

THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Kia ora koutou, Tēnā koutou katoa, Kia ora, and Welcome to 2025!

A warm welcome to all our whānau, both new and returning, as we embark on another exciting school year at Maunu School. It has been wonderful to see our

tamariki back at school, full of enthusiasm and ready for the year ahead.

### Pōwhiri – A Heartfelt Welcome

We started the year with a very special Pōwhiri, led by our incredible Pōwhiri Rōpū. They did a fantastic job welcoming all our new students, whānau, and staff, including our two new teachers, Clasina Botha (Room 4) and Sandi King (Room 2). At Maunu School, we take great pride in fostering a sense of belonging for everyone in our community, ensuring that all feel valued and supported as part of our school whānau.

### A School for Everyone

We are immensely proud of our school, not just as a place of learning but as a community hub. Our beautiful grounds are open for our families to enjoy after school and on weekends, so we encourage you to make the most of them. Additionally, we are fortunate to have a fantastic school hall, available for hire for both school and community events. If you're interested in using this space, please contact the office for more information.

### Fencing Project Completed – Prioritising Safety for Our Tamariki

Our fencing project, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education over the past two years, is now complete. With the incredibly busy roads surrounding our school, ensuring the safety and well-being of our tamariki has been our top priority. The new fencing provides an added layer of protection, helping to create a secure environment where children can learn and play safely. The gates will remain unlocked during school hours and after hours to allow easy access for whānau and the wider community. Rather than restricting entry, the fencing serves as a safeguard, offering peace of mind to staff, parents, and caregivers while maintaining an open and welcoming school environment. This project is an important step in reinforcing our commitment to student safety, ensuring that our school remains a place where tamariki can thrive with confidence and security.

### Meet the Teacher Evening

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended our **Meet the Teacher Evening** on Tuesday, 11th February. There was an incredible buzz around the school as children proudly showed their

## DATES TO REMEMBER TERM 1

<b>14 Feb</b>	Whole School Assembly – 2pm
<b>24 Feb</b>	Senior Swimming Sports at Pompallier College
<b>28 Feb</b>	Friends and Whānau Meeting
<b>3-6 Mar</b>	Year 5/6 Adventure Week
<b>3 Mar</b>	Year 2/3 Swimming Demo at Maunu School
<b>7 Mar</b>	Staff Only Day – School Closed
<b>12 Mar</b>	WPSSA Swimming
<b>28 Mar</b>	Year 1 Barge Park Visit
<b>4 Apr</b>	Year 2/3 Rock Pool Visit
<b>11 Apr</b>	Greats, Grands and Whānau Day – Last Day Term 1
<b>28 Apr</b>	First Day Term 2

whānau their classrooms, and families connected with our teaching teams. We truly value these opportunities to strengthen the partnership between home and school. Please remember, our doors are always open, and communication is key to supporting your child's learning. Each teacher is available via email or Seesaw, so don't hesitate to reach out—no question is ever too small!

We also sent out a **Google Form via email** to gather important insights about your child. If you haven't yet had the chance to complete it, please take a few moments to do so over the next week. Your input is invaluable in helping us support your child's learning journey.

### **Appreciation for Our School Community**

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a **dedicated and passionate team** here at Maunu School. A heartfelt thank you to our Senior Management, Syndicate Leaders, Teachers, and Support Staff for their unwavering commitment to fostering an environment where our tamariki can thrive.

We also want to acknowledge **our Board of Trustees** for their dedication to the well-being and success of our students. Their guidance and support ensure that Maunu School continues to provide the very best opportunities for our learners.

### **Friends and Whānau of Maunu (PTA) – Join Us!**

Our Friends and Whānau of Maunu (PTA) group may be small, but they have a mighty impact on our school community. From organising events to supporting fundraising efforts, their contribution is invaluable, and we truly appreciate their hard work.

If you're interested in getting involved—whether a little or a lot—we'd love to have you join us! We will be holding a **Meet & Greet in the school Library on Friday, 28th February at 3:00 pm**, with nibbles provided. Our meetings are fun, informal, and child-friendly, with a play space for tamariki while we chat. Whether you're a returning member or brand new, we'd love to see you there!

