

Weekly Newsletter

17th October 2025



COMING UP

Week 3

Monday 20th- Middle School Sprints 11am

Tuesday 21st -

-Diwali Dress Up!

- Touch Rugby Y5&6

Wednesday 22nd -

Pōhutukawa Athletics

Yr 3 & 4 Touch Rugby

Thursday 23rd

October

Strike Day-

School Closed

Week 4

Monday- Labour Day-
School Closed

Tuesday- Senior Athletics

-BOT Hui

Friday- Whole School
Running Finals



Mr Williams' Message

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

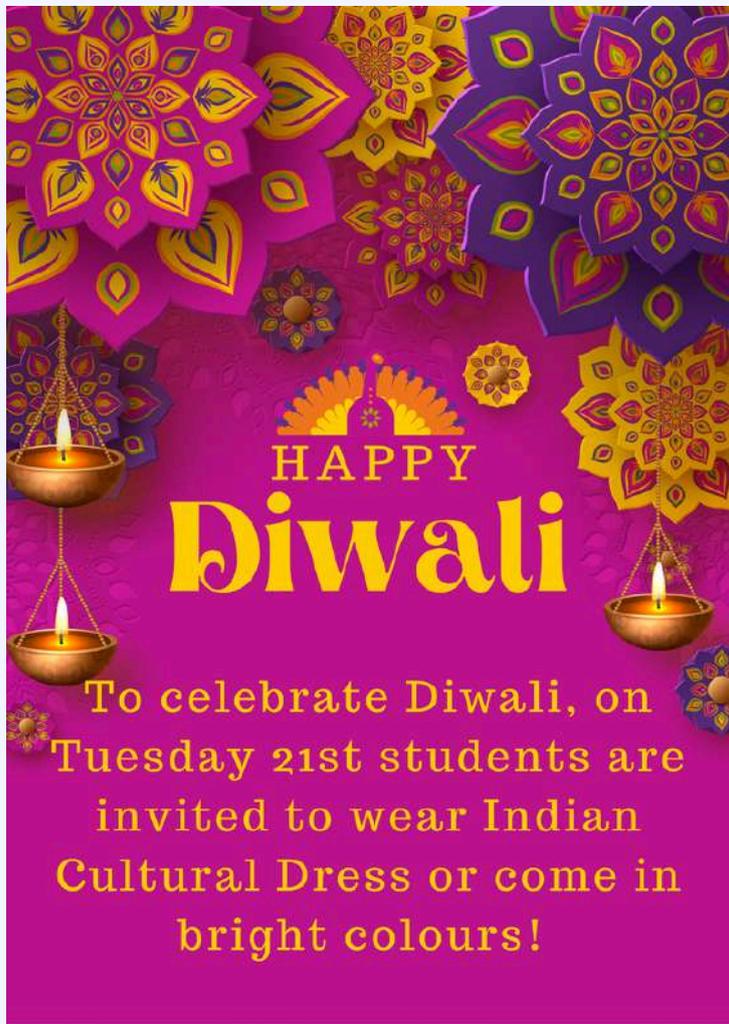
It has been an exciting week in the Year 5 & 6 team, with all our students taking part in our school EPro8 competition. EPro8 is a science and technology challenge that encourages teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving as students work together to complete a series of engineering-based tasks. It was fantastic to see the collaboration, perseverance, and innovation on display throughout the event. A big congratulations to all who took part, and well done to our winning teams who will go on to represent Pukekohe Hill at the Franklin Schools competition in two weeks' time.

We were also very fortunate to welcome three inspiring guests this week – Olympic rower Brooke Francis, and Kiwi explorers and motivational speakers James Christie and William Pike. Their visit supported our Term 4 concept, He Mana, he Taonga – Mana is a Treasure. Their messages about teamwork, perseverance, and supporting others beautifully reinforced this week's focus on Mana Ūkaipo, a sense of belonging.

As we head toward the end of the year, we are beginning our planning for 2026. To help us with this, it would be very helpful to know if your child will be moving schools next year, or if you have a child starting in 2026. This information supports our planning for class placements, staffing, and transitions. Please contact the school office if there are any changes to your family's plans for next year.

We have also noticed an increasing number of students arriving late to school in the mornings. Our school day begins at 8:55am, and it's important that all students are here and ready to start learning by this time. Arriving late means students miss valuable learning time and can feel unsettled at the start of the day, which impacts both their own learning and the flow of the class. Your support in ensuring children arrive on time each morning is greatly appreciated.

