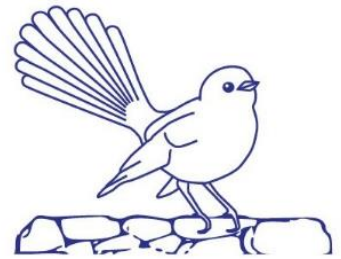


MAUNU SCHOOL

"The Freedom to Soar - Tukuna kia rere"



THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Kia ora koutou,

Every year I speak with our Year 5 students as they prepare to step into their final year at Maunu School. I challenge them to seize every opportunity, to strive for excellence, and to step forward as the very best version of

themselves. As Year 5 students, it is almost impossible for them to imagine what it will feel like to reach these final days of their Maunu journey. Yet here we are, and what a remarkable group they have proven to be.

Our Class of 2025 has embraced every challenge and every opportunity. They have flourished. Their academic achievements are impressive, but what shines even brighter is their character. They have led with integrity. They have lifted others. They have given back to both our school and the wider community with service, kindness, and aroha. They have truly understood what it means to **carpe diem** - to seize the day.

Throughout their years at Maunu School, they have grown in every possible way: physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and academically. They stand ready to take their next steps with confidence and courage. They are more than prepared to leave us next week and soar in whichever direction their dreams and talents take them.

I am not entirely sure we are ready to let them go. This cohort has woven itself so deeply into the heart of our kura. They are etched into the memories of every staff member who has taught, guided, laughed with, and cared for them. They will always be part of our whānau, so we will not say goodbye - simply good luck and go well.

As we farewell our students, we also acknowledge the whānau whose long chapter with Maunu School now draws to a close. For some families, your connection to our kura spans many years, and in some cases, generations. "Thank you" never feels enough to recognise your commitment, your trust, and the partnership that has helped shape your children's journeys.

We hope every family leaving us in 2025 knows how deeply appreciated you are. Every act of kindness, every hour volunteered, every trip supervised, every camp supported, every shared conversation, and every moment spent lifting not just your own child but others too - it all matters. It all makes a difference. It truly takes a village to raise a child, and we feel privileged to have been part of the village supporting your tamariki.

Thank You never seems enough:

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 4 2025

- 11 Dec** Year 6 Graduation tonight
- 12 Dec** Reports being emailed
Senior Fun Day
- 15 Dec** **Final Assemblies**
Junior Assembly 9.30-10.30am
Senior Assembly 11.30-12.50pm
Meet your 2026 Teacher
- 16 Dec** **Last Day Term 4 - Finishing @ 2pm**

TERM 1 2026

- 2 Feb** **First day of term 1/pōwhiri 2pm**
- 6 Feb** Waitangi Day - school closed
- 10 Feb** Meet the Teacher

With only three days remaining in the school year, I want to take a moment to truly honour the remarkable people who make Maunu School the place it is. Teaching is more than a job - it is a calling, and it certainly isn't for the faint-hearted. Every single member of our teaching team, support staff, and administration gives so much of themselves every day. They pour their hearts, expertise, and energy into this kura because they believe deeply in the power of education and in the special community we have here.

This year has brought significant change across the motu, and our profession has often been under the spotlight. Despite this, our staff have continued showing up with compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment. Every child who walks through our gates is surrounded by love, encouragement, and high expectations, and our team consistently goes above and beyond to ensure our tamariki feel seen, valued, and supported.

We are always grateful when we can work in genuine partnership with whānau. Together, we can wrap support around our tamariki and help them flourish. Your trust in us is deeply appreciated, and it is never taken for granted. We know you hand over your most precious taonga each day, and we carry that responsibility with care and pride.

As we reach the end of the year, it is also time for our dedicated staff to rest. They have given so much, and they absolutely deserve a proper break to recharge and spend time with their own whānau. I want to thank each and every member of our team for their hard work, professionalism, and heart.

