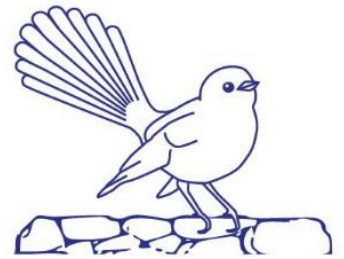


MAUNU SCHOOL

"The Freedom to Soar - Tukuna kia rere"



THURSDAY 5th JUNE 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Kia ora e te whānau,

As part of our commitment to strengthening the connection between home and school, and in response to recent changes in the New Zealand Curriculum, we are trialling a new approach to our **Parent-**

Whānau / Teacher Interviews this year.

We understand that curriculum changes can raise questions and that parents may be seeking more in-depth conversations with teachers about their child's learning journey. With that in mind, we will be holding interviews between parents/whānau and teachers **without students present**. This trial format aims to provide more space for honest, uninterrupted discussions around your child's progress, learning needs, and goals.

You will receive your child's **mid-year report in Week 8**, and we encourage all parents to book an interview with their child's teacher. It is important that every whānau takes part — we will keep a record of attendance and follow up with those we haven't heard from to arrange an alternative time. Following this round of interviews, we will seek your feedback to determine whether you prefer this new style or the student-led approach used in previous years. A notice with information on how to book your interview time will come home with children today.

Further on in this newsletter, you'll find some practical ways you can support your child at home. During your interview, your child's teacher will also share specific learning goals. Please feel free to ask how you can help support these goals at home — we welcome your ideas, feedback, and involvement.

We deeply value the relationship we have with our whānau. Your insight, encouragement, and partnership make a big difference in your child's success. We look forward to seeing you at your interview.

Ngā mihi nui,
Claire Turton,
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER TERM 2

13 Jun	PTA Disco
19 Jun	Matariki Festival at Morningside School - Kapa Haka Ropu
20 Jun	Matariki Holiday - <u>School Closed</u>
24 Jun	Parent Teacher Interviews - <u>School Closes 12pm</u>
25 Jun	Parent Teacher Interviews - After School
27 Jun	Last Day of Term 2
14 Jul	First Day of Term 3
9-11 Sep	Visual Arts Exhibition
15 Sep	Staff Only Day - <u>School Closed</u>
19 Sep	Last Day of Term 3
6 Oct	First Day of Term 4
24 Oct	Staff Only Day - <u>School Closed</u>
16 Dec	Last Day of Term 4
2 Feb	First Day of Term 1 2026

AROUND THE SCHOOL

CERTIFICATE WINNERS 23rd MAY

ROOM 2	UniqueRose Pitman-Neilson, Kobe Berghan
ROOM 3	Carter Harnett, Jake Harrison, Journi Maioha
ROOM 4	Kaea Humphreys, Jared Yeto, Evelyn Bibin
ROOM 5	Khetan Nandra
ROOM 6	Amelia McCarrison, Azahlia McKenzie, Kiaan Rana
ROOM 9	Fateh Singh, Sophia Shanahan, Eva Cartwright
ROOM 10	Thomas Hunter, Xia Sainty, Finn Ellery
ROOM 11	Baxter Williamson, Ethan Aby, Anica Saunar
ROOM 12	Emma Platt, Eddie Williams, Noah Matos Santos Jepsen
ROOM 14	Emma Riley, Amaia McQueen, Andrea Saji
ROOM 15	Khanh An Ha, Holly Harrison, Patrick Reid
ROOM 17	Wilson Turner, Lucas van Esch, Lily Ruxton
ROOM 18	Serena Fitzhenry, Manaaki Connelly, Ceiba Koncsek

VALUES CUP WINNERS 23rd MAY



KOWHAI – Patrick

RATA – Hazel

KAURI – Olivia

TAWA – Elisha

ROOM 11'S SPECIAL VISITOR

On Friday 30th May, Room 11 had a special visitor – Jesse Barnards pet Cockatiel 'Casey'. Room 11 had a great time learning about the bird, and for some, touching a bird for the first time. Casey was a very friendly bird who let the children pat him, hold him and even sit on some of their heads and shoulders.



WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

As part of our commitment to helping every child thrive in their learning journey, we want to share some practical, engaging ways you can support your child at home. These ideas focus on developing early literacy and maths skills in a fun, hands-on way – because young children learn best through play, repetition and positive reinforcement.

