



Ellerslie School

EST 1877

"To be the best we can be."



Greetings | Giday | Kia Ora | Kia Orana | Malo e Lelei | Fakaalofa Lahi Atu | Talofa Lava
Nī hāo | Salut | Namaste | Bonjour | Bula Vinaka | Guten Tag | Goeie Dag | Shalom | Cìao
おはよう (Ohayoou) | 안녕 Ahn Nyeong | Olá | Privat! | Xin Chào | Salam

Newsletter 2 | Term One | Week 4 | February 27, 2025 | www.ellerslie.school.nz | www.facebook.com/ellerslieschool

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Tena koutou katoa Ellerslie whānau

We have almost completed four weeks of Term 1 and much has already been achieved. Well done to all Year 5-8 students who have been engaged in swimming lessons so far this term. These have been successfully led by Helen and the team at the Y Lagoon Pool and Leisure Centre in Panmure. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who attended the Meet the Teacher evening. These sessions provided a great deal of information for parents and caregivers. Please contact your child's guardian teacher if you have any further questions.

Attendance

One of the things we are continuing to focus on in 2025 is **student attendance**. Throughout the year you will hear us talking about this with you, with our students and it remains a strong subject of conversation in the staffroom and across the country. **If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age.** As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance. All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school. **Students are also required to be on time to school.**



You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or for medical reasons. Family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent.

Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school can be tricky. Health guidance to support you to decide is available [here](#). If you are still unsure, get in touch with us and let's work together to support your learner. If you are finding it hard to get your child to school, please talk with us so we can work together. Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school.

Our school continues to build a culture that fosters attendance every day by having:

- School staff who have strong relationships with students and family.
- A school culture that recognises your child and your family for who you are, where you come from
- A school whānau that takes all practical steps to make sure your child is at school and progressing in their learning.
- A school that is safe and welcoming for everyone in our school community.

If you have any attendance queries and issues, please contact us so we can work together.

OUR TARGET - 80% of students need to attend school 90% of the time through the year.

Ellerslie School Cares - Family Support

The school would like to once again reinstate the support team 'Ellerslie Cares'. The purpose of this group is to continue to develop strong connections and engagement with the school community to ensure all whānau and families receive the support they need to help their children have the best chance of succeeding at school. While the school already supports a number of families in a variety of ways, we are aware that there might be other families in our community who may need support. We have an email address cares@ellerslie.school.nz so people can contact the support team. This may be because you are directly asking for some support or you are aware of another family who may need support. All information is treated as highly confidential.

2025 SCHOOL DONATIONS

Thank you to those families who have already contributed their school donation for 2025. This is already helping with:

- Supporting school trips, sports events and activities, making sure everyone gets to attend these exciting experiences.
- Purchasing new structured literacy books right across the school, a very important resource that is required to support our new reading approach.
- Funding Teacher Aide salaries, they are an incredible group of staff, working in our learning environments that make a difference to your children, everyday.
- Ensuring we have enough curriculum and extracurricular resources so we can provide opportunities to learn and foster your children's passions and interests.
- Maintaining a school counsellor so to ensure the school is providing specialist support needed for many children.

Your donation goes a long way to helping to provide the essentials that we need at Ellerslie School to give all children the best chance of progressing, achieving and enjoying school. Donations can be paid on Kindo. Just click [here](#) to login into your Kindo account.

Kindo part payment: To part-pay for an item on Kindo you can overtype the amount in the white box with the lower amount you are wanting to pay today. Only then click Add to cart and go through the Checkout process and place the order.

The screenshot shows a checkout interface for a '2025 School Donation'. At the top left, it says 'Fees and Donations' and 'Sam'. Below this, there are three boxes: 'Amount owing' pointing to 'Total: \$400.00', 'Amount already paid' pointing to 'Paid: \$0.00', and 'Amount to part pay' pointing to a white input box containing '\$ 30.00'. To the right of the input box is a dark blue 'Add to cart' button.