This year, we also farewell three valued staff members - Olivia Paxon, Catherine Wiechern, and Nikola Franicevich. We extend our warmest wishes to each of them as they pursue new opportunities and continue seeking the right balance for their lives. They have given so much to Maunu, and we hope that one day their paths may lead them back to our kura.

We also want to thank Bonny Aby, who has been a bilingual support worker with us in term three and four and to our wonderful Michelle Matthews, who gives the New Entrants such an amazing start. We hope Micheele will start up another class at the end of 2026.

To our wonderful tamariki - how fortunate we are to be part of your learning journey. You bring joy, energy, curiosity, and spark to our days, and it's a privilege to watch you grow. We have had a fantastic year together. Over the break, rest well, enjoy time with your whānau, soak up the sunshine, and make memories you can share with us in 2026.

Wishing all our families a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy holiday season. May the year ahead bring good health, joy, and kindness in abundance. Thank you for being part of our Maunu School community.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Claire Turton

Principal - Maunu School

THE LEATHAM FAMILY AWARD FOR SERVICE

This award has been established this year to honour the outstanding contribution of the Leatham family, who have been an integral part of our school community for the past 13 years. Throughout their time with us, the Leatham's have embodied what it truly means to serve others. They have consistently given their time, energy, and expertise for the benefit of our students, staff, and wider community.

Their involvement has gone far beyond participation - they have shown unwavering determination, a strong work ethic, and a genuine desire to make a positive difference. Whether through volunteering at school events, stepping in whenever help was needed, or quietly working behind the scenes, their actions have always been guided by generosity and a deep sense of community spirit. They have modelled service not for recognition, but because they believe in giving back and lifting others up.

In recognition of their legacy, this cup has been created in their family name. It stands as a symbol of the values they so naturally lived every day - commitment, perseverance, selflessness, and service.

The recipient of the Leathem Family Cup for Service is a student who reflects those same qualities. This young person consistently steps forward when help is needed, contributing to both the everyday tasks and the major projects that make our school the vibrant community it is. They are dependable, hardworking, and demonstrate real grit and follow-through. Most importantly, they show kindness and humility in everything they do.

This cup is not just an award – it's a celebration of service and a reminder that even the smallest acts of giving can have a powerful and lasting impact.



FRIDAY FREEZE

If your child would like a Friday Freeze, please send some gold coins to school tomorrow. Ice-blocks are \$1. Their teachers will complete a classlist in the morning and the ice-blocks will be delivered to their class at the end of the day.

MET LIFE CARE VISIT BY ROOMS 5,6,17 & 18



As part of our *Giving Service* topic, the Year 2/3 children visited Met Life Care Rest Home on Monday 8th December. After a long (and very hot!) walk, the children were warmly welcomed by the residents. They sang a selection of Christmas songs and shared festive cheer by gifting pot pouri they had lovingly made earlier in the term.

A huge thank you to all our wonderful parent helpers who supported us on the day - we couldn't have done it without you!



UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Please take the time to have a look through the unclaimed items which are located in the walkway by Room 10. Anything that is left at the end of the school term will be donated to charity.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE SPONSORSHIP

Over the last thirteen years, we have been incredibly fortunate to have the unwavering support of **Lillian and Todd Leathem**, owners of Pak'nSave Whangārei. Their full sponsorship of our Friday

Sausage Sizzle has ensured our tamariki enjoy a weekly treat while also helping us raise an extraordinary amount of funds for our kura.

This generosity is just one example of the many quiet acts of kindness the Leathem whānau have shared with Maunu School. As their time with us comes to an end, we offer our deepest thanks for the aroha, commitment, and energy they have poured into our community. They have made a profound difference, and we are truly grateful.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are seeking new sponsorship so that our much-loved Friday Sausage Sizzle can continue for our tamariki. If you, your business, or someone you know might be interested in supporting us for a term, for half a year, or for the full year, we would love to hear from you.

