



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
Nĩ hǎo | Salut | Namaste | Bonjour | Bula Vinaka | Guten Tag | Goeie Dag | Shalom | Cìao
おはよう (Ohayoou) | 안녕 Ahn Nyeong | Olá | Privet! | Xin Chào | Salam

Newsletter 4 | Term One | Week 6 | March 13, 2025 | www.ellerslie.school.nz | www.facebook.com/ellerslieschool

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Tena koutou katoa Ellerslie whānau Mihi Whakatau

Tuesday, Week 6 was a very special morning at Te Kura o Waiatarua. The school was proud to host an outstanding mihi whakatau to welcome our new students, whanau and staff who have all started at the school since the beginning of the year. Our tamariki, staff, and whānau came together in a warm and welcoming environment to share karakia, waiata, kai and words of encouragement. The mihi whakatau not only honored our new members to our school whanau but also reinforced the importance of tikanga and whakawhanaungatanga (building relationships) within our school community. It was a special occasion that showcased the spirit of unity, respect, and manaakitanga that defines Ellerslie School. A big thank you to everyone who participated and associated in making this event so memorable. A special ngā mihi to Mr Tim Carson who coordinated this occasion so successfully.

2025 Ellerslie School Leaders

Congratulations to Muirrean, Hania, Devonte, Nazahaa, Betty, Lewis, Keegan, Vyom, Cooper, Hudson, Riley, Chloe, Brechje, Jonah, Saskia and Zara on becoming our School Leaders for 2025. These students have been provided with the opportunity to demonstrate outstanding leadership, responsibility, and a commitment to making a positive impact at Ellerslie School. We are excited to see how they will inspire their peers and contribute to the school community over the coming year. We wish them all the best as they embark on this important leadership journey.



Senior Swimming Sports

A huge congratulations to all the students who participated in the Senior School Swimming Sports! It was an exciting and energetic event, with so many of our students in Years 5-8 showing great determination, skill, and sportsmanship in the pool. Whether they were racing for the win or cheering on their teammates, everyone contributed to making the day a great success. A special mention goes to the students who competed in over four events and displayed exceptional effort, representing Ellerslie School with pride. Thank you to all staff, and parents who helped on the day with a variety of roles and responsibilities. It was great to see so many people supporting the students and the school. A special thank you to Kate Giebel for coordinating our Senior School Swimming Sports.

The Ellerslie School Big Picnic

The Big Picnic, at the end of Week 4, saw record numbers attending thanks to a beautiful Auckland evening and a well organised school community event filled with fun, laughter, and connection. The event featured a variety of activities for everyone, from Soak the Teacher, tug of war, to creative crafts, dance performances and even two bouncy castles. It was a great opportunity for our school community to come together, relax, and celebrate what makes Ellerslie School so special.



A big thank you to all the volunteers and staff who helped organise the day. Special thanks to the members of St Johns Ellerslie Rotary for helping on the day. Also thanks to our main event sponsors - Shannon Refrigeration and Air Conditioning for sponsoring the Snow Cone stand, and to the team at Ray White Ellerslie for sponsoring the BBQ food and for helping cook it all! Legends! A special thanks to Sarah Nuttall for coordinating this annual event.

Year 7 and 8 Rotary Planting Day

We would like to extend our heartfelt ngā mihi to the over 30 students and at least 30 adults who joined us last Sunday to help Rotary spread 6 truck loads of mulch around Apirana Reserve in Glen Innes. Your support made the day a great success, and together, we've taken a big step in getting this important green space ready to receive over 600 new plants. A special shout-out to all the students, parents, and volunteers who gave their time and energy to this important project. Your hard work was truly appreciated by the team at Rotary and those people who are regenerating this community area.



It was wonderful to see our community come together to care for the environment. Thank you again for your commitment to making Apirana Reserve a better place for all to enjoy! We are looking forward to the special planting day on Saturday 14 June.