Supporting Early Literacy at Home

Here are some fun, hands-on activities you can try with your child at home to help them grow in confidence with their sounds, letters, and early reading skills:

- Chalk Letters: Write letters or words with coloured chalk and have your child trace or jump on them.
- Water Writing: Use a paintbrush and water to write letters and words outside on concrete or fences.
- Magnetic Letters: Use magnetic letters on the fridge to form simple words together.
- Letter Chase Game: Call out a letter or sound and have your child run to touch it on a wall or card.
- Letter/Word Treasure Hunt: Hide letter cards or simple words around the house and go on a hunt!
- Playdough Letters: Roll out letters using playdough to make words and practise letter sounds.
- Sorting Sounds Game: Group objects or pictures that begin with the same sound.
- Whiteboard Practice: Use whiteboards and coloured markers to write and decorate letters and words.
- Alphabet Songs and Rhymes: Singing together helps build sound awareness and memory.
- Story Retelling: After reading a book, ask your child to retell the story or act it out.

These activities support early literacy in ways that are playful and memorable. They also help build a positive association with learning.

Resources to support you at home:

[Letter Sounds Video](#) – a great way to reinforce the correct pronunciation of letter sounds

+ Supporting Maths at Home – Building Basic Facts

Strong number knowledge, especially with basic facts, lays the foundation for all future maths learning. Here are some fun ways to build your child's number sense at home:

- Basic Facts Bingo: Create bingo cards with simple addition/subtraction facts – call out the answers!
- Number Treasure Hunts: Hide number cards and ask your child to find numbers in order, or find a number that makes 10 with another.
- Clap and Count: Clap a number (e.g., 7 claps) and have your child write or say the matching numeral.
- Hopscotch Maths: Draw numbers with chalk and have your child jump on the answer to a maths question.
- Dice Games: Roll two dice and add or subtract the numbers.
- Domino Maths: Use dominoes to practise addition and matching numbers.
- Quick Fire Facts: In the car or at dinner, try asking simple maths facts.
- Maths Songs and Apps: There are lots of songs and free apps that make practising facts fun!

A few minutes each day makes a big difference, especially when learning feels like a game.

Thank you for being such an important part of your child's learning team. If you would like any help with these activities or have questions about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

FRIENDS & WHANAU OF MAUNU – SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

MAUNU SCHOOL DISCO – FRIDAY 13 JUNE!

We are so excited to announce our much-anticipated **Annual Maunu School Disco** happening on Friday 13th June! This year's theme is "**Neon 80s**", and we can't wait to see our tamariki light up the dance floor with their glowing outfits, bright smiles and awesome moves.

This event is a highlight on our school calendar – a chance for our children to come together, have fun and enjoy the magic of music, movement and friendship. It's also a wonderful way to build memories and foster a strong sense of school community.

Junior Disco (Years 1–3): 5:30pm – 6:30pm

For students in Rooms 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 17 and 18

Senior Disco (Years 4–6): 7:00pm – 8:00pm

For students in Rooms 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15



There will be refreshments available, including:

- Pizza slices and Juice: \$2
- Lolly bags and fun merchandise \$2 - \$3
- We ask that each child brings a labelled water bottle and a labelled wallet or purse to keep their belongings safe
- Please be aware the light up merchandise does have small batteries, so please monitor your children with these

👉 **Please note:** This event is only for current Maunu School students.

Junior and Senior discos are separate – no siblings or friends from other year levels or schools. All students must be signed in and signed out by an adult to ensure everyone's safety.

This evening wouldn't be possible without the support of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has already offered their time and to those helping with setup, supervision and pack down. It truly takes a village to create these magical experiences and we are so appreciative of the helping hands who make it happen. Now is the perfect time to start planning your outfits and counting down to what promises to be a night full of fun, colour and music!

Parents if anyone has a UV black light we could borrow for the evening please let us know!

We are incredibly fortunate to once again be joined by the legendary John Markby, who has been our guest DJ year after year – ever since his own son was a student at Maunu School. John is not only a fantastic DJ, but also a cherished Friend of the School. Over the years, he has gifted his time generously, both behind the DJ booth and as a valued member of our Board of Trustees. His unwavering support, passion and kindness have left a lasting impact on our school community.



Just two weeks ago, John announced his semi-retirement from the More FM Breakfast Show. In response, our school sent a heartfelt message of thanks – but we would like to take this opportunity to truly acknowledge how much we appreciate John. His ongoing support has helped create magical moments for our tamariki, and we are so grateful to have him back once more to make this night extra special.

The disco is also a fundraiser, so we kindly ask that each child brings a **gold coin \$2 entry**, which goes towards a koha for our amazing DJ.

MAUNU SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

SAVE THE DATE

The 2025 Maunu School Visual Art Exhibition – **Let's Celebrate Northland** will open in the School Hall on: Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th September.

Spread the word to family and friends to come and marvel at our students' visual masterpieces. An exhibition to show off the artistic creativity of each student at Maunu School, and a working gallery along the back of the school hall to show off the way we embrace art in our classrooms over the year.