Sponsors will be acknowledged on **KINDO**, **Lunch Online**, and regularly in our school newsletter.

Please feel free to email claire@maunu.school.nz with an expression of interest or any questions. Your support - big or small, will help us keep a treasured Maunu tradition alive.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION EVENING

A reminder that we have our year 6 graduation evening tonight starting at 6pm. We look forward to sharing a special evening with our year 6 graduates and would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Anderson for coordinating the food, Mrs Dawson for all the decorations and to Maunu Sushi for their Sushi donation toward this evening.



LINEWISE MONITORING FOR SENIOR STUDENTS

This year we trialled Linewise, an online safety and monitoring tool designed to help keep our senior students safe while learning in digital spaces. Linewise allows teachers to see, in real time, what students are accessing on their school devices and email accounts. It helps staff guide safe choices online, redirect students when needed, and support positive digital citizenship in the classroom.

The trial has been very successful, and we have now signed up to continue using Linewise with our Senior Syndicate in 2026. To help cover the cost of this service, a \$5 contribution will be added to MY KINDO for whānau next year if your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6.

We believe this is another valuable layer of protection and peace of mind for parents and caregivers, ensuring students are supported to use their school email and digital tools responsibly and safely.

AROUND THE SCHOOL

VALUES CUP WINNERS 28 NOVEMBER

Kowhai – Hawaiiki

Rata – Arthur

Tawa – Caleb

Kauri - Ollie



CERTIFICATE WINNERS 27 November

rya Wadey

ROOM 2	Abdur Chaudhry, Evelyn Aby, Indi Foy
ROOM 3	Poppy Smith-Hodgson, Charlotte Bell, Chloe Baker
ROOM 4	Harold Prasath, Cheyenne Nel, Chrisjo Jins
ROOM 5	Annabelle Orr, Tezal Chahal, Meg Shelford
ROOM 6	Saanvi Singh, Ollie Mathieson, Tamati Prime
ROOM 9	Skylar Chamberlain, Raunak Singh, Jade Moka Reid
ROOM 10	Jessica Nell, Eric Thomas, Xia Sainty
ROOM 11	Ethan Dutton-Berry, Nathan Stewart, Charlie Green
ROOM 12	Lucas Howe, Ava Faye, Isla Barnes
ROOM 14	Tara White-Hughes, Riley Baker, Jessica Robin
ROOM 15	Ella Davies-Colley, Arna Winder, Patrick Reid
ROOM 17	Harley Chaplin, Audrey English Alexander, Hunar Saini
ROOM 18	Heidi Harrison, Serena Fitzhenry, Arel Doganay

PERCH COFFEE CART

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Paul and Anita for the immense support they have shown Maunu School over the years. Their generosity, energy, and willingness to give so freely of their time has made a real difference to our tamariki and our community. We have such a long

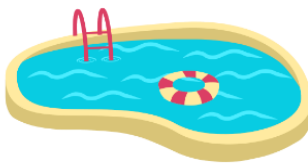
and valued history with the Sumich whānau, and as Kelsey heads off to Intermediate, we sincerely hope this isn't the last we see of them in the years ahead.

In true Sumich style, Paul and Anita have offered to host one final coffee morning on **Tuesday 16 December**. In exchange for a barista coffee or hot chocolate, they will be collecting **non-perishable food items** to be donated to the **Christmas Kai Box**, supporting families who need an extra helping hand at this time of year. Every contribution is appreciated - tins, packets, pantry staples - and all items will go directly into the Kai Boxes, provided they are within date, undamaged, and suitable for use.

If you would prefer to donate cash, Paul and Anita will kindly use it to purchase additional items to add to the collection.

We are deeply grateful to the Sumich whānau for their years of sponsorship, kindness, and unwavering support of our school. Their commitment to giving back embodies the spirit of community we are so proud of at Maunu School.

