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RICK'S Ramble

Term 4 2026
Week 4

Woo hooo! Some welcome rain to wet the whistle!
This week has been fantastic. We hosted the Reporoa Cluster Principal meeting at our school yesterday, and the children took charge of catering. It was an excellent opportunity to utilise our Tech room, and the kids prepared a delightful menu for the occasion. The menu highlights included nibbles during the meeting, glazed ham, new potatoes, and roasted vegetables for lunch, followed by a chocolate brownie topped with strawberries and cream for dessert. Yum! A huge congratulations to the children from Rakau for their impressive work in putting this together.





We are pleased to announce the reinstatement of prefects this term to encourage positive behaviour in the playground. Our teachers have selected the following outstanding students: Finn, Te Ngahere, Taituha, and Piper. Elections will take place again at the start of Term One.

Interestingly (well for me anyway) I was discussing the latest changes in education and the comment was "Why haven't we got this right yet after so many years of education". This is something that I have pondered for a while and asked why does the government of the day keep changing education every time we change governments. While society's approach to education has evolved dramatically over time, the biological and cognitive ways children learn—through play, observation, interaction, and trial-and-error—remain entirely unchanged.
Learning has transformed, alongside the fundamental truths that remain constant so what has changed. From apprenticeships to classrooms, historical learning relied on practical, real-world work alongside adults. Industrialisation introduced formal, standardised schooling. Child-Centred learning, traditional rote memorisation and strict discipline have given way to hands-on inquiry, critical thinking, and student-led exploration. The Power of Play, once viewed as a simple distraction, play is now recognised by cognitive science as the essential vehicle for building problem-solving, emotional regulation, and resilience. Inclusive education, pedagogy has shifted from a rigid "one-size-fits-all" approach to tailored support that honours neurodiversity and individual learning styles. Digital tool learners now supplement traditional books with adaptive software and global digital networks.

What has stayed the same. Connection first, children thrive through strong relationships. Safety, emotional attachment, and positive human interaction remain the primary catalysts for learning. Natural curiosity, children are hardwired to test boundaries, ask questions, and explore their environment. Step-by-Step mastery: Brain development still requires mastering foundational concepts before tackling complex ones, guided by supportive adults.
Ultimately, while modern tools and methods evolve, our core focus remains constant: nurturing active, curious learners holistically so they can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Do we need to make radical changes in education or should we have this sorted by now? The problem with education as a political football is that the children are the ones that miss out and have to deal with these changes that adults are forcing on them just because someone in authority has said "lets try this!". Could we not have a group of expert educators that look at the long term (10-20 years) goal for education that is not affected by changes in government. This would give security and purpose for our children and the educational futures.



Liam dressed up as Mr Whalley for halloween.

Ikura
Manaakitia te whare tangata
Period Products in Schools

A reminder that we have a variety of free Period products available for ākonga to use at school and at home. Students can take as many as they need for their full cycle and ongoing cycles. These are in the sickbay. staff toilet or contact Carla in the office. For more information check out healthnavigator.org.nz and search "Menstruation"

LRS PTA FISHING COMPETITION

Fill the Wheelbarrow Raffle

Our PTA is on the hunt for items to "fill the wheelbarrow", which will be raffled for their upcoming fundraiser - Fishing Competition.

Accepting donations of non-perishable food in jars, cans and sealed packets. We recommend sauces, soups, beans, vegetables in cans or jars, honey, peanut butter, candy, boxed juices, pasta, coconut cream and tinned fish.

Please check expiry dates on all items.



Please drop items to the school office or contact Sammie Allen 021 060 7948 to arrange collection.

07 3666 814
office@lakerere.school.nz
www.lakerere.school.nz

Office Hours

Monday:	9.00am - 3.00pm
Tuesday:	9.00am - 3.00pm
Thursday:	9.00am -12.30pm
Friday:	9.00am - 3.00pm

Important dates

November

17- 19	LRS Athletics
Mon 23	Calendar Art orders close
Wed 25	Cluster Athletics

December

Wed 2	Board Meeting 7pm
Fri 11	Swimming Sports
Tue 15	Celebration of Learning
Wed 16	Last day for students
17 & 18	Teacher only days (TOD)

Parent help required
LRS & Cluster Athletics



Kei te whakatakataka a matou akonga mo nga ahei a tona wa
Preparing our students for the possibilities of tomorrow

CLASS Snippets

KĀKANO

Kia ora koutou,

Kākano students are learning about pathways and positions for our geometry unit. We are learning how to give directions to follow a pathway using words like straight ahead, turn left or right, or go backwards. We're learning positional words to say where an object is, and using positions for order such as first, second, third, etc. We are looking at simple maps and learning to use a map to find a pathway from one location to another. Does your child know their road name and number?

Kia pai tō rā,
Kākano Class

TUPU

In Tupu, we have been exploring procedural writing and learning how to write clear, organised instructions that explain how to do something. We have practised writing instructions for fitness rotation games, making a paper plane and, more recently, completing different tasks safely. The children have explored instructions for crossing a road, escaping a house fire, tackling safely in rugby, and safely riding a motorbike, mountain bike and horse. It has been wonderful to see them thinking carefully about the steps involved and the importance of putting them in the correct order. At home, encourage your tamariki to explain the steps involved in everyday tasks. You could ask them how to follow a recipe, make their lunch or complete a job around the house. Getting them to explain each step clearly is a great way to support their learning!

Ngā mihi,
Whaea Kylie

MAHURI

In Mahuri we have covered a lot of learning in the first four weeks of school.