### **Staff Only Day – Friday 7th March**

In 2024, the Board of Trustees approved a **Staff Only Day for Friday 7th March**. On this day, our teaching staff will be participating in a Kāhui Ako-wide (other schools we work closely with) professional development day, working alongside colleagues from other schools to strengthen our teaching practice. The focus of this professional learning aligns with **Government priorities and the New Zealand Curriculum Refresh**, ensuring we are well-prepared to deliver engaging and effective learning experiences for our tamariki.

As school will be closed for instruction on this day, we understand that some families may need alternative care arrangements. We are pleased to confirm that **Maunu School Educare After School & Holiday Programme** will be operating from the school library for the day. If you require care for your child, please contact Educare directly on 021946019 to secure a booking.

### **Looking Ahead**

We have an exciting term ahead, with plenty of learning, events, and opportunities for our tamariki. Stay tuned for updates via our school newsletter, website, and Seesaw. We are looking forward to another fantastic year at Maunu School and can't wait to share it with you all!

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Claire Turton,  
Principal

## **AROUND THE SCHOOL**

### **KAPA HAKA**

#### **Welcome to Lee & Reo – Our New Kapa Haka Tutors**

We are thrilled to welcome Lee Morunga and Reo Dunn as our new Kapa Haka tutors at Maunu School! Their passion, expertise, and dedication to Māori performing arts will further enrich our tamariki, inspiring them through culture and performance.

Lee and Reo bring an incredible depth of experience, from Lee's role in *The Lion King Musical* to Reo's celebrated debut self-titled Māori album, which highlights his remarkable talent as a musician and his commitment to sharing Māori culture through music.

Through their *Haka In Schools* program and their commitment to fostering Māori music and performing arts in Whangarei, they are making a profound impact on the community. We are excited for our students to learn from such talented mentors and look forward to the journey ahead!

### **CHESS CLUB IS HERE!**

Do you know what happens when a bishop meets a knight? Checkmate your boredom by joining our Chess Club!

We're inviting all students interested in playing chess to join us for some lunchtime fun, skill-building, and friendly competition. Chess Club will be held every Wednesday at lunchtime in Room 16, starting February 26, 2025.

The group will be supervised by our Resource Teacher Learning and Behaviour (RTLB), Heidi Ashton, to ensure a supportive and engaging environment. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner, all are welcome!

If parents have any questions, please contact Heidi at [heidi.ashton@rtlb.school.nz](mailto:heidi.ashton@rtlb.school.nz).



### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

At Maunu School, we believe that every child should start the day with a full tummy, ready to learn! Our Breakfast Club runs daily in the Hall from 8:20 am - 8:50 am, offering a nutritious and welcoming start to the morning.

Thanks to the generosity of Fonterra, we provide Weet-Bix for our tamariki, ensuring they have the energy to focus and thrive in the classroom. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, if we have extra bread donated by our amazing sponsors at PAK'nSAVE Whangārei, we serve up toast mornings - always a popular treat!

### **Can You Help?**

We are always looking for fruit donations to make our Breakfast Club even better. If you have an overflowing fruit tree at home or are a business willing to sponsor a box of fruit each week, we would love to hear from you. Fresh fruit is a fantastic addition to our breakfast menu and helps to keep our tamariki healthy and happy.

### **Join Our Team of Volunteers!**

Our Breakfast Club wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our wonderful volunteers. We are incredibly grateful to the four amazing people who currently support us Monday to Thursday, giving up their time to help serve breakfast and bring smiles to our students' faces. We are still looking for one more volunteer for Fridays. If you can spare just 45 minutes (8:15 am - 9:00 am) once a week, we'd love to have you join us. It's a small commitment that makes a huge difference in the lives of our students. If you can help, please reach out to Principal Claire Turton at [claire@maunu.school.nz](mailto:claire@maunu.school.nz).

Thank you for being part of our Maunu School community—together, we're making a difference!

### **AWARD WINNERS 2024**

Congratulations to all of our Maunu School Award winners who received an award at the final assemblies last year.

Check out the links below for all of those who received one of these awards.

<https://www.maunu.school.nz/2024-class-awards/>

<https://www.maunu.school.nz/2024-year-5-trophy-recipients/>



## **SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

### **SEESAW APP**

Please ensure you have the Seesaw App installed as this is the main way for teachers and syndicates to communicate with you.

