

MOKOIA INTERMEDIATE NEWSLETTER



TERM 3 WEEK 7 | 29TH AUGUST 2025

WHAEA KATHRYN'S SHOUT OUT

Kia ora e te whānau

We are well and truly in full swing of opening our school to potential 2026 Year 7 students and their whānau. This exciting journey began with our first Roadshow last Friday, where we visited Lynmore, Rotokawa, and Ōwhata Primary Schools. Then, on Wednesday night, we hosted our Open Evening to a large number of potential students and their families.

It was a fantastic night welcoming families from across the community to come and see what we already know—that Mokoia Intermediate is an amazing kura with incredible students and teachers. It was heartwarming to see our potential Year 7s' bright smiles, full of excitement about the opportunities ahead, as well as familiar families returning with the next sibling ready to join us. We truly appreciate everyone who continues to support Mokoia so positively and celebrate the amazing things our students achieve every day.

Speaking of achievement, **as our 81 students head off to AIMS Games**, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge a few key people who have made this possible.

First, a huge thank you to **Mr Gareth Upston**, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes for the last six months, managing registrations, organising codes, and ensuring everything runs smoothly—all while preparing his own hockey team to compete. Mr Upston, you've created an incredible opportunity for our students, and we are so grateful.

Thank you also to **Matua Jireh, Matua Richie, Whaea Hotu, and all our parents** who have volunteered their time to take students to AIMS. Your commitment through trainings, fundraising, and planning has made this experience possible for so many.

To all our whānau who have supported through delicious bake sales, sausage sizzles, hot chips, hāngi, car washes, and raffles—thank you! Your efforts have helped ensure our students can participate in this prestigious event.

Finally, to all our students competing next week—we wish you the very best of luck! Represent Mokoia with pride, give it your all, and most importantly, have fun. We'll be back at school cheering you on and can't wait to hear all about your amazing efforts.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui – go Team Mokoia!

Whaea Kathryn and the Mokoia 'A' Team
We are limitless! We are passionate! We are Mokoia!

KEY DATES FOR TERM 3 2025

Term 3 Week 7

- Monday 25th August – Friday 29th August Life Education
- Wednesday 27th August – Mokoia Open Evening
- Friday 29th August – LC Speech Finals
- Saturday 30th August – AIMS GAMES STARTS

Term 3 Week 8

- Monday 1st September – Friday 5th September Life Education
- Monday 1st September – Friday 5th September – AIMS GAMES
- Monday 1st September – Board Hui

Term 3 Week 9

- **Monday 8th September- Teacher Only Day (Half Day – School finishes at 11:30am)**
- Tuesday 9th September – RGHS Academies Open and Trial Day
- Wednesday 10th September – Wig Wednesday
- Thursday 11th September – Yr 8 Final Vaccinations
- Friday 12th September – School Speech Finals

Term 3 Week 10

- **Wednesday 17th September – New Board takes office**
- **Friday 19th September – Term 3 Ends.**



IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

Teacher Only Day

A reminder that we have our **½ day Teacher Only Day on Monday 8th of September**. School will **finish at 11:30am**.

Board Voting

Elections for our new Board of Trustees is now underway. All eligible voters should have received an email with a link to the Election Pilot portal in your email. Any voters without a registered email will receive their voting paper by mail.

Polls close at 4pm on Wednesday 10th of September, with **postal votes being accepted until Monday 15th September**.

Results will be declared on Tuesday 16th September, and the **new board takes office on Wednesday 17th September**.

KEY DATES FOR 2025

Term 4

Starts – Monday 6 October
Kaituna Camp – Tuesday 11th November to Friday 14th November
Puarenga Camp – Tuesday 18th November to Friday 21st November
Waiteti Camp – Tuesday 25th November to Friday 28th November
Ends – Thursday 11th Dec



Communication from Matua Rawiri

Teaching in Crisis: Why Fewer People Are Signing Up

Every child in New Zealand deserves a teacher who has the time, energy, and support to bring out their best. But right now, too many schools are struggling to give children the attention they need because we simply don't have enough teachers, and the ones we do have are being stretched to breaking point. Last week, secondary teachers walked off the job, reminding the nation once again of the deep cracks running through our education system. And while critics point to pay packets, the truth is that the crisis in teaching cuts far deeper.