Please remember you can receive a tax credit of 33% of your school donation. To submit a claim follow this link - [Submit a donation receipt \(ird.govt.nz\)](#). Thank you for your ongoing support.

Dilworth Senior Open Day - Sunday 30 March 2pm-4pm

The Dilworth School Open Day provides a great opportunity for potential students and their whānau to meet some of the staff and students and explore our campuses. The wonderful teaching staff, senior management, and admissions teams will be present to answer any and all questions regarding boarding, our curriculum, the opportunities available at Dilworth School, and the application process. This is for students going into Year 9 in 2026. Please click [here](#) to register

Ngā mihi nui
Nick Butler - Principal
'To be the best we can be'

THIS WEEK AT ELLERSLIE SCHOOL

SCHOOL FOCUS

School Focus for Week 4: Be Respectful - I can be respectful by following rules.

School Focus for Week 5: Teacher's Choice.

School Focus for Week 6: Be Kind - I can be kind by looking after others.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL BIG PICNIC - THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY

Please come and join our Ellerslie School BIG Picnic TONIGHT from 5:00pm to 7:30pm - which will be held on the school field. It's the perfect chance for catching up with friends and getting to know new families from your children's year and Guardian Groups. We can't wait to see you and your whānau there - this is an annual event not to be missed!

Bring your own picnic to enjoy, or we will have the following food on offer to buy: Curry, Sushi, BLT's, Pizza, Sausage Sizzle, Ice Blocks and Snow Cones. We'll have a Bouncy Castle and Inflatable Crazy Course for the kids to have fun on, plus you can throw wet sponges at teachers!

REMINDER - STAFF ONLY DAYS 2025

Please note that Staff Only Days will be held on **Monday 28 April and Tuesday 29 April, 2025**. Ellerslie School will be **CLOSED** for instruction on these days. Kelly Club will be open to those who require child care services - ellerslie@kellyclub.co.nz.

NEW ENTRANT PARENT INFORMATION SESSION - WEDNESDAY 05 MARCH

Here at Ellerslie School, we understand the significance of the milestone of your child beginning school at 5. As a parent, you may have many questions ranging from what happens during your child's day, to how you can support them at home. If you would like to learn more about school as a 5 year old, please come along to our information session for New Entrant parent/guardians on Wednesday 05 March from 9:00am - 10:00am in our school staffroom with our Deputy Principal, Jillian Mitchell.

SENIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS - WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH

On Wednesday 12 March, students in Years 5-8 can take part in the Ellerslie School Swimming Sports held at Sacred Heart College Aquatic Centre. This event is open to Year 5-8 students who can swim at least 25 metres without assistance (this is the length of a full-sized public swimming pool). Parents and whānau are welcome to attend and support this event and volunteers are also needed. If you are able to assist, please contact office@ellerslie.school.nz.

WEETBIX TRYATHLON - SUNDAY 30 MARCH

This year's Weetbix Tryathlon will take place on Sunday, 30 March at Point England Reserve. The Early Bird Discount ends on 2 March 2024. The Splash and Dash event is available for 6-year-olds, while the Tryathlon is open to students aged 7 and above. Ellerslie School is registered, which means you can have your child's registration pack delivered directly to school, plus a chance for us to win prizes for the school. For more information and to register, please click on this [link](#). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sam Small at sams@ellerslie.school.nz.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We're looking for volunteers to help run a sausage sizzle on the day of the event. We're also seeking donations of bags of pre-cooked sausages or loaves of bread. Please let Sam Small know if you can help with either of these, your support is greatly appreciated!

SCHOOL PHOTOS - MONDAY 31 MARCH AND TUESDAY 01 APRIL

Photolife will be here at Ellerslie School to take students' individual and class photos on Monday 31 March and Tuesday 01 April. Please ensure that the correct school uniform is worn by all students on those days, including correct socks/tights and black school shoes. The Ellerslie School uniform guidelines are available on the Ellerslie School website.