Staffing update / Student Counsellor

Tony Montalvo: The school was very sad to farewell Teacher Aide Tony Montalvo recently. Tony was a fantastic staff member and a beloved member of the Pohutukawa Team. He brought a great deal of skills to his role and the school was particularly grateful for his filming and editing expertise. We thank Tony and wish him all the best as he embarks on his Counselling training

New Teacher Aides: The Board remains very committed to funding essential teacher aides to ensure both students and teachers have the support they require. With this in mind we would like to welcome **Jeremy Ly, Georgie Chase and Melissa Miles** as new teacher aides at Ellerslie.

Kelly Club

The school is fortunate to have the fantastic Kelly Club as our before and after school care provider. Kelly Club has been an integral part of our school community since 2021, offering a safe, fun, and engaging environment for students outside of school hours. The Kelly Club team, led by Saskia is committed to providing high-quality care, with a range of exciting activities that cater to all interests. Whether it's arts and crafts, sports, or homework support, children are given the opportunity to unwind, learn, and grow in a nurturing space. Ellerslie School is proud to partner with Kelly Club, knowing that our students are in great hands. For families looking for reliable care, we highly recommend Kelly Club as a trusted provider of before and after school services. Please check out their latest newsletter about Week 6 and 7 - [here](#). If you are interested in booking your child(ren) into Kelly Club please go to their website [here](#).



Ngā mihi nui

Nick Butler - Principal

'To be the best we can be'

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ELLERSLIE SCHOOL

SCHOOL FOCUS

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

School Focus for Week 7: Be Helpful - I can tidy up and/or look after my environment.

School Focus for Week 8: Teacher's Choice related to the 5Bs.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL NETBALL 2025

Ellerslie School netball registration is now open for both girls and boys. Years 2-6 students play on Thursday evenings @ St Johns Netball Centre. Year 7 and 8 students play on Tuesday evenings @ Auckland Netball Centre. Click www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/277222 to register your child/ren by Sunday 23 March. We are always looking for parents to coach / manage teams. Email netball@ellerslie.school.nz if you have any questions.



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.

RIMU TEAM WATER DAY - THURSDAY 20 MARCH

The annual Rimu Team Water Day will be held at Ellerslie School on Thursday 20 March, 2025. This will be a station style event with the children rotating around and participating in a variety of fun water activities. More details have been emailed to parents/caregivers.

WEETBIX TRYATHLON - SUNDAY 30 MARCH

This year's Weetbix Tryathlon will take place on Sunday, 30 March at Point England Reserve. 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 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.

TEAM UPDATES

RIMU (Years 0 and 1)

Kia ora Rimu whanau. Welcome to all our new families that have joined us. We look forward to being a part of your Ellerslie School journey. We have been busy focussing on our routines and expectations through our school day. We are looking forward to starting swimming in a couple of weeks. As a fun introduction to swimming we will have our Annual Rimu Water Day on Thursday 20 March. We set up a range of water activities on the field from water guns, paddling pools, a slip n slide and a sprinkler disco party. Information will be coming about this.



RATA (Year 2)

Kia ora Rata whanau

We have been busy this week sharing our Brown Bag Autobiographies. It was lovely to hear children share passionately about things and people who are special to them. Many of them discovered they had more in common with their peers than they realised! This was also a great opportunity to present in front of others and answer questions.



We have had a lot of fun in Mr Mitchell's Science sessions where we have looked at real live tadpoles and learned about Metamorphosis. We made a life cycle of a frog which rotates to show the stages. Have a chat with your child about what they have learned!



MATAI (Years 3 and 4)

Kia ora Matai whanau.

We have started our swimming lessons and there is amazing resilience, perseverance and determination on display by our students. The first couple of days have been challenging as we get used to new routines for getting organised. 200+ students being in charge of their gear is never short of "missing" items so please ensure that everything is clearly named. It helps us a great deal. Matai celebrated Sea Week last week and spent time learning about our precious oceans and wildlife.