The Numbers Tell the Story

Let's deal with some numbers first. Ten years ago, when a teaching job was advertised, schools could expect more than 70 applications. Today, many schools are lucky to get 10. At Waikato University, only 84 student teachers are finishing their training this year, compared to more than 280 a decade ago. Nationally, just 2,120 new teachers are expected to graduate in 2025, down from the mid-4,000's just ten years ago and compounding to this problem is that every year 11% of teachers leave the profession. This shortfall is already showing up in classrooms: relievers are almost impossible to find, and children are often split into larger classes when a teacher is away. Almost one in four schools in New Zealand now has a beginning principal, and nearly 60% of schools have a principal with fewer than six years' experience. Union surveys are also showing a lack of middle leaders willing to step up to principalship.

Why Teachers Are Leaving

Yes, pay matters. A 1% increase doesn't even cover the rising cost of living, and it sends a message that the huge responsibilities teachers carry are worth less each year. But let's be clear: this isn't just about salary. Even if salaries were fixed tomorrow, teachers would still be leaving because the workload is unsustainable and the support for children just isn't there. Every day, teachers are expected to do more with less:

- Children arrive at school with increasingly varied and complex needs, and the resources to meet those needs have not kept pace.
- Not every school has a Learning Support Coordinator, and even where they do exist, the scale of need far outweighs the help available.
- Teachers are often left to handle serious learning and behavioural challenges without adequate professional support.
- Many schools are even covering basic care needs because the system has failed to provide the specialised assistance our most vulnerable learners deserve.
- School readiness is declining, meaning our new entrant teachers are spending increasing amounts of time on fundamental skills such as turn-taking, toileting, and introducing children to books, instead of focusing on the key learning areas the Ministry requires.

New initiatives and mandates are rolling out faster than at any other time in education history, with little thought given to support, training, time, or impact. The pace is so fast that professional learning and development roles are sometimes advertised at the same time resources are sent to schools. When support systems fail, everything lands back on teachers. They are counsellors, social workers, nurses, speech therapists, behaviour specialists and somewhere in between all that, they are supposed to teach the curriculum. Is it any wonder that nearly half of new teachers leave within five years? The job has been stretched to breaking point, yet public debate continues to focus narrowly on pay rises "above inflation," as if this alone will solve the problem. It won't.

What Needs to Change

What we need is a serious national commitment to make teaching sustainable and attractive again. That means:

- Competitive pay that at least keeps up with inflation, so teachers don't fall further behind each year.
- Proper investment in learning support, so teachers aren't carrying the full weight of unmet needs.
- Targeted investment in training, with scholarships and bonded placements to rebuild the domestic pipeline, so we're not forced into crisis recruitment overseas.
- A bipartisan long-term education strategy that removes education from political point-scoring and allows for all schools to head in the same direction, and to plan for the future.

Until we face this, the downward spiral will continue: fewer trainees, more early exits, fewer relievers, bigger classes, more burnout. It's a vicious cycle, and the only people who lose more than the teachers are the children.

Why Parents Should Care

The truth is simple: we don't just lack teachers, we lack the conditions that make people want to become and remain teachers. But this isn't just about teachers; it's about your child's future. Without change, class sizes will keep growing, specialist help will stay out of reach, and more teachers will walk away. Supporting teachers now means standing up for schools, more support for your child, and a school system that can give every child the best start in life.

When you hear about teachers striking, know this: they're not walking away from your child, they're standing up for them. We ask for your support, your voice, and your understanding, because together we can make sure every child in New Zealand gets the education they deserve. Teaching is still, at its heart, a profoundly rewarding profession. But unless we all voice that we want to make it one people can afford to do, and survive doing, we won't have enough teachers left to give our children the education they deserve.



