



WHITIKAHU SCHOOL

**Ka pū te ruha
Ka hao te rangatahi**

Embrace change and new beginnings

Dates To Remember

Craft Day

Friday, 17th October

Ag Day

Saturday, 18th October

Group Day

Monday, 20th October

Labour Day

Monday, 27th October

EWCS Orini Funday Yrs 3 & 4

Wednesday, 29th October

School Athletics

Tuesday, 4th November

Photos

Thursday, 13th November



Principals Message

Tēnā koutou katoa,

What a fantastic start to the term it has been! I am absolutely thrilled to be joining the Whitikahu School community as your new Principal.

It has been a pleasure to meet many of our wonderful students and their whānau this week. Thank you all so much for the incredibly warm welcome, you have made me feel at home. I also want to acknowledge our amazing teachers, teacher aides, and support staff. Their dedication has been evident as they've patiently helped me learn the "Whitikahu Way" allowing me to embrace the unique culture and spirit of this special rural school.

A huge thank you to everyone who pitched in for the working bee on Sunday. It was a massive success, and the school grounds are looking superb. We've also started the process of getting our pool ready for opening next month, which is always an exciting sign that summer is on its way.

I've loved seeing the students' enthusiasm as they returned from holiday. We've started athletics training and are getting excited about the upcoming Ag Day and Craft Day next week. I've particularly enjoyed hearing about all the clever tricks the students are teaching their chickens!

I am thoroughly enjoying my time here already and look forward to continuing to work alongside you all. If I haven't had a chance to meet you yet, please know I am looking forward to engaging with you soon.

Ngā mihi nui,
Rebecca Foster

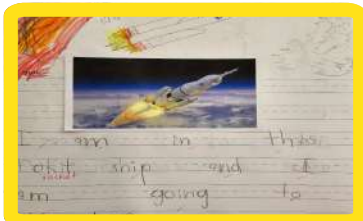


Around the School



Koohanga

Our Nest ~ Years 0-3



The kids of Koohanga have had a great start to the term. They have settled back into classroom routines and are learning well. This term we are continuing with our inquiry topic. We started the week by learning about space rockets and Apollo trips to the moon. The students are starting to identify and order the eight planets in the solar system. For maths, we are learning how to tell the time and started this on Thursday morning. On Wednesday afternoon the weather improved and we were able to get outside on the field and start our athletics training. We practiced some sprinting and started to learn how to do the long jump.



Piirere

Our Fledglings ~ Years 4-5



Welcome back to Term 4!

It has been lovely to come back to kura this week with some super enthusiastic Piirere students ready to start the new term. We have got another fun and busy term planned. We have blasted into our Inquiry unit- 'The Universe is BIGGER than Me' with lots of science experiments exploring force, lift, acceleration and drag. We have explored these movements by creating stomp rockets, balloon rockets, gazoom rockets and puff rockets. The students are loving their new watches and step counters and it is so cool to see them using them in learning about time as well as keeping healthy and conscious of their movement levels by tracking their steps.





Around the School



Kaahu Pango

Our Senior Hub ~ Years 6-8

Tēna koutou katoa,
Nau mai, hoki mai ki te Wāhanga tuawhā o te tau.



Welcome back to our last term of the year. Kaahu Pango have settled back in to class this term with excitement and are ready for the new challenges that they will be facing this term.



Physics? Bounce, flex, spring – what is elastic potential energy? As part of our Inquiry this term we will break down a tricky concept using everyday items like rubber bands, slingshots, catapults, and different balls. The students will be introduced to gravitational and chemical potential energy. With this Inquiry focus, students explore, discuss, and extend their learning.

One of our new challenges this term is 'Genius Hour' (Passion Projects) once a week for six weeks. Students are in the process of creating proposals to present prior to beginning their journey of learning. We also have our class camp to Camp Epworth in Week 8. Another busy term for Kaahu Pango. Mauri ora!



Communication

To keep everyone up to date with school life, the school newsletter will now be sent out fortnightly. Rest assured, other important communication will still be sent out through our school app and posted on our Facebook page as required.

Please let the office know if your email or contact details have changed.