General school notices will come via the Skoolloop App, email and sometimes on Seesaw.



## **SKOOLLOOP APP**

Please download our free School App to get access to our school events, notifications and to easily contact the school. This is also one of the main forms of communication to report a child's absence.



## **ABSENCES**

If your child is going to be away or late, please either ring the school office on **438 8060** and leave a message, or use the Skoolloop App to notify us of an absence.

This is a safety issue, helping us to ensure all our children are safe and are where they should be.

If leaving a message, please record your child's full name, room number and **reason they will be absent**.

If your child is late to class please ensure that they quickly visit the school office before they go to class to let us know that they are now at school. **By telling us as soon as possible it stops us from ringing you enquiring about their whereabouts.**

## **INTRODUCING MYKINDO**

Maunu School is now using **myKindo**, a convenient online payment system that makes it easier for families to manage school donations and extras.

**mykindo**

- Easy Online Payments: Pay for school donations, trips, camps, t-shirts & hats etc
- Real-Time Updates: Stay informed about your account balance and payment history
- Convenient Automatic Payments: Set up automatic payments to ensure fees are paid on time

### **Set up your Account:**

Visit <https://shop.tgcl.co.nz> and use the 'Create Account' option, to set up an account. Please make sure you use the same email address the school has on file as this will then link you to your children.

### **Already a myKindo user:**

If you have used 'Kindo' or 'ezlunch' at another school you can log in to your existing account and add Maunu School.

### **Topping up your account:**

Your Kindo Account will need to be topped up in order to make payments. Payment options are: Poli internet payment – no fees / Online Eftpos – no fees / Online bank transfer – no fees / Via Credit or Debit Card – will incur 2.5% surcharge and a 50c fee.

## **LUNCHONLINE**

We use Lunchonline - [www.lunchonline.co.nz](http://www.lunchonline.co.nz) where parents and caregivers can order lunches (menus online) for their children on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Wednesday Lunches are supplied by Better Bites and will be delivered in time for lunch at 1.30pm.

Thursday Sushi is supplied by Maunu Sushi and will be delivered for the first eating break at 11.10am. Children can either have this for morning tea or save it for their lunch.

Friday Sausage Sizzle is sponsored by the amazing PAK'nSAVE Whangarei and cooked by our wonderful Mr Lamb. Orders are delivered to the children's classrooms for lunch eating break at 1.30pm.

**Orders must be placed the night before.**

Please remember to change your child's room number to their new 2025 class.



## REMINDERS

### SCHOOL CLOTHING

#### **Hats (Compulsory)**

A Maunu School wide brimmed sun hat is required to be worn when outside by all children and are available to purchase via myKindo for \$17.

This is a compulsory school hat and the only option available. Students are welcome to wear them to and from school. **The NO hat NO play rule applies and if a hat is forgotten they must go to the designated shaded area.**



#### **Fantail House T-Shirts (Optional)**

All children will be placed into a House when they start with us here at Maunu School: Red (Rata), Blue (Tawa), Green (Kauri), Yellow (Kowhai). Our Fantail House T-shirts are available to purchase via myKindo for \$14.50 and can be worn for House events and assemblies etc.



**Please order Hats and T-Shirts via myKindo before coming into the office to collect – thank you**

### SWIMMING

Students will be swimming 3 or 4 times a week for the first 6 weeks. Swimming is part of our P.E and Health Programme, an essential part of our curriculum. We are trying to prepare our students with water confidence and skills. **If your child is not swimming for health reasons please contact their teacher via email or a note.**

### EARLY ARRIVALS/LATE PICK UPS

**Please do not send children to school before 8.15am as we do not provide supervision for them.**

Staff often have meetings or are preparing for the day and are all over the school.

It is reasonable for children to begin arriving at school from 8.20am, when staff are in the school.

### **After School Procedures:**

Teachers are on duty at the main gates and car park directly after school. After the bus bell rings at 3.10 pm, all students are to proceed to the office area and sit at the main entrance. This ensures that no students are waiting in isolated spaces without the presence of duty teachers.

