

# Ahuroa School

2016  
TERM FOUR  
NEWSLETTER



Together we grow as confident, connected, actively involved, enthusiastic, lifelong learners

Every year our family faithfully enters the Auckland Marathon. No, don't get me wrong – the 12km part of it for myself and the boys and the half for Andrew. Most of you will know that I am entirely built for comfort and not for speed, so setting myself the challenge of competing each year is something pretty big. Whilst I was meandering over the harbour bridge I began musing about the correlation between the marathon and student achievement at Ahuroa! This year we have embraced the change to goal setting. Students regularly reflect on progress and set goals which we celebrate as they are achieved. Our students may reach their goals quickly, like Thomas and Caleb who ran the 12km in less than 50 minutes, or have larger goals to achieve, like

Andrew, or they could be just like me, and set a goal and chip away at it, minute by minute, metre by metre until it is achieved. I may not be quite as fast as Andrew, however each year I set out to achieve the 12km walk in the same time or less than he does the half marathon. At the end of the day each one of us reached our goals, but the pathway to these was very different for each of us. This year our teachers have been undertaking professional development. Just like our students they have set goals to further their learning, and worked hard to achieve these. Some embraced it quicker than others, some took longer, however, one thing that they have all done is done it well. As part of the professional development I get to see all the classes in



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action, and get to feed back to the teachers about their progress, and prompt them on to their next learning. It has been a real pleasure to watch them grow, and in turn to watch as our students flourish under their new found expertise. I would encourage all parents to come and have a look at the fantastic work that our students are doing, and to engage with them in learning discussions around their work.

As we wind down a very busy year, we can reflect on our progress, think about what we have done, and what still needs doing, and then plan to get it all done again next year.

Here are a few quick highlights...

As part of our ongoing exploration on “Who are we?” and “What makes us special?” our students have had the opportunity to experience a wide range of outside the classroom learning during terms three and four;

Our year 4-8's enjoyed an action packed camp at Mangawhai, which included a visit to the Te Hana Marae, a tour of the Bennett's Chocolate Factory.

Turnwald and Sanderson whānau visited Uys Farm where they explored beautiful native bush, checked the water quality of their stream with Waicare expert Shelley Hackett, and spent time observing native birds.

Our seniors visited Berger Farm to view the butchering of a lamb, making the real connection between the meat we buy in the supermarket and the living creatures we see in the paddocks.

Sanderson and Turnwald visited the Auckland Museum to take part in a programme about Matariki.

Berger took a trip to Orewa to view their photography exhibition at Estuary Arts. They then spent their morning at the skate park (both in front of and behind the camera) taking great action shots, practicing sports photography with Theresa.

This term, Sanderson and Turnwald took a trip to the zoo while our seniors visited Motat.

Other highlights included...

On Friday the 8th of July we held our first annual Grandparents Day. Community Grandparents were invited to share in playing old school board games with our students, a 3 course roast lamb lunch, and to share their school experiences with our students. The day's highlight was our Kapa haka group receiving their first reply. We plan to make Grandparents Day an annual event.

We warmly welcomed Zhang Jin, a teacher from China who joined us for Term 3. Jin brought a taste of Chinese culture, language and Art to Ahuroa School. She will be greatly missed!

Six of our students, attended the Inter-school Speech Competition at Tomarata School. They were all amazing! Congratulations to Phoebe for placing 2nd in the Year 3/4 competition, and to Cole for his 3rd placing in the Year 5/6 competition.

On the 3rd of September our InstaGran photography exhibition officially opened at the Estuary Arts Centre in Orewa. It ran for the month of September, and was a huge hit with both participants and all those who were able to view it.

For the second time in 10 years - our school was closed due to flooding!

Despite the weather, our annual Ag Day was a great success. Many thanks to our PTFA for all their hard work!

Over the year, Berger has been able to explore Science with Christine Bullock. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Christine for her time and expertise.

After school and school holiday Robotics workshops ran during the year. It was a real pleasure to welcome families from our wider community to our school.