STUDENTS

of the week

Koohanga



Nathan Coleman

For a great start to the term. You have been fully engaged in all our learning.

Piirere



Luke Clark

For being a wonderful Whitikahu student by always showing our Kahu Cares. Ka rawe Luke!

Kaahu Pango



Ella Giles

For having a positive attitude towards new learning.

Duffy Caught Being Good



Nathan Coleman



Luke Clark



Liam Gofton



Student Showcase

What I love and long for at Whitikahu School

This week, Kaahu Pango wrote letters to Mrs Foster, introducing themselves and stating what they love and long for at Whitikahu School. Here are Liam and Leah's letters for you to enjoy – published with permission.

Dear Mrs Foster,

My name is Liam, and I am from Kaahu Pango.

Some things I love about the school are: camp, house competitions, the pool, fun days, and athletics.

Some things that I have learnt at this school are how to work hard, good sportsmanship, Kaahu C.A.R.E.S, good leadership, and that spiders can be gigantic!

Some things that I loathed (dislike) is cross country, the colouring on the old bell, and how small the Senior playground is (maybe a swing set would help).

Things I long for include: bigger playgrounds, a school rugby team, more fun day events, the mural to be painted, and a class pet.

Dear Mrs Foster,

My name is Leah, and I am a Year 8.

I love Ag Day! It is one of my favourite days of the year. I love raising lambs. I have done lambs since I was 5 years old. I also love playing in our hockey teams, and I love all the sports events like: cross country, athletics, and swimming, and I love being a house leader for Koowhai (the best house!).

I have learnt a lot from being at this school. I've learnt how to be the best possible version of myself and to give everything a go.

I don't hate anything about this school - hate is a strong word - but a few things could be better. For example, the wall could be painted, and the pool could be deeper, and the Seniors could have a proper cloak bay.

I wish that we could have some new camps to go on instead of the same ones. I wish we could have a class pet. I also wish that we could do baking or cooking as a subject, and last of all, I wish that the bathrooms get redone - the locks barely work.

Thank you for reading my letter. I am so excited to have you as our Principal.

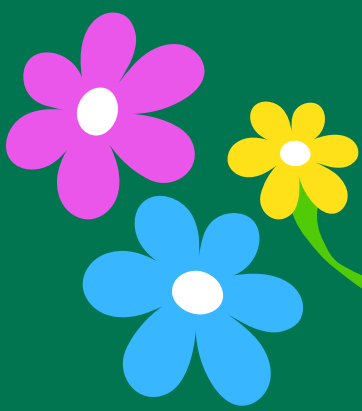




AG DAY MESSAGES brought to us this week by another of our sponsors - [Farmsource Taupiri](#), supplying a marquee, bbq and CalciYum drinks for all competitors.

First up this week.....most importantly for Ag day - we have the coffee sorted! Shell from the [Kerbside Coffee Cart](#) will be attending again this year with all your hot drink needs. This is the very popular one that is outside the Gordonton Hall on week days.

- Anyone looking for a practise run before our big day - the [Matamata A&P Show](#) is on Saturday 11th October and holds an Ag Day section for lambs and calves. This will be held at Walton School, 305 Walton Road, Walton. Enter via the Matamata Agricultural Group Facebook page.
- [Hamilton North Group Day](#) is Monday 20th October at Gordonton School. Programmes are now available from our Whitikahu School office. Register [HERE](#) if you are keen to attend we would love to have entries early, ideally before the 17th Oct. Entries are accepted on the day however.
- [Waikato/King Country Boys and Girls Agricultural Club Day at the Waikato Show](#) is Friday 31st Oct. Check their FB page for updates and info. Click [HERE](#) to enter.
- There will be a BBQ running on the day with sausages sponsored by [ASB](#) and steak for steak sandwiches sponsored by [Greenlea Meats](#). Thanks to [Dave Best](#) from [LJ Hooker Ngaaruawaahia](#) for being the man on the BBQ.
- [WORKING BEE](#) - there will be a working bee to set up the rings and mow the lamb ring on Friday 17th October from 5pm. With only 2 calf rings and one lamb ring this should not take too long. It would be great if someone from every competitors family could attend to help with this.



CRAFT DAY

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER



CREATE AT HOME...

