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RICK'S Ramble

Term 4 2026
Week 2

This week, we have seen another rise in illness among both students and staff. With warmer weather on the way, we hope to see improved health and attendance across the school.

We are immensely grateful for the ongoing support from Health Reporoa, especially our local nurse, Katie. Katie visited our two junior classes this week to teach our students how to be "hygiene superstars." A big thank you to Katie and the Health Reporoa team for caring for our school community!

To learn more about their services, visit the <https://healthreporoa.co.nz> or call them on 3666 7301.

Our Pet Day was a great success and we thank the PTA for their hard work in making this a fantastic event. Well done to all our students who participated in this event, and to their whanau for supporting them to do so. It was great to see an enthusiastic crowd in the Open Ring. Our athletics training has started and we are looking forward to our Athletics Day on the 19th November. We need parent helpers for this event to take place, please get in touch with us if you can help on the day. I have just started to get the swimming pool ready to rock and roll and we will be swimming at lunch times as soon as this is done. Swimming Sports will be held in Week 9.

Remember next week is a short one with labour Day on Monday, we will be back in action on Tuesday.

Opportunities exist for our students in many ways, one way is to learn any subject through Kotui Ako Virtual Learning Network. The running of Kotui Ako is partly funded by the Ministry of Education through Lake Rerewhakaaitu School. Virtual learning in New Zealand schools has been steadily growing over the last 30 years. It has now been established as a recognised form of education in New Zealand schools in the last 20 years, for primary schools. Kotui Ako is a collaboration of schools that formally began in 2009, as the Virtual Learning Network Primary School, through the need for small and rural primary schools to deliver languages as outlined in The New Zealand Curriculum (Ministry of Education [MoE], 2007). The schools looked for ways to transform their teaching and learning environment to provide subjects for their students that were not available in their own schools. Kotui Ako extends learning opportunities for students by enabling online collaborations between schools. It is intended to provide equity and access to better learning opportunities for all New Zealand students. It connects schools through a collaborative online network (the Virtual School) in order to share the best teaching strengths, provide access to specialist teachers and develop professional capability to enable schools to become more flexible and open places of learning for the children. Lake Rerewhakaaitu School is currently and has in the past enrolled students in projects such as the Rural and Remote Project, which provides opportunities for Year seven and eight students to engage with students their own age and gender, Web Design, Extension Writing, Numeracy, languages such as Spanish, French, and Te Reo Māori. Kotui Ako projects give students a voice and choice in what they learn, how, when and where they learn, and who they learn with; regardless of their geographical location and economic means. We are currently enrolling students for next year in Kotui Ako. If you would like to know more, or if there are subjects that you would like your child to take that are not currently available at school, please contact me.

Here's another wonderful opportunity for our students to absorb knowledge and expertise, thanks to our incredible parents and community heroes! Whether it's hobbies, sports tips, or professional skills, we are excited to learn. On Thursdays, Megan Schutt will be sharing her talents with a group of students as they cultivate kai for our school community. Thank you, Megan! Stay tuned for updates on their "Green Thumb Adventures!"



Green Thumb Adventures with Megan Schutt

The boys got stuck in today and planted the first garden. We decided to plant in the square foot garden pattern so they had to plan how many of each plants they could fit in 1 30cm box. We also talked about how long it takes for each plant to start producing food. We got potatoes into planter bags and the boys were amazed that they won't have potatoes to eat for 90 days. Their homework was to figure out what we can use as a mulch in the bags. We have worked in some chook and sheep poo into garden 2, next week we will line it with cardboard and plant some seeds. Boys trimmed up the Rhubarb plant and got to take a bag full each home.



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

October

Mon 26 Labour Day STAT

November

Thu 19 LRS Athletics

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

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

KĀKANO

In Kākano we leaned into the theme of Pets for the week leading up to Pet Day. We wrote about why certain animals (cat, bird, elephant or fish) might make a good pet. We think looking at colourful fish might be very relaxing. We read and answered questions about how to take care of fish, cats, and birds. We enjoyed making cakes for the cake stall with Whaea Tabatha. On Friday we had a fun day doing all the Pet Day craft activities: flower saucers, decorating rice crackers, making foil animals and paper ducks.

