SchoolDocs to complete this terms reviews as listed. The website has undergone an upgrade so you will logon slightly differently now.

https://policies.schooldocs.co.nz/arapohue

TERM 4
Curriculum and Student Achievement Policy (board)
Reporting about Student Progress and Achievement (board)
Learning Support (board)
Māori Educational Achievement
Religious Instruction * / Religious Observances *
Health Curriculum (board)
Privacy Policy (board)

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.

Learning about Energy in Kākano











We have been learning about different forms of energy this term. We know that **potential energy** is when energy is stored, such as when we stretch or compress a spring. Kinetic energy is what happens when we let go of the spring and the stored energy creates movement.

Recently we found out about other ways that energy can be stored so we can use it later. We examined samples of coal, charcoal, and **combustible** pellets and logs made from woodchip and sawdust. All these forms of energy **originally came from the sun, so they are the sun's energy in storage.**

Some of these are more renewable than others.
Other forms of renewable energy are wind and solar.

Māhuri News

Term 4 – Week 5

Kia ora whānau,

We are well underway in Term 4, and it has already been a busy and positive term! The first week was dedicated to Ag Day Art Prep, and since then we've been back into our learning routines.

Reading

Focus for reading:

- A range of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Comprehension skills – literal, inference and critical-thinking questions.
- STEPS Spelling Programme.

Writing

Focus for writing:

- Creating interesting stories using picture prompts and story starters.
- Editing and proofreading to improve our writing.

Maths

Focus for maths:

- Revisiting the maths we have done this year.
- Algebra and measurement.
- Telling the time.

Science

Focus for science:

This term we have 3 exciting kits:

Flexi Physics
Explore elastic potential energy and more.

Fossil Fuels
Investigate fossil fuels and their impact.

Float My Boat
Test buoyancy, density and displacement.

P.E.

Focus for P.E.:

- Athletics rotations:
  - Shot put
  - Discus
  - High jump
  - Long jump
  - Running races
- *Completing at Ruawai College with Ruawai Primary on Friday 13th November.*

Art

More awesome pieces for the classroom and our calendar art. They are looking fantastic!



Artwork by Monty – Year 4



Artwork by Kurt – Year 4

SMART Assessments

Completing SMART assessments for reading, writing and maths this term to check progress.

Kapa Haka

Continuing our Kapa Haka with Whaea Mia every Monday. It's great to see our ākonga embracing te reo, tikanga Māori and working together.

Looking Ahead

Keep an eye out for upcoming events as there is lots happening this term.

Ngā mihi,
Miss Mitchell & Māhuri Class

Flexi Physics – Catapult Experiment!

















Key Ideas:

- Potential energy is stored in the stretched rubber band.
- Kinetic energy is the energy of the moving pompom.
- Changing the rubber band can change how far it goes.

Flexi Physics Science Kit – Catapult Experiment!

We used a wooden slingshot and a pompom to explore potential energy and kinetic energy. We tested different sizes and thicknesses of rubber bands to see how far our pompom could travel.

Which group launched the furthest?



NEWS FROM RĀKAU – *By Rowan & Natasha*

Ag Day 2026



Ag Day, a time of the year for Arapohue School to show off their animals, home creations, and artwork made with time and care. Children had many choices of what to create over the holidays based on the "Earth and Beyond" theme: a dough creation, a Lego build, or even a named collection!

These entries were displayed in classrooms to be judged, with everyone hoping to win a certificate. There were five types of certificates up for grabs: Judge's Choice, Highly Commended, and First, Second, and Third Place.

This year, students also made some tasty and fashionable goodies to sell, including cake-in-a-mug treats, lolly bags, and handmade friendship bracelets. By the end of the day, we had sold out of almost everything!

A big thank you to all the whānau who attended and supported us by purchasing our creations.









Kaiwaikawe Wind Farm

This term, our school has been diving into the world of wind turbines: exploring how tall they stand, where they're built, and how much renewable energy they generate. On November 6th, our entire school - along with whānau support - are going on a bus trip to the Kaiwaikawe Wind Farm. We can't wait to see these massive structures up close and grow our knowledge.



Before our trip, we did some research and discovered a few impressive facts:

- **Towering height:** Each turbine reaches around 206 meters into the sky.
- **Major investment:** Mercury NZ invested $287 million in the project.
- **Massive power:** The farm will generate enough electricity for 25,000 to 27,000 Kiwi homes.

We also have a few big questions ready for our trip:

- How much energy does one turbine make on a typical day?
- How long does the manufacturing and building process take for a single turbine?
- What is the top speed the blades can spin during strong winds?

Brand-New Pātaka Kai

We are so lucky to have a brand-new Pātaka Kai right outside our school! It was built by our caretaker, Mr. Piper, and funded by the Kaiwaikawe Community Fund. If you have extra fruit or veggies at home, stop by and drop them in the box. If you see a treat that catches your eye, feel free to take what you need - that's the beauty of sharing and caring! It's not just for food, either. We'd love for it to double as a book swap. If you have a stack of books sitting around, pop them in for someone else to enjoy.

2026 Save the Dates

Friday	13 November	Athletics RPS (Yrs 1-6)
Monday	16 November	Teacher Only Day
Friday	20 November	Athletics DIS (Yrs 7-8)
Friday	20 November	Calendar Art Orders close
Monday	23 November	Beach Ed – Years 5-8
Tuesday	24 November	Boulder House Years 7-8
Friday	27 November	NW Athletics
Tuesday	1 December	Dry Land Water Safe Sessions
Wednesday	9 December	Mystery Trip TBC
Friday	11 December	Prizegiving 11am - Arapohue Hall
Tuesday	15 December	Last day of Term 4 (12:30 finish)
Tuesday	2 February 2027	First Day of Term 1, 2027!



2026

Christmas in the Gardens

Saturday, 12th December, 2026
From 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Family night out

Food stalls - Food available from 5pm
Drinks, ice-creams, sausages, steak, sweets.
Performers - dress up competition - Blessing tent - free kids gifts
bubbles, ribbons, calendars etc.
Koha @ gate

Carer Support WORKSHOP

Join us for a simple, step-by-step workshop where we'll guide you through the process and answer your questions.

Monday 3:30pm
12 October
23 November

Thursdays 10:00am
22 October
3 December

Online Session Monday 6:00pm
9 November

Location:
NorthAble
40 John St,
Whangarei

RSVP
via the NorthAble Facebook page
or email
dias@northable.org.nz

NorthAble
MATAPUNA HAUORA