Welcome to Ahuroa!

Vincent, Lars, Ted, Evangeline,  
Sapphire, Tristan, Skye, Siina,  
Tiia, Rueben and Daniel.



## A few Farewells...

At the end of the year we will be farewelling a few staff members - some who have had a significant impact on our school, students and community over the past 10 years.

**Elaine Driver;** Elaine, as many of you will know, was fortunate enough to secure a Study Award for this year and has been beavering away at completing a Counselling Diploma. During the year she has continued her passion for students and their Hau Ora, and as such has decided to accept a position that will enable her to do this. Elaine will be joining us for Prize Giving so that families will have an opportunity to say goodbye to her formally.

**Theresa Butler;** Theresa has after many years of incredibly selfless dedication to our school made the hard decision not to return next year. As we look around our school however we will always have her in our minds as everywhere one looks there is evidence of her hard work - our swimming pool, the playground and shade sails, our astro-turf, the Technology Room - and we will of course not forget the many, many other not so visible areas of our school and community that she has impacted.

**Tracey Paddison;** Tracey has been a welcomed member of the staff this year who has added her amazing art abilities to our school. Evidence of her handiwork with the students will be visible in your calendars and cards that have just been ordered.

**Angela Gibson;** Angela has been the angel behind Before and After School Care this year. She has spent many hours ensuring that those students who need to be looked after

have full tummies and are well cared for. I do not envy Angela the many mornings that she has been first one to school in the middle of winter when no heaters are on!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you to each one of you for your part in making our little school so amazing and wish you all the very best for your future endeavours.

If you would like to come say your thank you's and good byes you are welcome to join us for our end of year prize giving evening being held on Tuesday 13th December at 6pm.

Our end of year prize giving is always a bitter sweet evening of celebration and farewells. We will also be farewelling our seniors students who are moving on to college next year. We are very proud of the young people they are growing into and wish them and their families all the very best!

Plans for 2017 are already well underway. The concrete for our tiered seating around our sports court has been poured. Many thanks to all our families and community members who supported the project. We plan to install the seating over the summer holidays.

Term one 2017, starts on Tuesday 1 February. We are already looking forward to our staff and family BBQ being held on February 9. This is a great opportunity for new families to meet other local parents and for our existing families to chat to their child's teacher and hear all about what's planned for the year.

Our annual Fair, Feast and Fireworks night, the highlight of our school and community calendar, will be held on March 18. Our PTFA are already hard at a work behind the scenes planning what promises to be our best Fair yet!



## Term Dates

### Term 1 2017

1 Feb - 14 April

### Term 2 2017

1 May - 7 July

### Term 3 2017

24 July - 29 Sept

### Term 4 2017

16 Oct - TBA

We have an open door policy at Ahuroa School. Please feel free to pop in any time. There are several ways to stay in touch with us and our community:

Visit us **online**

[www.ahuroa.school.nz](http://www.ahuroa.school.nz)

Subscribe to our

**Broadcast**

[www.ahuroa.cabu.school.nz](http://www.ahuroa.cabu.school.nz)

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Check out our

**community** website

[www.ahuroa.co.nz](http://www.ahuroa.co.nz)

Give us a call

**09 422 5898**

Email us

[office@ahuroa.school.nz](mailto:office@ahuroa.school.nz)

Visit us in person

**1349 Ahuroa Road**

**Ahuroa**

**RD 1**

## Holidays!

It's such a cliché but every year I mean it more - I can not believe how fast the year has gone! In case I don't see you at our end of year prize giving - have a safe and well deserved break everyone. Each and every one of you are invaluable to the ongoing success of our school, students and community. Thank you all for making 2016 such an amazing year. I can't wait to see what 2017 will bring!

In the meantime let's focus back on the simple things and smaller goals - like hoping for loads of sunshine and enjoying the long, lazy summer days ahead with our families.

Warmest regards,

**Michelle Nell, Principal**

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Thank you to our major 2016 Fair, Feast and Fireworks sponsors. Please continue to support local businesses that support us.