POOL KEYS



Pool keys are available now for the Summer Season. They are \$125 each. This includes a \$20 bond which is refunded once the key has been returned at the end of the swimming season. Keys are available to order through your myKindo account. Once you have made your purchase you will need to come to the School Office to collect your key and sign the contract.

All school accounts need to be paid up.

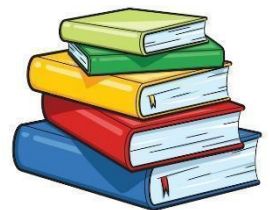
UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

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LIBRARY BOOKS & READERS

We have approximately 130 library books to be returned. Please take the time to have a good look at home and return them to the office no matter how long you've had them - **No questions asked**. There will be invoices coming home for lost library books.

We are also looking for any school readers that you may have at home somewhere - lying around under beds and couches or hiding in your home library. Please return to the school office ASAP.



WHANGAREI BOYS' HIGH GROWTH COACHING

Throughout 2025, nine of our Year 6 boys have had the opportunity to take part in the Whangārei Boys' High Growth Coaching programme. This has been a wonderful success, with each student forming a genuine connection with their Year 10 mentor. Together they have set goals, reflected on their learning, and built confidence in a supportive space.



We celebrated their final session this week, where the boys were proudly presented with their awards. One of the special strengths of this initiative is the ongoing relationship the boys will continue to have with their mentors, right through until they begin at Whangārei Boys' High School in 2028.

We are grateful for this partnership and look forward to working alongside Whangārei Boys' High School again in 2026 to offer this valuable programme to a new group of Year 6 boys.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

We've attached our BYOD flyers for 2026, which outline how a Chromebook becomes an important learning tool for students as they move into the Senior Syndicate. Please take a moment to read through the information, and feel free to get in touch if you have any questions.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ATTENTION

PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH HIGH NEEDS

Could your whānau benefit from a

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

catered to your child's needs?

Currently, the Spectrum run holiday programme is available only to Blomfield students, leaving many families in our community without suitable support options.

We are encouraging whānau of children with disabilities to come together and express interest in establishing a separate, specialised holiday programme for all high-needs children regardless of enrolment. A dedicated programme would provide trained staff, a supportive environment, and equitable access to care during the holidays. If this is something you feel would benefit your family, please reach out. The more families who express interest, the stronger our case becomes.

Elisa.Thomson@spectrumcare.org.nz
Tara.Quinones@northable.org.nz

playball

Holiday Programme

27th 28th 29th Jan

2026 Term classes - BOOK NOW

www.playballkids.com or

email dean@playball.co.nz

 KAMO & NGUNGURU FIRE STATION PRESENTS...

KAMO TOUCH-A-TRUCK

DATE & TIME
SUNDAY 25th JAN 2026
10:00AM - 2:00PM

WHERE
HURUPAKI SCHOOL,
20 DIP ROAD, KAMO



Fun for whole family!

GOLD COIN ENTRY

COMMUNITY EVENT 

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Golden Bay[®]

FIRE, AMBULANCE, POLICE

TRACTORS, DIGGERS + MORE

FOODTRUCKS & ICE CREAM

SUPPORTING THE KAMO AND NGUNGURU VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES

Love our community? Enjoy driving? Thinking of what to do in 2026?



We Need You!

Ritchies Whangārei is looking for School Bus Drivers to help get our Tamariki and mokopuna to school safely every day.

This is the perfect role if you:	What you'll need:	What you'll get:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy being out and about in the community. • Want work that fits around school hours. • Like the idea of FREE school holidays (except the odd training day)! • Take pride in keeping our kids safe on their journey to and from Kura. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 2 license (minimum). • P Endorsement. • A calm, friendly attitude. • Reliability — our kids are counting on you! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive team. • Uniform. • Fortnightly pay. • Chance to drive extra charter trips if you want them.

Join us — the community will thank you, and so will the next generation!
Apply online today - www.careers.ritchies.co.nz

ITCHIES 

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Sandie Kirkman



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BRONZE