If your child/ren require sibling photos, Photolife requires specific parent/guardian permission to do these. Siblings must be students of Ellerslie School. Please complete this [Sibling form](#) by Wednesday 26 March (strict deadline). If there is no permission given, sibling photos will not be taken.

2025 SWIMMING PROGRAMME

From Week 2 to Week 9 this term, all students will take part in swimming lessons at the YMCA Panmure pool. Students will have eight 30 minute lessons across a 2 week block. Students will travel to and from the pools by bus. Permission forms and



The Ellerslie School
Big Picnic
Thursday 27 February
5:00pm - 7:30pm
at Ellerslie School

Bring your family and a picnic blanket to relax with old and new friends.

Bring a picnic or buy:
Curry and sushi (available to buy before on Kindo),
BLTs, pizza, sausage sizzle,
ice-blocks and snow cones!

Other fun activities:
Bouncy Castle and Inflatable Crazy Course \$2.00
Throw wet sponges at your teachers \$2.00

See you there!

Free dance lessons with
Free sports games with
KELLY CLUB

further information will be emailed out in the coming weeks, depending on when your child's swimming lessons will start. Swimming fees can be paid on Kindo.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2025

Football registrations are now open for the Ellerslie Tamaki League! If you'd like to sign up for a school team (U6-U8 only), please register using this [LINK](#). Early registration is encouraged to ensure we have enough team gear and to give players the best chance of being placed with their friends. For key details about the season dates, fees, uniforms, and more, please visit [here](#) If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sam Small - sams@ellerslie.school.nz.

PASSION CLUBS - TERM 1

This term there are a range of exciting lunchtime Passion Clubs on offer for our students in Years 1-8. If your child is interested in trying one of these fantastic activities, ask your child to speak to their Guardian Group teacher.

- Enviro
- Knitting
- Junior Kapa Haka
- Lego
- Origami
- Ping Pong
- Pasifika
- Latin Dance
- Chill and Construction
- Mindful Colouring & Drawing

If you are interested in donating resources for Passion Clubs or can offer your skills to teach a Passion Club in Term 2, please email hannae@ellerslie.school.nz.



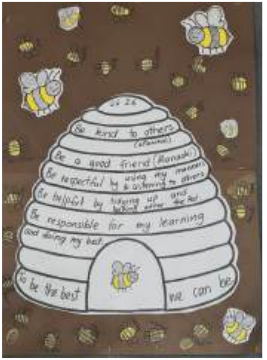
CARDBOARD

The school is looking for stocks of clean cardboard for a number of student projects around the school. If anyone can help with this or has a contact that is a supplier, please let us know at shereem@ellerslie.school.nz.

IMPORTANT - UPDATING YOUR DETAILS

Do we have your correct contact details? Have you changed your phone number, address, email or emergency contacts over the holidays? Are we able to contact you or an alternative person in an emergency? Are you receiving our school newsletters to your correct email address? If you need to update any of these, please email office@ellerslie.school.nz with your child/ren's name and updated information.

TEAM UPDATES

<p><i>RIMU</i> (Years 0 and 1)</p>	<p>Kia ora Rimu Whanau. Welcome to our new families. We look forward to being a part of your child's Ellerslie School journey. We have had a few busy weeks settling into school and learning the routines and expectations. Setting the children up for independence early is important. We encourage your children to carry and then hang /place their bags on their own hook, deliver their own book bag and be responsible for remembering important things such as their hat and shoes at the end of the day. Remember hats are compulsory for the children when playing outside.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	
<p><i>RATA</i> (Year 2)</p>	<p>Kia ora Rata i Whanau, We have had a busy week learning how to follow our Literacy and Numeracy routines. There has been plenty of collaboration and developing our listening skills!. There have been plenty of Year 2 children having a go learning to knit in Miss Pulman's Knitting club. Have a look at some of us!</p>	

