

NEWSLETTER



COMING UP

Term 1 2026
Important Dates!

Friday 6th Feb - Waitangi
Day, School closed
Thursday 19th Feb - Growers
Festival 5-7pm
Tuesday 24th Feb - BOT
meeting 6pm

Mr Williams' Message

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

Thank you all for the wonderful support you've shown during the first few weeks of school. It has been great to welcome our new whānau and to begin building the connections that sit at the heart of supporting our learners.

This term our concept is Tūrangawaewae – My Place to Stand. Our focus is on getting to know our learners, strengthening relationships, and fostering a strong sense of belonging within our kura. It has been fantastic to see students confidently sharing about themselves and their whānau. Thank you for the support you've provided from home in helping them do this.

Our Growers Festival will be held on Thursday 19 February - 5-7pm. This is always a special event on our school calendar. As our first whole-school community gathering of the year, it's a great opportunity to come together. Alongside our much-loved indoor projects, pumpkin competition, veggie stalls, and food trucks, we're excited to be introducing a few new activities this year. We'd love to see the whole family there. Bring grandparents, cousins... the whole whānau!

Last year marked our first experience with the EPro8 competition, and our teams performed exceptionally well, going on to represent Franklin at the South Auckland regional event. This year, our goal is to purchase our own EPro8 kits so students can have regular opportunities to engage in hands-on engineering and problem-solving challenges. We are currently seeking support from individuals or businesses who may be interested in helping us with the purchase of these kits. Further information is included later in this newsletter.

Have great Waitangi weekend.

Term 1 Focus



Can your business **HELP?**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SPONSORSHIP TO HELP FUND THE PURCHASE OF SOME EPRO8 KITS.

THE EPRO8 CHALLENGE IS A SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING COMPETITION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

PUKEKOHE HILL WOULD LOVE TO BUY OUR OWN KITS TO ALLOW OUR STUDENTS EXPOSURE TO THIS LEARNING.

Each kit is \$1,590
Business will be given exposure through our newsletter.

Paper bags needed!

If you have a stash of paper bags spare, we need some for our growers festival, please drop to the office!

Road Patrol Supervisor Needed!

Monday AM needed!
Email leem@pukekohehill.school.nz if you can help!

WHĀNAU EVENING & GROWERS FESTIVAL 19TH FEBRUARY 2026



Growers Festival reminders Student Categories

There are 4 exciting categories to enter:

1. 🍷 Pumpkins
2. 🌿 Designer Grass Heads
3. 🏠 Bird Houses
4. 📷 Photography

- ✅ Children can enter more than one category, but only once per category.
- ✅ Entries will be displayed and judged in teams: Pohutukawa (Yr 0-2), Kauri (Yr 3-4), and Totara (Yr 5-6).
- ✅ Each item must clearly show the student's name and room number for judging.
- ✅ Projects must be created or grown by students, with adult help only when necessary. For example, when using sharp objects.

Photography - Photographs can be given to your child's teacher or Mrs Willis in Rm 23 from this week.

Bloomarama Challenge

The Bloomarama - This event is open to parents, grandparents, and caregivers. Bring in your best bloom from your garden to share and celebrate.

****Bring items before school on the morning of the Growers Festival. Please take to the stage area. They are to be taken home anytime during the evening.**

ENVIRO TEAM NEWS

WHAT TO DO IN FEBRUARY

February is often the best month of summer. The hotter, more settled weather perfectly coincides with the kids going back to school. At this stage of summer, the garden can seem tired after months of blooming, producing and coping with the dry conditions. To ensure plants continue to flourish right to the end of the season, make a conscious effort to get into the garden to nurse it through to autumn. Increase your vigilance for any problems and tackle them straight away.

Veggie Garden Tasks

- Sow seeds for beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, leeks, radish, silverbeet, swedes, spinach and parsnip.
- Extend the harvest with succession plantings of beetroot, carrots, salad crops, spring onion, and kohlrabi.
- Keep harvesting beans, tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, peppers and zucchini. These plants are desperately trying to set seed; if you let them, they'll decide their work is done and stop producing. The more you keep picking, the more each plant will yield.
- Give plants an energy boost with a weekly liquid feed, to help them resist pests and disease, plus keep on delivering a generous harvest.
- February is a high risk month for mildew on cucumbers, melons, zucchini and pumpkins. Remove the worst affected leaves and spray with Yates Nature's Way Fungus Spray.
- Pick sweetcorn when the tassels go dry and crispy, when the ears stick out about 45° and when the juice from a kernel looks milky.

Trees and Shrubs

- There's a classic rule of thumb that a tree needs about 38 litres of water for every 2.5cm of its trunk diameter, every week! Give your established trees a regular deep watering when the weather is warm and dry. A good layer of mulch helps prevent evaporation; but avoid spreading mulch right up to the base of the tree, so it's touching the trunk. It's important to leave an air gap, so the tree trunk isn't at risk of diseases that thrive in the warm, moist conditions mulch creates.
- An oscillating sprinkler will effectively water a group of shrubs or a hedge.
- Trees and shrubs are vulnerable to late summer pests and diseases. In dry conditions, check for thrips and mites. In humid conditions, check for fungal diseases like black spot and mildew.

<https://www.yates.co.nz/>

Camp B day helpers:

Calling all camp B parents, we still need some day helpers to run our amazing activities! Please email leem@pukekohehill.school.nz if you are able to come out and help!