Entry is by gold coin donation. A complementary programme will tell you about all the pieces in the exhibition and is a lovely keepsake to hold onto. See you all there!



REMINDERS / NOTICES

BOT ELECTIONS – WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

This September is a **Board Election** and with several members stepping down as their children move on, we are looking for new voices to join us.

If you are interested in playing a part **in guiding Maunu School into the future**, please get in touch with either Claire or one of our BoT members -we'd love to provide you with more information.



TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL SAFELY

At Maunu School, the safety of our tamariki is our top priority — especially as they travel to and from school each day. Whether your child rides a scooter or bike, it's essential that they understand how to keep themselves and others safe on our roads and footpaths.

On Friday, we received a call from a concerned community member who had a near miss with a child riding a bike. This incident prompted us to hold a special safety assembly on **Tuesday 3rd June**, where we reinforced important road safety messages with all students.

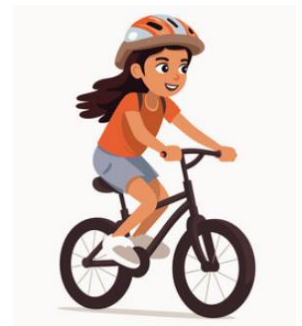
We kindly ask all whānau to support us by talking with your child at home about:

Always wearing a helmet when biking or scootering — no exceptions.

Stopping and looking both ways before crossing any road or driveway.

Being respectful of others using the footpath and aware of surroundings at all times.

No one wants to see a child hurt — or have a community member live with the trauma of a serious accident. Let's continue to work together to ensure our tamariki are safe, confident and responsible road users.



MATARIKI – A TIME TO REFLECT, CELEBRATE AND CONNECT

As we approach the Māori New Year, we take time to celebrate **Matariki and Puanga** – a very special time for all of Aotearoa. Matariki is about **whanaungatanga** – coming together with whānau and friends, sharing stories, kai, and looking ahead to new beginnings. Traditionally, this time of year marked the start of planting and preparing the land and renewing connections with each other.



The **Puanga Matariki Festival** will be celebrated across Whangārei from **27 May to 24 June 2025**, with many local events for our community. You can explore the festival schedule here: [Puanga Matariki Festival Events](#)

At school, we'll be running a range of activities in our **Library from 9 June to 19 June**, including displays and a fun scavenger hunt to help our tamariki learn about the nine stars of Matariki.

Please note: School will be closed on Friday 20th June for Matariki.

WACKY HAIR DAY

As part of Youth Week celebrations, Maunu School held a Wacky Hair Day to raise funds for a very special cause – the Children's Ward at Whangarei Hospital.

It was fantastic to see our tamariki, staff and whānau get behind the event with such creativity and enthusiasm. From colourful spikes to rainbow braids, the effort put into the wacky hairstyles was truly impressive – and all for a wonderful purpose!

We are delighted to announce that Maunu School raised a total of \$533.40. This incredible effort reflects the generosity and spirit of our school community.

We are proud to be working in partnership with Morningside School, as together we contribute to making a difference for local children and their whānau during challenging times.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated, donated and cheered others on. Your support means so much. Enjoy this fun montage of photos from our Wacky Hair Day – we hope it brings a smile to your face as it did to ours!



COMMUNITY NEWS

MEASLES

Measles is a serious and highly contagious disease. It can cause serious health problems, including brain swelling, chest infections and death. The measles vaccine is very effective at preventing measles.

The measles symptoms can start 7-18 days after you are infected with the virus. The symptoms usually start within 10 days. The first symptoms of measles are: **Cough, Fever, Runny nose, Sore red eyes – this is then followed by a red or dark pink rash.**

The best protection against measles is the free measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. This is given to children at 12 and 15 months old, but lots of tamariki missed out on their vaccine during the past few years, and others may not have had it if they were born overseas or are now aged between 18 to 33 years. The MMR vaccine is free for all children under age 18 in NZ. To learn more about the vaccine visit : info.health.nz/immunisations/vaccines-aotearoa/measles-mumps-and-rubella-mmr-vaccine/

The logo for Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora, featuring the text "Health New Zealand" in white and "Te Whatu Ora" in a smaller font below it, set against a dark blue background with a subtle geometric pattern.

KIDS DUATHLON SERIES

Race 1 – Pohe Island Cycle Track Sunday 22 June, 8.30am

Ages 7 and under: 400m run / 2.5km / 400m run

Ages 8 and over: 1.6km run / 5km bike / 800m run

Essential Equipment:

Bike, Helmet and Shoes

Entry Fee - \$10

Spot prizes and free sausage sizzle

Pre-register by emailing: whangarei@gmail.com

Or register on the day from 7.45am