We invite all students to participate in our optional home competitions.

All completed projects must be brought to school on Friday, October 17th. Please make sure all items are named.

Miniature Garden Competition

Create a miniature world inside a roasting dish, glass jar, aluminium tray, or other container from home.

- **Materials:**

Use natural materials such as: bark, stones, moss, small plants.

- **Theme:**

Choose a theme like a bush walk, beach scene, fairy garden, or cultural setting.

- **Scale:**

Ensure everything is built to a small, realistic miniature scale, e.g. plants should match the size of any small buildings.

- **Figurines:**

Plastic toys or figurines can be used sparingly - only to support the chosen theme.

- **Blurb:**

Students must write a blurb to accompany their garden. This must include:

- The origin of any plants used.
- Biological properties shown in the garden.
- The textures/materials used to enhance the theme.



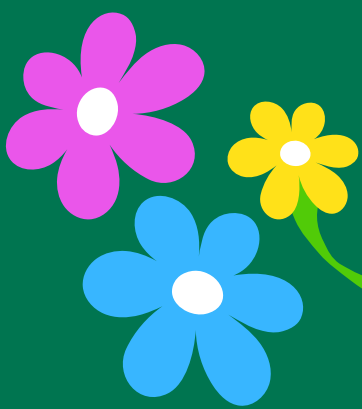
Recycled Animal Creation

Design and create any animal you like.

- **Materials:**

Must be constructed solely from recycled materials or junk, e.g. plastic bottles, tin cans, bolts, fabric scraps.





CRAFT DAY

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER



CREATE AT HOME...

Home Baking Competition & Fundraiser (Cakes and Cupcakes)

Bake a treat to compete and support the PTA.

We have separate judging categories for students and adults.

- **Baking:**

Bake a cake or batch of cupcakes at home.

- **Categories:**

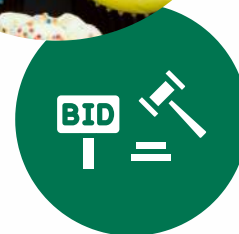
Please label clearly whether the entry is for the Student Competition or the Adult Competition.

- **Prizes:**

Rosettes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category.

- **Fundraiser:**

All baking will be auctioned off after prize-giving to raise funds for the PTA.



Photography Competition

Capture a great moment or subject and prepare it for display.

- **The Photo:**

Print one photo per person.

- **Size:**

Photo must be no bigger than A4.

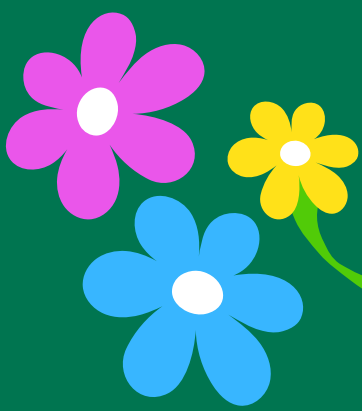
- **Mounting:**

The photo must be mounted (e.g., on card or board) as you please.

- **Genre:**

Choose a subject like a landscape, portrait (including pets), action shot, or an interesting object.





CRAFT DAY

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER



CREATE AT SCHOOL..

Sand Saucer Creation

What We Provide:

- Sand and a saucer

What to Bring on Friday 17th October:

- Fresh flowers and leaves

Sourced locally (not purchased) is preferred

Your Child's Goal:

To create a beautiful, symmetrical pattern that covers all the sand.
No toys or plastic extras, please.



Pet Rock Painting

What We Provide:

- Rocks, paint and varnish

What to Bring on Friday 17th October:

- A small rock (no bigger than your hand) suitable to paint.

Your Child's Goal:

To design and paint a unique "pet rock" and give it a creative name.



Flower Jar Arrangement

What We Provide:

- Glitter, Water and Blu-Tack

What to Bring on Friday 17th October:

- Jar with a Lid. The jar must be clean and have a tight-fitting, leak-proof lid.

Your Child's Goal:

To create a beautiful miniature world by arranging flowers and glitter inside the jar. The jar will be filled with water and sealed shut.
Once turned upside down, the glitter should swirl and drift around the flower.