We hope that there was some good chat that came home about it. It was lovely to see some of you at our Mihi Whakatau on Tuesday morning. This was an important event for us, honoring and welcoming our new teachers, students and their whanau.



PŌHUTUKAWA (Years 5 and 6)



The first five weeks of this term have flown by! As a team of twelve teachers/teacher aides, our vision is to ensure that all students and teachers feel valued and supported. We have high expectations, challenge is sought and valued in the learning and teaching process. Students and teachers are authentically agentic. We are respectful, resilient citizens empowered in our teaching and learning.



Our Year 5-8 Ellerslie School Swimming Sports was a big hit! We had 110 Pōhutukawa swimmers participate on Wednesday. 'Nga mihi nui' to Mr Leong, Miss Ettles, Miss Sye, Mr Ly and Miss Patterson who were stellar Year 5, Year 6, Year 7 marshalls and crowd supervisors on the day. We were so impressed with all our participants. Well done to our Year 5 swimmers, who joined us for the first time this year. Congratulations on your adults versus students relay win, Mr Ly! We look forward to having approximately 20 Year 5, 6 students representing Ellerslie School at our Remuera Zone Swimming Sports on Tuesday 25 March 2025; held at Saint Kentigern Boys' School, 82 Shore Road, Remuera. Parents/caregivers of our Year 5, 6 representatives will be notified by the end of this week.

In celebration of our NZ, Our Place, Our History learning, we are off to ASB Polyfest 2025 on Friday 4 April 2025 (Week 9). The theme is **"He oha nō tua, he taonga tuku iho - LEGACY a treasure handed down"**. We can't wait to view the Māori, Pasifika and Diversity High School group performances; as they share with us through song, dance and spoken word their culture, identity and language.



Our Year 5, 6 trials for Touch Rugby, Cricket and T-ball are well underway. It's great to see the large number of students keen to give it a go, putting their best foot forward and working with their peers

	<p>as a team. Ellerslie School is taking two Touch Rugby, three Cricket and two T-ball teams to this inter-school event. Whanau of students selected to represent Ellerslie School will be notified by the end of Week 7. SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday 8 April 2025 - Remuera Zone Summer Field Day.</p> <p>Parent helpers are required for all above events. Please email: elisap@ellerslie.school.nz if you are able to assist us with Remuera Zone Swimming Sports on Tuesday 25 March (Week 8), Our ASB Polyfest trip on Friday 4 April (Week 9) or Remuera Zone Summer Field day (Touch Rugby, Cricket and T-ball) on Tuesday 8 April 2025 (Week 10).</p>
<p>KAURI (Years 7 and 8)</p>	<div>  </div> <p>On Tuesday 11 March we had our first mihi whakatau for 2025. A mihi whakatau is an official welcome similar to a powhiri, but less formal. What a wonderful opportunity for our Year 7 and 8 nga kaikaranga - Binah, Caralilanie, Addison and Errah, to share their talents and stretch their leadership capabilities, calling and responding in Te Reo Māori, as they formally welcomed our new students and staff members to Ellerslie School. Ka mau te wehi nga wahine toa! We appreciate the support of their mentors Matua Tim, Whaea Elisa and Whaea Crystal, in making this event a Term 1 highlight. A special SHOUT OUT to Keegan too, who was a stellar Year 8 whaikorero (male speaker for tangata whenua).</p>



Are you keen to help with the
Ellerslie School garden?

We would love parents/caregivers and whānau
to join our Garden Club.
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

We meet on Fridays at 1:40pm outside the
school office, and finish just before 2:45pm.

Sarah Lightbody from Tamaki WRAP
will be advising on what we can plant, how to
care for the garden and we would like
your ideas too.

It's a great way to use your garden skills,
and/or learn how to grow vegetables that
we can share with our school community,
and meet others with the same interests.

Please let René Yeoman know if
you can come along.
Email: reney@ellerslie.school.nz





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IMPORTANT DATES

20 MARCH 2025 - RIMU TEAM WATER DAY

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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