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Newsletter 21st April, 2026

From the Principal

A warm welcome to our new families starting.

REMINDER - PUBLIC HOLIDAY

School closed Monday April 27th for Anzac Day.

Key Aspects of Anzac Day:

- The Origins: It marks 25 April 1915, when ANZAC forces landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, beginning an eight-month campaign.
- Commemoration: It is a time for national reflection, traditionally marked by dawn services —symbolising the time of the landing—marches, and wreath-laying ceremonies.
- Significance: While it began to honor those who died at Gallipoli, it now commemorates all New Zealanders and Australians who have served or lost their lives in all conflicts.
- "Lest We Forget": This phrase is frequently used to honor the memory of those who died, with traditions including wearing red poppies and rosemary

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou – we will remember them.

We remember local soldiers who died with the ANZAC crosses displayed in the grass area by Room 9 and Room 10 . ANZAC poppies are available to buy through the office

REMINDER - TEACHER ONLY DAYS THIS TERM - School will be closed

Week 3 - Friday May 8th

The Ministry of Education facilitator is upskilling our teachers on the new Mathematics Curriculum.

Week 11 - Friday July 3rd

The Ministry of Education facilitator is upskilling our teachers on the new Assessment Tools.

Attendance Matters - Government Priority

The Government is very focused on raising student attendance and engagement. As parents we know that regular attendance at school or kura has an enormous impact on young people’s engagement, participation, and achievement.

School attendance has declined over the past decade. This means children and young people are missing out on learning, friendships and connections with their classmates and kaiako.

We all have a role to play in ensuring our young people are attending and engaging in their education. We know from research conducted by the Education Review Office that 41% of parents think it’s okay for their child to miss a week of school a term. We strongly encourage you as parents and whānau to take on board the importance of their child attending school every day unless your child is sick.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ATTENDANCE TARGET

Measure	2026 Target	Pakuranga Heights
		Term 1, 2026
Percentage of akōnga attending school regularly (attending more than 90%, an average of 9 days a fortnight)	80%	75%

We can do better together. ‘Our school vision is reaching new heights together’

Bringing Toys or Swap Cards to School

We do not encourage any toys or cards coming to

school. The toys tend to get broken and arguments occur because of card swapping. The safest thing to do is to leave all valuables at home.

Parking Reminders - Blocking Neighbour's Driveways

The school often gets calls from angry local residents about a parent parking over their driveway. A reminder that the minimum distance you are allowed to park from a vehicle entrance is one meter. Any closer than this and it makes it difficult for people in larger vehicles to get in and out of the driveway, and you could obstruct emergency services. The residents are within their rights to call the local council and complain.

Common sense rules- if you think it is illegal then it probably is.

Showquest 2026

Showquest is a nationwide performing arts programme for students across Aotearoa, giving young people the chance to create, perform and lead on professional stages around the country.

Each school develops an original performance that weaves together the six elements of Showquest — Art, Music, Dance, Drama, Culture and Technology — exploring a theme chosen by the students themselves.

Pakuranga Heights has a team of 90 students from Years 1-6 taking part in Showquest this year. Our performance explores the themes of perseverance and the pursuit of one's dreams, illustrating the importance of resilience in the face of adversity. The performance will take place at Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre on June 12.

Major School Events

Week Two - April 27th - May 1st

Monday - ANZAC Day - School Closed

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Year 5 students cycle skills

Week Three - May 4th - May 8th

Sign Language Week

Monday - Motat - Rooms 18, 21, 22

Tuesday - Board Meeting

Tuesday - Visit to Howick Historical Village - Room 5, Room 7 and Room 6

Wednesday - Motat - Room 19, 20, 23

Friday- Teacher Only Day - Mathematics

Week Four - May 11th - May 15th

Tuesday 12th May -Visit to Howick Historical Village - Room 1, Room 2, Room 3 and Room 8

Friday May 15 -Pink Shirt Day - Anti-Bullying Day - Dodgeball Interschool Competition

Week Five - May 18th - May 22nd

Friday May 22nd - Full school Assembly and Open Classrooms - All Welcome

Week Six - May 25th - May 29th

Friday 29th May - Book Day

Week Seven - June 1st - June 5th

Friday June 5th - Photolife - Class and Individual Photos

Week Eight - June 8th - June 12th

Wednesday 10th - Interschool Rugby League (Senior students)

Friday 12th - Showquest Performing Group

Week Nine - June 15th - June 19th

Tuesday 16th - Soccer Interschool Day

Friday 19th June - Pakuranga's School Got Talent

Week Ten - June 22nd - June 26th

Friday 26th June - Full School Assembly and Student Reports Go Home

Week Eleven - June 29th - July 3rd

Tuesday 30th June - Board Meeting

Wednesday 1st July - Thursday 2nd July - Parent and Teacher Conferences

Friday 3rd July - Teacher Only Day - Ministry of Education Assessment Contract

We look forward to a great term

Fintan, Sue and Vinnie

Celebrating Excellence - Room 7

At the end of Term 1, Room 7 had been busy learning all about different types of tools and how we use them in our everyday lives, especially in the classroom!

As part of this learning, we worked together to create a collaborative piece of artwork based on a class-chosen theme of *sea animals*. Students explored a variety of classroom tools to bring their ideas to life, including paper, pencils, crayons, paintbrushes, sponges, and watercolour paints. We even had little sea animal models to inspire our drawings!

We are incredibly proud of the creativity, perseverance, and growing understanding demonstrated by all students throughout this learning journey.



Book Day & Parade

Book Day and Parade

It's time to dust off the glue guns and get creative. Book Day is this term, Friday, 29th May and we have a fantastic theme this year:

Celebrating New Zealand Authors

We want to see our tamariki bringing local stories to life. From the classic tales of Margaret Mahy and Joy Cowley to the modern favorites of Selina Tusitala Marsh or Donovan Bixley, there is a wealth of Kiwi talent to choose from.

- Here are some great New Zealand books and their authors
- *Hairy Maclary & Friends* (Lynley Dodd)
- *The Wonky Donkey* (Craig Smith)
- *Badjelly the Witch* (Spike Milligan)
- Margaret Mahy Characters
 - *The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate*
 - *The Lion in the Meadow*
 - *The Witch in the Cherry Tree*
- *Kuwi the Kiwi* (Kat Merewether)
- *Greedy Cat* (Joy Cowley)

Costumes for the Parade

The judges are always looking for costumes that are hand made by the students with help from their family members. It is a great opportunity to have some fun together and remember nothing needs to be bought. It is a good time to start collecting recyclable materials e.g. cardboard boxes, old clothing, empty milk bottles, plastic lids, etc to make your

costume and props for the parade.