TEACHER ONLY DAY

SAVE THE DATE

27

FRIDAY
MARCH
2026



TEACHER ONLY DAY
TO ALLOW ALL OUR STAFF TO ATTEND
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY-
JASE WILLIAMS- EMOTIONAL
REGULATION

RAFFLE DONATIONS

Can you help??

We are looking for some yummy non-perishable food items to make grocery hampers to raffle at our Growers Festival.

Please drop donations outside the office between 8.30-9 am
From Mon 9th-Tue 17th, earn whānau points for every donation!



Swimming is fun. 🏊‍♂️ 😊



Room 11 LOVE SWIMMING



PUKEKOHE HILL SCHOOL

**FREE
ENTRY**

Growers Festival

**5PM
-7PM**

**THURSDAY
19TH FEB**

CLASSROOM DISPLAYS,
VEGE STALLS,
FOOD STALLS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
AND MORE!

GROWING GREAT PEOPLE,
TOGETHER!



Community News



Kids' Beats GROUP

DRUMLINE & BUCKET DRUMMING LESSONS

DURING SCHOOL AND AFTER SCHOOL

AGES 7-12

EMAIL
ADMIN@KIDSBEATS.CO
FOR MORE INFORMATION



FRANKLIN Indian Cultural Club

BHANGRA & BOLLYWOOD CLASSES

Get ready to move and groove - punjabi style!

Saturday mornings!
31st Jan Onwards

Bollywood
9.45 - 10.30am

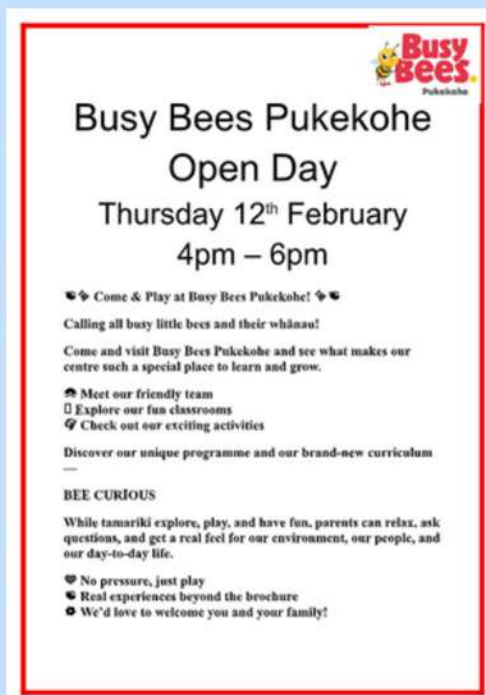
Kids Bhangra
10:30-11:15am (Kids)

11:30-12:30pm (Adults)

For more info, call
Coach Arsh
021 164 1674

Venue:
Pukekohe Intermediate
44 Queen Street (Gate 3)
Pukekohe

Follow us on:
Instagram: @franklinindianclub
Facebook: Franklin Indian Cultural Club



Busy Bees Pukekohe

Open Day

Thursday 12th February
4pm – 6pm

☛ Come & Play at Busy Bees Pukekohe! ☛

Calling all busy little bees and their whānau!

Come and visit Busy Bees Pukekohe and see what makes our centre such a special place to learn and grow.

- ☛ Meet our friendly team
- ☛ Explore our fun classrooms
- ☛ Check out our exciting activities

Discover our unique programme and our brand-new curriculum

BEE CURIOUS

While tamariki explore, play, and have fun, parents can relax, ask questions, and get a real feel for our environment, our people, and our day-to-day life.

- ☛ No pressure, just play
- ☛ Real experiences beyond the brochure
- ☛ We'd love to welcome you and your family!



FRANKLIN SQUASH CLUBS

JUNIOR TRAINING!

TERM 1 LESSONS 9 FEB - 30 MAR
ON ALL MONDAYS DURING THE TERM
EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
GEAR PROVIDED AT THE CLUB
2 FREE TRIAL SESSIONS
\$100 FOR THE YEAR

CONTACT US TO JOIN - CAN START MID TERM
MARK - 027-478-5021
OR EMAIL ADMIN@FRANKLINSQUASH.ORG.NZ

CLASSES	TIME (MONDAY)
GROUP 1	4.00 - 4.55PM
GROUP 2	4.55 - 5.50PM
GROUP 3	5.50 - 6.45PM

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
NEW WORLD Pukekohe



PUKEKOHE RUGBY Est 1956

QUIZ!

Don't miss our Quiz Night fundraising for Junior Rugby Fees!
Come on and show your knowledge with your friends.

Table Register \$250, 6 people max
Book a table now!

Raffles available
Pre-order Food Platters

Friday 13th March 2026
6.30pm | Door Open At 5.30pm

RSVP SHIVANA@PUKEKOHERUGBY.CO.NZ



PUKEKOHE RUGBY

Junior Rugby Boot Exchange

Got boots or uniform your kids have outgrown?
Bring them in and help another junior player gear up for the season.

Drop off-point
Pukekohe Rugby Clubrooms

Bring when the clubrooms are open

We're collecting good-conditioned uniform/ boots to help support our growing player
All sizes welcome

"Seasons For Growth is a grief, loss and change Programme for children dealing with challenges in their lives e.g separation, divorce, death, other family changes. Our Afterschool Programme starts Thursday 12th of February 4-5pm, in Pukekohe, and runs once a week over 8 weeks. An optional Parent Programme also runs at the same time. For enquiries or enrolments please phone/text Marisa on 021 142 5812, office (09) 238 7228, or email at seasonsfranklin@xtra.co.nz. For more info please go to www.pukekohecommunityaction.co.nz/seasons."