MOKOIA VALUE AWARD WINNERS



Whakaiti	<p>Barnaby Button - Barnaby you lead by example and always do the right thing without being asked. The way you go out of your way to help others so selflessly is something to be proud of. Keep being you Barnaby!</p> <p>Elsa Geo-James - Elsa is a fantastic role model who is always kind, polite, and respectful. She willingly helps out without needing to be asked and demonstrates whakaiti through her humility and quiet strength. We are so proud of you, Elsa!</p>
Kōmaitanga	<p>Izzy Malcolm - Izzy has grown from strength to strength. She has a great support system at home and in class, this shows when she arrives at school by being here, organised and ready to be her best self every single day! HŪRŌ Izzy!</p>
Manaakitanga	<p>Isabel Swart - Isabel is always kind, caring, and inclusive, making others feel welcomed and valued. Her thoughtfulness and empathy make a real difference to our school community.</p>
Wairuatanga	<p>Hannah Rossiter - who always cares, supports and gives unconditionally to others in our LC and school. A faithful friend to all! Miharo koe Hannah!</p>

HE TOHU WHAKAMANAWA AWARD

Congratulations to this week's recipient of our He Tohu Whakamanawa - All that I value I will uphold award - Ben Bridson in K1.

Awarded for showing kindness and compassion as an up-stander when someone needed assistance after school. Ben showed bravery in the face of injustice and was an excellent support for his friend. Ben you should be so proud of yourself.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION MERIT AWARDS

K4 Tessa La'aiva- for always being a great team player. You always give everything a go and with so much enthusiasm. Ka rawe!

K5 Karly Hunt - You always have a positive attitude and always give 100% to everything.



PUARENGA MERIT AWARD WINNERS

P2	<p>Koda Harris - You have been working consistently throughout all areas of your learning. You are asking great questions and using your inquisitive nature to extend your knowledge. You are learning to trust and believe in yourself. Keep up the wonderful work Koda. ♥</p> <p>Jessica Christoffersen - You are a quiet and humble person by nature, I admire the way you put yourself out there and just get on with it. It is wonderful to hear of your achievements outside the classroom and am incredibly proud of your success at the recent gymnastics competition. Fantastic Jessica.♥</p>
P3	<p>Frida Hamilton - for the impressive speech you researched and delivered about 'Tramping.' It is obviously a passion of yours. You spoke confidently, fluently and used hand gestures which kept your audience engaged. The photos you included made us feel like we were part of your adventure. Congratulations for making the Learning Centre final. We are super proud of you Frida. ♥</p> <p>Poppy Roberts - for the interesting, persuasive and educational speech you delivered about 'Plastic Pollution.' You spoke clearly and confidently. You shared a huge range of fascinating new facts and gave us ideas about how we can help the environment in the future. Congratulations for making the Learning Centre final. We are super proud of you Poppy. ♥</p> <p>Sapphire Weko - for the way you were on task and completed your work to a very high standard. You also showed patience and kindness when teaching a number of your classmates new skills. Thank you Sapphire. ♥</p>
P4	<p>Macy Green, Paige Gardiner, Caylin von Loggenburg, Ella-Jay Rangirangi, and Brooke Abbott—I respect the way you played hard and consistently in your team's final game for the year in spite of the atrocious weather. Kia kaha.</p> <p>Ryan Stevens, Jack Bradcock, Arlo Gray, Ethan Hucker, Tamajah-Li Kennard, Coby Steere, Frida Hamilton—your talent and dedication to your band is impressive. Well done on representing Mokoia Intermediate well in Rock Quest.</p>