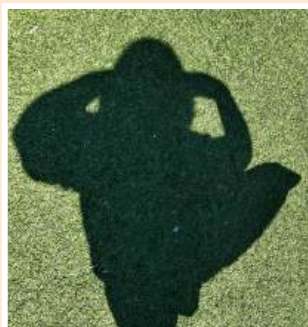


MATAĪ
(Years 3 and 4)

Kia ora Matai Whānau,
 Many thanks to all of you that attended our information evening. We enjoyed sharing our learning routines and expectations with you. Our students have been working hard to develop their learning focus and they are enjoying success every day.
 Something that we would like to remind you of is our uniform requirements. White socks are expected to be worn. Hair accessories are to be dark blue or black.
 Matai Team will have swimming in Week 6 and 7. Please see below the details for each Guardian Group. If your child finds it a bit of a challenge to get dressed/undressed, can we please suggest some independent practice at home over the next couple of weeks.
 Tuesday 11-14 March and Tuesday 18 - 24 March
 Lesson Time 12:00-12:30pm - GG's 7 and 8
 Lesson Time 12:30pm-1:00pm - GG's 2 and 5
 Lesson Time 1:00pm - 1:30pm - GG's 1 and 4
 Lesson Time 1:30pm - 2:00pm - GG's 6 and 3
 Our eating timetable will adjust, to cater for these different circumstances. Please watch your inbox for further details that you will need to communicate with us.



PŌHUTUKAWA
(Years 5 and 6)



Nau mai, haere mai ki te Wahanga Tuatahi i te tau 2025! Our Social Science focus for learning this term is on NZ History. We have been expressing our uniqueness and individuality through visual art (see photos above). As learners, we have explored deeper thinking skills, using Bek Galloway's 'Nga Manu' framework. We know that we think best when we are positive, considerate, reflective, creative and wise. Our swimming sessions have been enjoyable. They have prepared our Level 4 and 5 swimmers ready for our Ellerslie School Swimming Sports on Wednesday 12 March 2025.

This year we welcome Mr McLean to our Year 5, 6 Pōhutukawa team. As a team of twelve adults, we are working together to allow our 235 (and counting) ākonga to drive their own learning. We look forward to partnering with you in your child/ren's learning journey this year.

KAURI
(Years 7 and 8)

Kia ora Kauri Whānau,
Welcome to Year 7 and 8 for 2025! We also welcome two new teachers to Kauri Team; Grace Baker in GG17 and Sean Hampson-Tindale in GG14.
Our busy timetable is well underway. We've finished the first of our two weeks of swimming with our remaining four lessons taking place next week.
We have three teams taking part in the E.Z. Softball Tournament next Tuesday with E.Z. Swimming and E.Z. Orienteering taking place later in the term.
Our students are enjoying their specialist sessions with STEAM, Music, Te Reo and Science. We have also launched the Leadership Programme for this year. Please talk to your child about the activities they could be working on to support them with working towards completing their existing level.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL HONEY

A reminder that we have honey for sale, harvested fresh from our bee hives at Ellerslie School. These 500ml jars of fresh honey can be purchased on Kindo, under Other Activities. Get in quick before they sell out - again!



ICE BLOCK SALES - FRIDAYS

A reminder that ice blocks are for sale every Friday after school during Terms 1 and 4. Ice blocks are only \$2.00 each - cash accepted and Eftpos available. These can be found next to the junior playground. Thank you for your support.

TUMMY BUGS

We have had a large number of children unwell over the last couple of weeks with tummy bugs - vomiting. This seems to be being passed on from child to child. We ask that children who are unwell are kept at home - please consider other children and staff. These 'bugs' are very contagious based on the high number of children we are seeing. Children should stay home for 24-48 hours after their last episode of vomiting and/or diarrhoea. Please see a medical professional if you are concerned about your child's health.