Ngā mihi nui



2025 Leavers Bricks

Orders open on KINDO, closing 12 December

Māori Enrichment Class

We are taking expressions of interest for the 2026 Y5/6 Māori Enrichment class. Students in this class will have a focus on learning and using Te Reo Māori, Māori Culture and Tikanga on a daily basis with a combination of English and te reo language being spoken.

Click [here](#) to express your interest.

2026 Senior Camp- Chosen Valley

Save the date! Senior camp planning is already underway! If you are interested in being a parent helper, please contact Leem@pukekohehill.school.nz- Police vetting will be undertaken this term.

2026 Class Planning

If you are moving away and know your child will not be returning in 2025, Please email admin@pukekohehill.school.nz and let us know.

If you have a preschooler turning 5 and joining us next year we would also like to hear from you, please submit a online enrolment form for them and we can add them to our pre enrolment list!

PTA FUNDRAISER

Delicious Cookies

Tuesday 4th November

• **Order Via Kindo**
• *****Limited Numbers*****

• **Orders Close Sunday 2nd November 5pm**

\$2.50 each

DOUBLE CHOC CHIP **CHOCOLATE CHIP** **M & M**



South Auckland Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon

Tue, November 25, 2025 8:00 am

Pukekohe Hill School has created a school group for the TRYathlon. If you would like your child to participate, you have the option to join as part of the school group when you register your child online.

Please note, that it is the responsibility of each family to be there on the day to support your child, and to organise transport of your child, their bike and helmet etc. Our school will have a marquee set up on the day to provide a meeting place for our school group, and a place to chill in the shade.

To register your child for the TRYathlon as part of the school group, please click on this link: <http://raceroster.com/events/2025/109737/south-auckland-weet-bix-kids-tryathlon/register?team=874896>

Please note all participants must be aged from 6 to 15 years on event day.

Distances are approximate and are as follows;

- 6 year olds 50m swim / 1.5km run**
- 7 year olds 50m swim / 4km cycle / 1.5km run**
- 8 – 9 year olds 100m swim / 4km cycle / 1.5km run**
- 10 – 15 year olds 150m swim / 8km cycle / 1.5 km run**

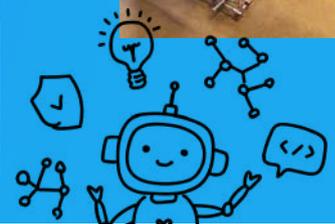
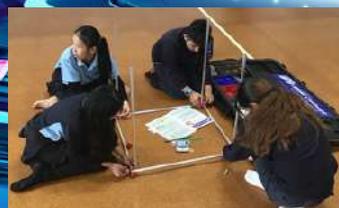
Entry Options

- Splash & Dash – 6 year olds only. Swim and run.**
- Individual TRYathlete – 7-15 year olds. Swim, cycle and run.**
- Teams of Two – 7-9 year olds (Juniors) and 10-15 year olds (Seniors). One team member does the swim, the other does the cycle, and both do the run.**

EPro8

This week, the top team from each senior class went head to head in an exciting EPro8 challenge to find our school's champion innovator and problem solver.

Students worked together to tackle creative tasks. It was amazing to see the teamwork and determination. Congratulations to all our finalists.



Enviro News

October Gardening - What to Do



October is a month of warming temperatures and rapid growth. It's best to start out with caution, as the early weeks are still unpredictable; we can still get freezing temperatures and turbulent conditions. As the month goes by, the weather generally becomes more settled and starts to hint at the summer days ahead.

What to do this Month Vege Tasks

- Now the soil's warm, most summer season crops can be started from seed directly into the garden, or in a sunny spot indoors. Do remain watchful for late frosts; they can cause serious harm to plants out in the open.
- Sow seeds for beans, peas, carrots, radish, sweetcorn, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, tomatoes, capsicum, silverbeet, spinach, parsnip, cucumber, zucchinis, pumpkins and melons.
- Before planting anything, it's a good idea to spend time preparing the soil to remove all weeds, plus add generous amounts of compost along with natural fertilisers like Yates Dynamic Lifter or Yates Thrive Natural Blood and Bone.
- If growing from seed isn't for you, your local garden centre will have a wide range of seedlings ready to be planted straight away.
- Get ready for climbing crops by adding trellis and support structures, before planting the plants.
- Potatoes can be planted now. Pre-sprouting can get them going sooner, but isn't necessary for a successful harvest.
- Once the crops get going, feed all your vegetable plants weekly with a liquid fertiliser to encourage healthy growth.

More Information - www.yates.co.nz

We had an amazing presentation from an Olympian gold medalist this week - Brooke Francis- NZ Rower.

