



Te Kura o Hau Karetu

He waka eke noa: *We're all in this waka together*
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3 February 2025

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Namaste, Kumusta,

Ngā mihi o te tau hou – happy New Year, and welcome back to everyone. Welcome to the beginning of another exciting school year. I hope that everyone had a refreshing break and that kids are ready to launch into some great learning opportunities this year. I'm quite sure parents are very happy school is starting!

A very warm welcome/nau mai haere mai, to all our new students, whānau and staff who are joining our kura this year. We are delighted to have you as part of our learning community. To those returning, welcome back — we hope you have enjoyed a restful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. We are looking forward to a year full of learning, connection, and growth for our tamariki.

Matua Nick: Welcome to Nick MacDonald who is our new teacher in Te Pūao. Matua Nick is so excited to be teaching at Te Kura o Hau Karetu and we are delighted he is here also. Whaea Robyn will also be teaching in Te Pūao on some Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Come and meet Matua Nick and say hello – he'd be happy to meet you and maybe even show you one of his magic tricks!

Counsellor in Schools: Welcome to Eden Rutherford who is our new Counsellor in Schools. She is at school on Wednesdays and Thursdays for you to come and speak to if you are thinking about her services for your child. As well, you can speak with Karen or your child's teacher, and we can make a referral for you. We are delighted to have Eden at our kura to support our tamariki.



Peanut-Free School: For the first time, Te Kura o Hau Karetu will be a **peanut-free** school. This is due to a severe peanut allergy affecting one of our students. Even the smell of **peanuts** can cause this student to go into anaphylaxis, which is life-threatening. We ask that no peanut products are brought to school, including peanut butter and foods containing **peanuts**.

We understand that this may require some extra care when preparing kai and snacks, and we really appreciate your support and understanding. This is an important way we can work together to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone in our school.

Note that when a packet says, "may contain traces of nuts", this is considered safe for this student, so you can continue to provide kai that has that note on the packet.

To confirm with you, our school lunches do not contain any peanuts but may contain traces of peanuts. Again, this is safe for the child in question.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need suggestions for suitable alternatives, please contact Karen. We truly appreciate everyone's understanding and support in helping us keep all our tamariki safe.

School Alert System: We want to let you know about a system we are going to start to use called the **School Family Alert**. The purpose of this system is to help us take extra special care of your child if a significant incident occurs at home and Police attend. It is not about judgement, blame, or anyone "getting into trouble". The school is **not informed of details**, and no action is taken by authorities as a result of the alert itself. If an alert is received, it (the Ministry of Education through Police) simply lets us know that your child may have had a difficult experience and might need additional understanding, reassurance, or support while they are at school. This could look like checking in with them, offering extra pastoral care, or being mindful that they may be feeling unsettled.

The alert does **not** provide information about what has happened, and it does **not** go on a child's record. It is solely about wellbeing and ensuring we respond with care and compassion.

Our priority is always the safety and emotional wellbeing of our tamariki. This system helps us to be responsive and supportive when it matters most.

If you have any questions or would like to talk further about this, please come to see Karen, or you can speak with our Board Chair, Laura Titi.

Lunches in Schools: We will continue to have lunches provided everyday to our tamariki. We welcome the STAR Group who are our lunch providers. I know for certain that we're having lasagne and butter chicken for the first two meals – I'm excited to see what other yummy kai we have in store for the year.

We will always offer the kai to your child and will encourage them to eat it, but we won't force them into eating anything they don't want to eat.



Swimming – Term 1: Swimming will take place in Term 1 from Weeks 1–5. Please ensure your child brings their togs and a towel on their swimming days. Long hair must be tied up. Your child's class swimming schedule is outlined below — thank you for helping us make the most of this important life skill.

SunSmart School: As a SunSmart school, we ask for your support in ensuring children come to school each day with a named, full-brimmed sunhat. Wearing a hat during Terms 1 and 4 helps keep our tamariki safe while they are learning and playing outdoors.



Slip



Slop



Slap



Seek



Slide



Stationery - urgent please: Thank you to those of you who have purchased your stationery already. We know that times are tough and we do have some very generous people in our community who are happy to support with the costs of stationery. If for any reason you are unable to purchase it yourselves, please let us know at the office so we can sort your child's stationery. We are keen for all our tamariki to start the year off equitably - that they all have the things they need for their learning.

Fundraising: As well as continuing to fundraise for our netball courts, we also have our senior camp for our Year 5-7 students, that we are fundraising for this year. We've already started a collection for our Easter and Mothers' Day raffle (combined) and will send out raffle tickets over the next few weeks for you to sell please.

If anyone is keen on being part of our PSG fundraising group, please let Roseanne or Rachel know at the office, and we'll put you in touch with Whaea Jewel who is our PSG leader. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER



Volunteers: We are always very keen to have people support us with regular volunteering, particularly for our Breakfast Club which operates from 8am-9am each day. If you able to give us an hour of your time each week, please let us know. We can put you to work either reading to children, doing breakfast club service, or support students with their mathematics, depending on your availability. Please advise Roseanne or Rachel if you're available for volunteering. Thank you.

Thank you for the care and consideration you show our school community. We value the partnership we share with our whānau and look forward to working closely with you throughout the year. Please feel free to come and see me if you have anything you'd like to discuss – make a time with the office.

Ngā mihi nui,
Karen Wellington
Tumuaki/Principal

Important Dates and Events:

Week 1	School Starts 3 rd Feb at 9am – Pōwhiri for newbies Friday 6 th Feb – Waitangi Day at Orongomai Marae – National Holiday
Week 2	Meet the Teacher 10 th Feb 5-4.30-6pm – bring your togs, bring a picnic, and meet the Team! Sausages on the BBQ provided.
Week 6	Goal setting 9 th March – all parents and children to meet with their teacher to set goals for the year. You will be able to set a time for these interviews in a few weeks.
Week 9	School finishes on Thursday 2 nd April at 3pm for the two-week holiday.
	School returns for term 2 on Monday 20 th April.

Swimming Timetable

Times	Mane	Turei	Wenerei	Taite	Paraire
9-9.45	LS Group	LS Group	LS Group	LS Group	LS Group
9.45-10.30	Te Waipuna	Te Waipuna	Te Waipuna	Pōtiki	Pōtiki
11.30-12.15	Te Pūao	Te Pūao	Te Pūao	Te Hikuwai	Te Hikuwai
12.15-1pm	Te Awa	Te Awa	Pōtiki	Te Awa	
1.45-2.15	Kapa Haka	Te Whanganui	Te Whanganui	Te Whanganui	Te Whanganui
2.15-3pm	Te Hikuwai	Mataamua	Mataamua	Mataamua	Assembly