Kia pai tō rā,
Kākano Class

CLASS Snippets

Pet Day Fun!

What a fantastic Pet Day we had last Saturday! The children had the opportunity to bring along a calf, lamb or kid to participate in our competition categories of care and attention, leading and calling. It was wonderful to see our tamariki showcasing their animals and celebrating the time and effort they had put into caring for them. The fun began on Friday, when the whole school rotated through each learning space to take part in a range of creative activities with our teachers. Kākano made paper ducks, Tupu created sand saucers, Mahuri designed tinfoil animals, and Rākau decorated iced biscuits. The children had loads of fun getting creative and trying something different in each classroom.

It was a wonderful couple of days filled with hands-on learning, creativity and opportunities to celebrate our rural community. A big thank you to everyone who helped make Pet Day such a special occasion!

Ngā mihi,
Whaea Kylie

TUPU

Well done!



Taituha won the Team Sportsmanship Award for his Marist St Michael's U11 Rugby Team. It was awarded to him for being a crucial team member who is always thinking of the team, playing wherever he was needed and always having a good attitude. Keep it up Tai!

OVERDUE

We have a number of outstanding payments due for elected events; CAMs, Rats Duathlon, Tough Guy & Gal, Mini Marathon and Rip, Grip & Whip. Please check whether you have paid, and if not please do so as soon as possible to:
Lake Rerewhakaaitu School 06 0413 0239124 00
Reference: Child's name Code: Event
If payments are not received this will affect future opportunities for these events.

Mahuri pet day reflections:

"I enjoyed being with my friends and my pet. My pet was a calf and her name was Dusty. I found it challenging when someone ran past and scared my calf when I was doing calling. Next year I'll train harder" Rocco

"My calf actually did well at leading, her name was Brownie. Call and follow was hard because normally she does good but then at pet day she didn't do as well. Next year I'll probably do all the same things." Cayden

"I liked eating my lunch on pet day, eating the cake I made for the cake stall. Leading was challenging and definitely calling. Billie Elish did well at caring and attention" Elsie

"Getting ribbons and my calf, Pon, came to me when we did calling. Care and attention was challenging because there was stuff I didn't know. Next year I'd like to get Champion again. It was funny because I didn't want to do pet day at all and I slayed!" Finn

"Patch and I got two seconds for calling and learning, and a reserve for calling. Calling was challenging. Next year I'd spend more time with my calf and do more training." Evelyn

MAHURI

Over the 2026 competitive gymnastics year Lucy gained the highest points in her level winning the highest score trophy for Mid Island Gymnastics club.



Congrats Lucy!

Helping tamariki find their school rhythm again

Returning to early starts, busy days and familiar routines can bring excitement, tiredness and big feelings. A little extra support at key times can help.



1

When they come home

Offer kai and a little quiet before asking questions.

Transitions take energy. Give them time to land.



2

Through the evening

Keep plans light and use fewer instructions.

Tired brains cope better when there is less to process.



3

Before the next day

Choose one anchor: bags ready, clothes out or a story together.

Knowing what comes next helps tamariki feel settled.



A SIMPLE TIP

Expect a little wobble
A tricky first few weeks doesn't mean everything or anything has gone wrong.



You're all finding the rhythm again. A little steadiness is enough.

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Real Parents offers practical, evidence-informed support to help parents understand what's happening beneath behaviour and respond with confidence and connection.



Calendar Art



Our PTA Calendar Art fundraiser is taking a slightly different approach this year! CHILDREN WILL BE COMING HOME WITH THEIR ORDER FORMS TODAY. These creations can be made into customised diaries, greeting cards, and calendars -perfect for Christmas gifts, birthdays, or a special keepsake.

Our PTA has been working hard to create a clean, functional space where our students can learn essential cooking skills. On October 17th, we officially opened our new Kai Clinic! Leading up to the opening, the children put the space to good use, baking delicious treats for us all to enjoy.