CHICKEN POX

It appears that we have a family who has been affected by chicken pox. Information from the Ministry of Health website is as follows:

"Chickenpox starts with a fever and/or general unwellness for a day or two followed by a rash. The rash starts out as small spots before changing to blisters with a red base. The rash usually starts on the head and face before spreading to the trunk and then the limbs. Chickenpox is spread by coughing and sneezing and also by direct contact with weeping blisters. It is highly infectious, from up to 2 days before the appearance of the rash until blisters have crusted (usually about 5-7 days)."

We therefore recommend that if you suspect your child has chicken pox, that they be kept home from school until they are no longer infectious. If you think your child has chicken pox or are in any way concerned, please see your family doctor.



Do you like growing vegetables
and would like to help
with our school garden?

We would love parents and whanau
to join our Garden Club -

- meeting for the first time
on Tuesday March 4th
at 1.40pm outside reception.
- Sarah Lightbody from Tamaki WRAP
will be giving great tips on
what we can plant,
how to care for everything,
and would really like your ideas as well
- It's a great way to use the garden skills
you have already and/or learn how to
grow amazing vegetables that we can
share with our school community.

Please let Rene know if you can come along:
reney@ellerslie.school.nz

IMPORTANT DATES

13 FEBRUARY 2025 - MEET THE TEACHER EVENING - from 6:00pm
27 FEBRUARY 2025 - ELLERSLIE SCHOOL BIG PICNIC - 5:00pm-7:30pm on the school field
05 MARCH 2025 - NEW ENTRANT PARENT INFORMATION SESSION - 9:00am-10:00am
12 MARCH 2025 - SENIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS - Sacred Heart Aquatic Centre
30 MARCH 2025 - WEETBIX TRYATHLON
31 MARCH 2025 - SCHOOL PHOTOS - DAY ONE
01 APRIL 2025 - SCHOOL PHOTOS - DAY TWO
28 APRIL 2025 - STAFF ONLY DAY - school closed for instruction
29 APRIL 2025 - STAFF ONLY DAY - school closed for instruction

(Dates can also be found under "Calendar" on the Ellerslie School App, and can be downloaded to your own diary.)

REMINDERS

TERM DATES FOR 2025

Please note that the following dates for the 2025 school year have been finalised as follows:

- **Term One - Monday 03 February to Friday 11 April** (Holidays - Waitangi Day 06 February)
- **Term Two - Monday 28 April to Friday 27 June** (Holidays - King's Birthday 02 June, Matariki 20 June)
- **Term Three - Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September**
- **Term Four - Monday 06 October to Wednesday 17 December** (Holiday - Labour Day 27 October)

STAFF ONLY DAYS 2025

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ABSENCES

If your child/ren is/are going to be away from school, please do one of the following **BEFORE 9:00am** each morning:

- call the school (579-5477), press option 1 and leave a message on the answer phone.
- use the Absence submission template on the Ellerslie School App.
- send an email to office@ellerslie.school.nz
- use the Absence submission form on the school website.

Please clearly state your child/ren's name, Guardian Group and reason why they are absent.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is away for 5 continuous days or more, please note that you are required to either:

- Before Travel - complete an "Application for Student Extended Leave Form" - [link](#)
- Illness which is not Covid-19 related - provide a Medical Certificate.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

We always encourage feedback both positive and anything you think we need to work on to keep making our school a great place for our learners. The Concerns and Complaints procedure encourages concerns to be resolved informally through discussions with the person concerned. If this is appropriate, please contact the relevant person directly. If this is not appropriate, the procedure provides for other avenues to resolve issues. Copies of our procedures can be found on the [school website](#).

SUNSHADE, HATS AND SUNSCREEN

We are committed to keeping our children safe in the sun and have developed Sun Safe Procedures accordingly. Children are required to wear school uniform hats when playing in the sun in Terms 1 and 4. It is essential that children have hats at school every day. We strongly encourage the wearing of hats to and from school, and also suggest the use of sunscreen. Hats can be purchased through the Argyle online website, via Kindo or at the school office.

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