

Tawhai School News

Week 7 Term 4!



Monday 17 November 2025

Kia ora e te whānau

We have had yet another exciting few weeks here at Tawhai School!

Kapa Haka Performance

What an incredible performance our Kapa Haka roopū delivered at the Upper Hutt Kapa Haka Festival last week. The sun came out just as Tawhai took the stage, and our students shone just as brightly! Their stage presence, powerful waiata, and mana were truly something special. Ngā mihi nui to Dave Whiteman and Janette Page for all your dedication and mahi with this group.

Upper Hutt Schools' EPro8 Challenge

We were proud to have 2 teams representing Tawhai in this year's EPro8 competition. One of our teams got through to the semi finals and placed 6th overall, an outstanding achievement! A big thank you to Karen Johnston for organising and providing this opportunity for our tamariki.

Combined School Board Hui

On Wednesday evening, Upper Hutt school boards gathered to learn more about the history of our cluster, our shared workstreams, and our collective purpose – to achieve together what we cannot do alone as individual schools. It was a valuable and inspiring hui.

Te Omanga Garden of Appreciation Ceremony

On Thursday evening, two of our Tu Rangatira, Daphne Sotheran and Willow Boyd, represented Tawhai at the Te Omaunga Garden of Appreciation ceremony. It was a moving event that we have been privileged to be part of for several years. A special thank you to Ross McKinnon, who created this initiative, and to Lynley Poole for organising and supporting our Tu Rangatira.

Christmas Arrives Early!

Christmas has come early in the office area! We would like to acknowledge Pippa Beams, from Pinehaven, for creating such a stunning and festive Christmas display. It has certainly brought some early cheer to the office area.

New School Board Member

The school board is pleased to announce that Kathryn Ridgeway has been selected to fill our casual vacancy. We warmly welcome Kathryn to the Board and look forward to the valuable contributions she will bring to our school community.

New Turf Project

Next week (weather permitting), work will begin on our new turf project. This will provide an exciting new playing surface for our children and further enhance our outdoor spaces.

Please be kind

We are grateful for the wonderful community we share and for the partnership between our staff, students, and whānau. As we continue to work together, we kindly ask all members of our community to treat our staff with respect and to follow our Community Code of Conduct.

Your support and kindness make a meaningful difference in creating a positive and welcoming environment for everyone. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and collaborative space for learning and growth.

PTSG

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our awesome PTSG throughout the year. We are truly grateful for the time, energy, and heart they have poured into fundraising for our tamariki.

This year alone, they have organised an amazing range of events- pizza lunches, gate combos, hotdog lunches, sausage sizzles, movie night and pool night (supporting our camp fundraising), calendar art, cookie dough sales, and of course, ice block Fridays! Wow! What an effort, and what a list!

Thanks to their tireless work, our children have been able to enjoy the Footsteps Dance Programme, receive subsidised sunhats, and our Year 6 leaver's gifts and trophies. The PTSG has also played a key role in supporting our Year 6 camp, as mentioned above.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and caring group supporting our school. Their mahi truly makes a difference.

Lost Property

We have an overwhelming amount of lost property. Some of it is from the year 5 and 6 camp. So much good quality clothing - jerseys, jackets, hoodies, etc. If it is not claimed, it will be taken to the clothing bins at the end of term. We will have the clothing laid out on display today, so please pop in and have a look, alternatively, come into the office to look through the items.

From the Hutt City Council

This year sees the return of some much-loved promotions that haven't run since before COVID-19, plus some great ways to make the most of the season.

The First 30 Days of Summer promotion runs until Sunday 14 December and features a different daily special each day:

- Mondays: 3.30–5.30pm - Adults half price
- Tuesdays: 3.30–5.30pm - Free hydro slide (Wainuiomata only) and free aqua run (Eastbourne & McKenzie)
- Wednesdays: 3.30–5.30pm - Kids half price
- Thursdays - 30% off summer swimwear
- Fridays: 3.30pm till 5.30pm - Free child entry with a can of food donation
- Weekends - Splash Zone fun across all pools

The Big Summer Splash kicks off on 26 December and runs through to 8 February. Swimmers who visit any Council pool five times will get their next visit free and go into the draw to win a prize pack.

Neighbourhoods & Communities Director Andrea Blackshaw says the pool openings are a signal that summer is on its way.

"When our summer pools open, you can feel the city come alive. Families, friends, and neighbours come together to enjoy the sunshine, cool off, and make memories. It's what summer in Lower Hutt is all about."

She says the pools are a great way for people of all ages to stay active, socialise, and enjoy their local community spaces.

All three pools will operate under their usual summer hours. Updates on weather and events will be shared on the Hutt City Pools & Fitness website and on our Facebook page.



School Docs

We welcome you to participate in the policy reviews for this term.

Pop on the link and follow the review instructions [School docs](#)

Username : tawhai

Password: empowering

What's coming up?

Term 4 Ahead

→ Week 7

- ◆ **Thursday 20 November** - School Assembly , Values T-Shirts celebrations (parents of recipients will be notified of the details).

→ Week 8

- ◆ **Monday 24 November** - Turf Project to begin (back court)

→ Week 9

- ◆ **Tuesday-Thursday** - Tawhai Cup
- ◆ **Saturday 6 December** - Stokes Valley Christmas Parade - details will follow

→ Week 10

- ◆ **Tuesday 9 December** - School board hui 6pm
- ◆ **Wednesday 10 December** - Parent Helper Morning tea

→ Week 11

- ◆ **Monday 15 December** - Year 6 Leavers' Dinner
- ◆ **Tuesday 16 December** - Final Assembly (Year 4/5 awards)
- ◆ **Wednesday 17 December** - **SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM**

Ngā mihi nui,

The Tawhai School Team