Brooke talked about the importance of discipline, respect and working towards a goal. Brooke won a gold medal at last year's Olympics in France. She won her silver medal in Tokyo in 2020. Some lucky students even got to model them! The silver medal was made in Japan out of old recycled phones and the gold medal was made out of a piece of the Eiffel Tower.



My Moment

The gates open. keeping a nice pace. pushing against the walls, my legs get numb. rowing steadily, my hands get blisters. keeping the boat stable, I increase speed. My hands and legs are very numb. The crowd gets louder. Passing the first quarter, feeling like I won't make it, I push myself to the limit. I can not feel my legs, but my arms are still intact.

Bradyn Doubell

The Golden Moment

We were huffing and puffing like we were the big bad wolf trying to blow down the brick house. I had to use my muscles and Row. The crowd was cheering, "Go New Zealand, go New Zealand!" We had to do a thousand sitting down squats and really think about staying in the right lane. Our arms, legs, tummy, and biceps were extremely sore. I had to do a lot of training to win. We were neck and neck. The Kiwis were only two inches away from the other boat, and the wind was all over our faces. We cross the finish line, and the crowd goes wild. I felt very proud. I am so happy I got the gold medal. Now, we fly home to do some more training.

By Hazel Kaur



Community News



Supporting Our Teachers – Special Programme for Strike Day

As you may know, teachers will be taking strike action on Thursday, 23 October 2025, and Pukekohe Hill School will be closed for the day.

To support our families, we'll be running a Special Day Programme full of fun Halloween themed crafts and activities for the children.

Programme Details

If your child already attends before and/or after-school care on Thursdays, please make an extra booking for this session. Your usual after-school booking and rate will still apply.

8.30 – 3.00pm
Teacher Only Day session – \$20.00 (incl. GST)

Before and/or After School Care Options

- 6.30am-8.30am – Normal before-school care rates apply
- 8.00am-8.30am – Normal before-school rates apply
- 3.00pm – 4:30pm – Normal after-school care rates apply
- 3.00pm – 6:00pm – Normal after-school care rates apply

For families not already booked in for ASC on that day, please book either of the following Casual sessions:

- Full Day (7.30am – 6:00pm) – \$50.00 (incl. GST)
- Part Day (8.30am – 3:00pm) – \$40.00 (incl. GST)

How to Book

1. Go to kidsafterschool.aimyplus.com
2. Log in and click "Make a Booking" under your name
3. Select "Special Day", click Next, then click Book to confirm your child's place

If you have any questions or need a hand with booking, please get in touch with us at 09 236 4078 or admin@kidsafterschool.co.nz – we're happy to help. We look forward to a fun day with the children!

Creating pathways for success

Thursday
23 OCT
7PM, PUKEKOHE

communities to provide support and
for those facing challenging circumstances.

THRIVING WITH ADHD 2025!

Join us at this in-person event where we'll hear from our panelists & guests, tips, and stories to help you navigate life with ADHD. Whether you have ADHD yourself or support someone who does, this event is for you. Come connect with others, enjoy spot prizes, a delicious supper and learn how to make the most of your unique strengths.

(Suggested age group 10yrs + and adults)

WALTER
NIELANDS

CATHERINE
TAFTO

TOM LITTLE

ROCHELLE
JENKINS

DATE: THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER
TIME: DOORS OPEN 6.30PM FOR 7PM START.
LOCATION: UPLIFT CENTRE: 52 FRANKLIN ROAD, PUKEKOHE, AUCKLAND
REGISTER HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.NZ/E/THRIVING-WITH-ADHD-2025-AUCKLAND-TICKETS-1653381090345](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/thriving-with-adhd-2025-auckland-tickets-1653381090345)

www.the runwayfoundation.net.nz

Diwali

LET'S CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS TOGETHER

SATURDAY, 18TH OCTOBER 2025

PIA EVENT CENTRE - 55 WARD STREET, PUKEKOHE

4PM - 9PM

FREE
EVENT

FOOD STALLS | KIDS CRAFTS | LIVE DJ
DANCE PERFORMANCES | FASHION SHOW
& LOTS OF GAMES & GIVE AWAYS

PHOTOGRAPHY PARTNER

DJ & DECORATION PARTNER

EMCEE PARTNER

DIGITAL PARTNER

PROUD SPONSORS

MEDIA PARTNERS

For Sponsorship & Performances
Arshdeep Kaur - 021 164 1674

For Stalls & Other Information
Anindita - +64 21 237 0600