WAITETI MERIT AWARD WINNERS

W2	<p>Trinity Haimona- Marks - Trinity is starting to step out of her comfort zone and give more activities a go. Ka pai koe Trinity!</p> <p>Eli Hall - Eli is a hardworker, dedicated and offers support to his peers. MEINGA MEINGA Eli!</p> <p>Jin Tao - Jin is starting to share her opinions in a respectful manner and learn to listen and hear what others have to share.</p>
W4	<p>Tyler Gibbs - Thank you for being a fantastic ambassador for Mokoia at our Year 6 Open Evening. You were helpful, respectful, and welcoming, making our guests feel comfortable and valued as you showed them around our school. We are very proud of you!</p> <p>Devon Tarplett - Thank you for being a fantastic ambassador for Mokoia at our Year 6 Open Evening. You were helpful, respectful, and welcoming, making our guests feel comfortable and valued as you showed them around our school. We are very proud of you!</p>



KAITUNA MERIT AWARD WINNERS

K1 Rumaki	Kiah-May Ranclaud - Kei te ako ia ki te tuhituhi mō ngā pūtaka maha. Hei tauria, ki te whakamahere ki te tuhituhi mō tētahi pūtaka whāiti me ngā āhuatanga reo e hāngai pū ana ki te pūtaka tuhituhi hoki. Ka taea e ia ki te whakamārama i te tikanga me te pānga o ngā āhuatanga reo i roto i te tuhinga. Tau kē koe Kiah-May!
K2 Rumaki	Phoenix Waldron - Mokori anō ngā mihi ki tēnei tama harikoa, tēnei tama menemene ka tae mai ki te kura ia te rā, ia te rā rite mō ngā mahi. He ngākau māhaki ki te tautoko i ō hoa Phoenix ki te oti pai i o rātou ake mahi. He pukumahi ki te oti i ngā mahi tuhi kōrero, ā, kua kite hoki i tō whanake i ngā uarā tū me ngā meka matua. Kei tawhiti koe Phoenix!
K3	Jasper Herbert - Jasper you prepared and delivered an amazing speech! You should be very proud of the way that you delivered it - I know that it was out of your comfort zone but you did a great job. Well done Jasper! Ka Rawe!
K5	<p>Karly Hunt - Congratulations! You prepared and delivered a fantastic speech about a sport you play and love. You have been working consistently throughout all areas of your learning. You are asking great questions and using your inquisitive nature to extend your knowledge. You are learning to trust and believe in yourself. Your efforts have seen you selected as Kaituna Learning Centre Yr7 representative for Mokoia Intermediate speech finals. Best of luck!</p> <p>Nehchal Kang - You did a fantastic job representing K5 in our learning centre finals, preparing and delivering an amazing speech. The devastating effects of floods most recently in New Zealand and around the world, should be recognised as you highlighted in your speech. Ka rawe!</p>

UTUHINA MERIT AWARD WINNERS - TECHNOLOGY

Hard Materials	<p>Laurel Papps W1: You have shown great enthusiasm in Woodtech. You have made a unique design and have had great patience to persevere when things don't always go to plan. I can't wait to see the final result, Well done!</p> <p>Rose Leeke P2: You have been putting in great effort and achieving great results! You give every new thing a good go even if you are unsure, keep up the great work Rose!</p> <p>JW Lee K4: JW, you always look like you are enjoying yourself in woodtech. You always have a great attitude and a willingness to learn new things. Keep up the great work!</p>
Food Technology	<p>Andre Niao-Jones W2 - thank you for showing leadership in food technology this week. Helping your buddy wash up correctly and encouraging others to do better. I appreciated you tasting the pasta so you were able to fairly evaluate your pasta. Keep being you Andre, making good choices regardless of what your peers might choose to do. Keep it up!</p> <p>Lea Morton P2 - week in and week out Lea, you work quietly and diligently do your mahi. I appreciate the enthusiasm and effort you apply to food technology and it's awesome to see you grow in confidence each week.</p> <p>Blaine Gordon K2 - Blaine, it's been a pleasure having you in class. That cheeky smile is infectious. But alongside our laughs, you really work hard at the task at hand. You are always polite and well aware of my classroom expectations. Keep working hard Blaine and it would be great to see you sharing these recipes at home :-)</p>