A massive thank you to the Board and PTA for making this long-awaited project a reality, it's a vision that has been discussed around our meeting tables for years.

We are deeply grateful to the incredible tradespeople who helped keep costs manageable, many of whom have direct connections to our school: Voltright Ltd, ASAP Plumbing, Birch Built Limited, Quantum Glass & Tinting, Mr Decorator, Independent Flooring Specialists, Harvey Norman, and P&B Allen.

Lastly, thank you to our wonderful school staff and wider community for supporting our fundraisers and donating generously to stock our cupboards.

We look forward to seeing the children, teachers, and Mr. Whalley create amazing memories in this fresh new space. Paired with our school community gardens, the Kai Clinic will allow us to grow, prepare, and share delicious, healthy kai together. Everyone is welcome to pop down, check out the space, help during a cooking session, or sample some of the delicious food!



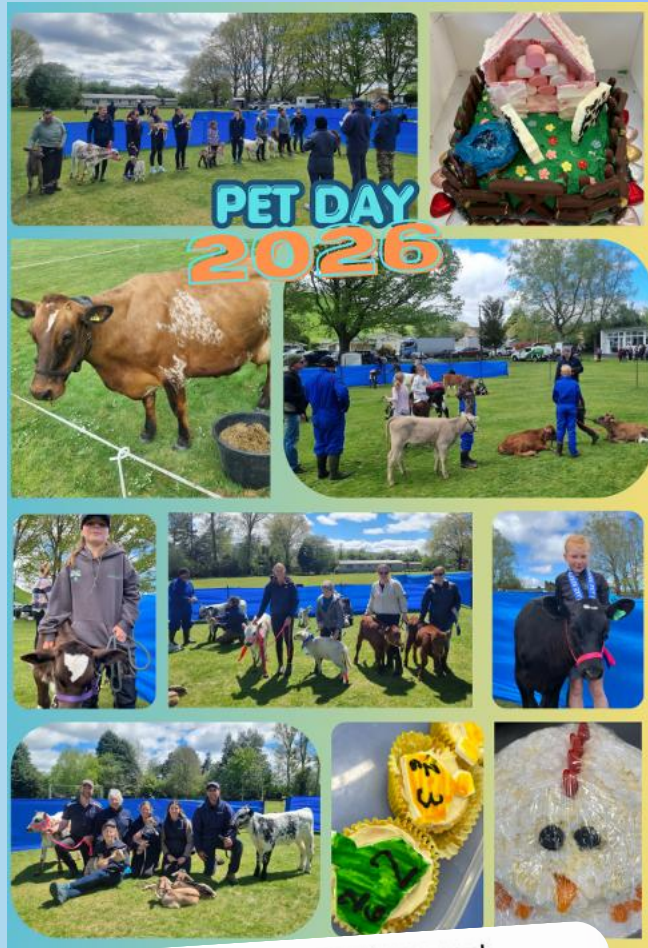
What a fantastic day we had at our School Pet Day! Despite the rather challenging wind, it was wonderful to see all the hard work, time and dedication the children had put into rearing and preparing their animals. The pride on their faces made it all worthwhile!

A huge thank you to our amazing judges, stewards, sponsors, school staff and everyone who lent a hand behind the scenes and on the day. We couldn't do it without your time, generosity and support.

It was also so great to see our wider community come along to support the children, with such a fantastic turnout! Your support really helps make this day so special for our school.

Our Open Ring was back for its third year running and proved very popular once again. It was great to see so many keen competitors getting involved, including a few from one of our wonderful sponsors, VetPlus!

Thank you again to everyone who helped make Pet Day such a success. Windy weather and all, it was a great day of community spirit, learning and celebrating the amazing efforts of our kids. We're already looking forward to next year! 🐾



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27TH OCTOBER 2026

Registration 5:30pm at
Reporoa Primary School

WARM UP 5:45PM!

WALK STARTS AT 6:00PM

Family Fun Farm Walk
Adults \$5.00, Donations for Kids

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CONTACT US

07 333 8351 or 021 060 8347
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