We have been learning about tessellations and trying to make patterns with them.
Tessellations are made up of shapes and patterns, just like algebra. Algebra is all about patterns.
Tessellations are also related to shapes with angles and most shapes have a vertex and rays, not circles though.
There are right angles, obtuse, angles, acute angles and straight angles
Acute are angles that are between 0 - 90 degrees

We have been learning about the longer spelling sound for /j/ which is -dge
":Fudge! We had to trudge through the sludge."

We have been doing procedural writing and we learnt about the Lake Rerewhakaaitu School Emergency procedures - we concentrated on what to do in a fire. We need to get in an orderly line and GET OUT FAST!

For Athletics we have been looking at setting SMART goals to help us work towards our goals:
Jump 1 metre in high jump -
my specific goal is not to do small steps on my run up - Lucy
3 metres in long jump -
my specific goal is to run faster in my run up - Te Ngahere
Throw 20m in discus - my specific goal is to use my whole body to give me more power in my throw - Ted
Run faster at 400m to beat Finn - my specific goal is to concentrate on my breathing when I'm running - Te Aukainga
Jump over 1 metre in high jump - my specific goal is to work on the speed of my run up - Kenzie



After Pet Day I did a race at Skyline. I was in the Under 11's and we had as much practice runs as we wanted. On my 3rd practice run I had a big fall/crash. My Uncle Mikey ran over as well as some people I know too, then Uncle Mikey told me to do some more runs so I wasn't scared for my two race runs. At the end I got 24th place but I was versing ten year olds and nine year olds that are better than me.
By Rocco

RĀKAU

This week in Rakau has been lovely being back in the classroom this week and getting everyone settled back into our routines. We have been spending time reconnecting with our learning and getting back into the swing of classroom life. In Science, we have kicked off an exciting new unit exploring chemical and physical reactions. We are investigating how and why materials change, and what makes a physical change different from a chemical reaction. This learning will lead into a hands-on experiment where we can put our new knowledge to the test. We are looking forward to lots of curiosity, investigation and exciting discoveries!



Great Job

On Sunday, Stella participated in a gymnastics competition and achieved the following scores: 8.2 on vault, 6.80 on bars, 8.0 on beam, and 6.6 on floor.



Well done Stella!

Group day fun!







Attendance

Attendance - Our 2025 Target is: To improve attendance and engagement to 75% of students attending 90% or higher.

We are currently sitting at 49% of students at 90% attendance or above. Last weeks results:

Rakau 86% attendance
Mahuri 95% attendance
Tupu 91% attendance
Kakano 88% attendance

And the Winner is...

MAHURI!

Caught being Awesome

"Caught Being Awesome" awards are given out to students of Lake Rerewhakaaitu School at playtime. Students can earn them by following our school values, being a good friend and following the school rules. These awards then go into either the senior or junior bucket, then at Fridays assemblies all get read out and one from each drawn out as our super star recipient.

Our Caught Being Awesome recipients are...



Quinton & Te Aukainga

"Tidy Kiwi" award goes to the class who consistently keeps the corridor and deck tidy over the day and week. Ensuring our school is kept beautiful, while being safe in emergency situations.



TIDY KIWI AWARD

LAST WEEK AWARDED TO: STAR ATTENDANCE



SPREAD Kindness

HOUSE POINTS

Tarawera Kakaramea

Each week we give out a house cup to the house that's in the lead. Students can earn house points by following our school rules, values, being on task and even when they get caught being awesome.

House Captains are;
Tarawera - Te Ngahere & Flynn
Kakaramea - Taituha & Nikau

Congratulations to our house winner from our latest assembly...



PTA CORNER

Calendar Art

Our PTA Calendar Art fundraiser is taking a slightly different approach this year! Order forms were sent home in week 2, ORDERS CLOSE Monday, 23rd November. These creations can be made into customised diaries, greeting cards, and calendars -perfect for Christmas gifts, birthdays, or a special keepsake.

Principals award



Liam for trying hard

CONGRATULATIONS



LAST WEEKS CLASS CERTIFICATES WENT TO:

Tukaha for enthusiastic participation in maths lessons, Emily for developing cooperative learner behaviours and showing a love of learning. Athena-Rose Ka pai tō manawanui! For persevering during our numeracy lesson, working hard on place value and subtraction. Beau for He tauira pai koe! For consistently showing responsibility, honesty and integrity. You make good choices, take responsibility for your actions and show respect for others. Cruz and Chloe - welcome to LRS! Winter for showing our school value of whanaungatanga and being so welcoming to our new student. Piper for persevering in Maths. Charlie for being a great helper and being there when needed.

Our Community Emergency Support Team is putting together a register of people who may need a little extra help during a flood, storm, earthquake or extended power outage (Or any natural disaster). This might include:

- Elderly people living alone
- People with limited mobility
- Those without reliable transport
- Anyone needing a generator for medical equipment during power outages
- Anyone who may need checking on or extra assistance
- Young families without support or partners/ family working away
- Limited cell phone or internet

If this sounds like you, or you have a family member who may need extra support, please complete the form below.



📋 **Community Emergency Support Register:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfiD1tg53E7HqtI-TLDYI9vuVTxfyapqMvpKv0iAzQeQhBUg/viewform

The register covers Rerewhakaaitu, Waimangu, Rainbow Mountain, Tumunui and Waiotapu.

Information will be kept confidential (Saved to the Project Rerewhakaaitu Drive that only Sammie & Rob Allen, Megan Schutt, John Young and Jacinda Poland have access to) and used only by authorised members of our emergency response team in AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

Please ensure you have permission if completing the form for someone else.

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