### **Late Pick-Up Protocol:**

We understand that unforeseen circumstances may lead to late pick-ups. In such cases, please call the office to relay a message to your child. If your child is still in the office area after 3.30 pm, they will be booked into After School Care, and charges will apply. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to these guidelines. Our primary goal is to create a safe and secure environment for all students.

### **WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL**

Just a reminder to you and to retain your help in maintaining our school as a safe place for all students. Several of our students have potentially severe allergies, with some particularly allergic to nuts. This is in fact a common problem to varying degrees in the community but, in this case, exposure to nuts in any way could be possibly life threatening.

**In order to address the issue, we ask that you refrain from giving your child any nuts or products containing nuts (e.g. peanut butter and some muesli-type bars) in their lunch boxes.**

All foodstuffs have their ingredients identified on the packaging and we ask that you consider these carefully.

***Thank you for your ongoing support.***

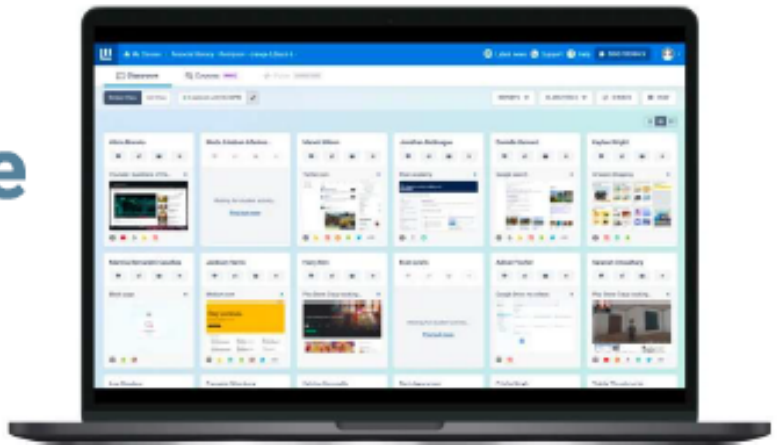
### **SCHOOL DONATIONS**

Thank you to those who have paid their school donation via myKindo. The donation for the year is **\$130 per child with a third child at \$55**. If you have yet to pay your school donation this can be done via the myKindo App.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

A festive poster for the Mangakahia Summer Festival. The background is light blue with colorful triangular bunting at the top and confetti scattered throughout. The title 'MANGAKAHIA SUMMER FESTIVAL' is written in large, bold, black letters with a white outline and a drop shadow. Below the title, the date 'Sunday 23rd February 2025' is written in a bold, black font. The location 'Mangakahia Sports & Community Complex' is listed below the date. A list of activities follows: 'Bucking Bull', 'Tractor & Pony Rides', 'Climbing Tower', and 'Bouncy Castle' are listed on the left, while 'Live Performances', 'Circus Acts & Magician', 'Food Stalls', and 'Market Stalls' are listed on the right. The text 'FREE ENTRY & PARKING' is prominently displayed in the center. At the bottom, it says 'Further info at www.mangakahiacomplex.org.nz or [Facebook icon] mangakahia-summer-festival'.

# Keeping Our Students Safe Online with Classwize



At Maunu School, we are committed to ensuring a safe and focused learning environment for our students. To support this, we have started using Classwize in our Senior Syndicate, a powerful online safety tool from Linewize that allows us to monitor and manage student internet use during school hours.

## **Classwize helps us to:**

**Monitor online activity in real-time** – Teachers can see what students are doing online during class time to ensure they stay on task.

**Filter inappropriate content** – Students are protected from accessing harmful or distracting websites while using devices during the school day.

**Set internet access controls** – We can temporarily block or allow certain websites to keep students focused on their learning.

**Encourage responsible digital citizenship** – We guide students in making good choices online and developing lifelong safe internet habits.

**Support digital wellbeing** – By monitoring usage trends, we can have discussions with students about healthy online habits.

**Discreet Help** – Send a direct message to an individual student without embarrassing them in front of the class or disturbing anyone else.

Our goal is to create a safe and engaging digital learning space where students can explore and learn with confidence. We appreciate your support in fostering responsible online behaviour. If you have any questions about Classwize, feel free to ask your child's classroom teacher.

