



ISSUE NO.8 27 March 2026

Kia ora whānau,

Te Pānui o te Kura Araraki

Ka nui te mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa, arā, ki te whānau whānui o te Kura Araraki i Kawakawa.

Acknowledging Our Whānau

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the whānau within our school community who have recently lost loved ones. Please know that our deepest thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Navigating loss is a profound reminder that the time we share with our loved ones is incredibly precious. We encourage everyone in our community to take a moment in the coming days to acknowledge, appreciate, and connect with the special people in your lives.

Athletics Day at Timona Park

Our recent Athletics Day at Timona Park was a tremendous success. It was incredible to see our entire school community come together, with both Junior and Senior students contributing and competing alongside one another. The energy, determination, and sportsmanship on display across the sprints, shotput, discus, long jump, and high jump events were truly outstanding. Thank you again to all the staff, whānau, and volunteers who helped make this collective effort such a memorable day for our tamariki. Interschool Athletics notices have been sent home this afternoon with tamariki.

Visit to China

We are incredibly excited for our upcoming student trip to China, departing Saturday! This marks the second year of our reciprocal exchange programme, building on the tremendous success of last year's inaugural journey. It has been an absolute pleasure hosting our visiting Chinese students here at North Street School, sharing our culture and community with them. Now, it is our turn to travel. I am thrilled to be accompanying our students on this two-week trip overseas. It will be a fantastic opportunity for our tamariki to experience a new culture, build global friendships, and represent our school with pride. We look forward to sharing our travel stories with you all when we return.



Attendance Management Plan & Ministry Expectations

This week I am reviewing our Attendance Management Plan and reporting to the Ministry of Education. As part of our commitment to student success, we are reviewing our Attendance Management Plan alongside the Ministry of Education's national strategy. The Ministry expects schools to work closely with their communities to raise attendance levels, defining "regular attendance" as being present for **90% or more** of the school term. Our current school-wide attendance rate sits at **71%**. While we recognise that seasonal illnesses and other factors impact this, our updated plan focuses on how we can best partner with whānau to overcome any barriers to getting to school. Consistent attendance is vital - not just for academic progress, but for maintaining strong social connections and overall wellbeing. Every day at school truly matters.

Parent-Teacher Interviews: Term 2 Update

We have introduced a new system for our reporting cycle this year. Parent-Teacher interviews will now be held early in Term 2, Week 2. These meetings are intended to provide a brief update on your child's progress. By connecting at this stage, we can ensure that there are no surprises when the formal written reports are issued at the end of Term 2. Please keep an eye on Skool Loop early next term for upcoming information on how to book your interview times.

Ka kite anō – Pāora Pōmare Acting Principal

REACH Value: Ka Whakawhirinaki – Honesty

For the next fortnight, our school-wide focus is Ka Whakawhirinaki (Honesty). This value is all about building trust and integrity within our kura. We are teaching our tamariki that being honest isn't always the easy path, but it is the one that builds the strongest character.

In our kura, we are focusing on:

- Truthfulness: Telling the truth, even when it feels hard or uncomfortable.
- Accountability: Owning our actions and being brave enough to apologise sincerely when we make mistakes.
- Respect for Property: Asking for permission before using things that aren't ours.

Supporting Ka Whakawhirinaki (Honesty) at Home

Whānau can help develop this value by creating a home environment where the truth is valued over perfection. When mistakes happen—like a broken dish or a forgotten chore—try to stay calm and lead with curiosity rather than frustration. If tamariki feel safe and know they won't be met with anger, they are much more likely to be honest about what occurred. It is also incredibly powerful for children to see the adults in their lives model accountability. If you make a mistake, let your child hear you own it and offer a genuine apology. When your child does come to you with a difficult truth, make sure to acknowledge their bravery. Telling them, "I am really proud of how honest you were, even though it was hard," reinforces that their integrity is something to be proud of. Finally, encouraging the habit of always asking before borrowing a sibling's toy or a family member's device helps build a natural respect for others' boundaries and property. By working together, we can help our tamariki grow into reliable, trustworthy members of our community who understand that "owning it" is a sign of true strength.

Te Ara Mangopare Camp El Rancho

This place is insanely fun, especially glow in the dark dodgeball. You couldn't really see people and it made it way harder to aim. There were balls flying left and right, it was chaos! George

Suddenly I felt adrenaline rushing through my veins. I bolted up the track to get to the top of the slide. I felt anxious when it was my turn. As Mo pushed me down the long waterslide, I crossed my legs and held my breath. Water splashed on my face. When I reached the end, I felt relieved it was over and I accomplished it! Elizabeth

"No, I'm not doing this!" I was scared of falling into the gross water. But I trusted Phil to take care of me in the two person Kayak. I loved every minute of it and want to do it again. Zoe

I raised my bow and arrow and pointed it at the target. I let go of the string. The arrow sped through the air. It was my first time doing archery and I was happy I did it. Phoenix





Term Dates 2026

Term 1
January 28 to April 2
Good Friday 3 April

Term 2
April 20 to July 3
Teacher only days: 8 May and 25 May
Anzac Day 27 April
Kings Birthday 1 June

Term 3
July 20 to September 25
Teacher only day: 17 August

Term 4
October 12 to December 14
Teacher only day: 13 November
Labour Day October 26



Wātaka o Te Wiki – Week 10
30 March – 2 April 2026

Monday 30 March

- Year 7/8 swimming – Makino Pools
- Epic Music
- Interschool Athletics

Tuesday 31 March

- Mentoring Pa Jono

Wednesday 1 April

- Schoolwide PB4L Celebration Day

Thursday 2 April

- Whole School Dance Sio
- Last Day Term 1 – 3 pm finish