



Keep your child safe: if absent, please contact the office before 9:15am



**KENAKENA**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Exciting. Motivating. Positive

He mihi nui ki a koutou nga matua, me nga kaitiaki o a tamariki. Tena koutou katoa.

To the Parents and Caregivers of our Children. Greetings to you all.

You will be aware that over the last year there has been changes to the New Zealand Curriculum for English and Mathematics. Further changes are coming at a pace that is challenging and unsustainable for schools. At the end of last year, schools had received guidelines from the Ministry of Education on assessment and on reporting to parents. In a sudden announcement earlier this month, the Minister of Education mandated nation-wide changes to how we report to you about your children's progress.

**Where is Kenakena School at with our implementation of the Mathematics and English Curriculums?**  
Both new curriculums were introduced as drafts early last year. The finalized curriculum documents appeared in September and were then changed twice, making it difficult for our teachers to practically use them for teaching. In 2026 we are using both new curriculums to teach and assess, while still getting used to them. This is a challenging task.

**What is happening with other curriculum areas?**

Draft curriculum documents have been written for:

- Science
- Social Science
- Health and Physical education
- The Arts
- Technology
- Learning languages

The Ministry of Education has opened an unrealistically short consultation timeframe for educators to respond to six draft curriculums. The deadline is April 27. Finalised curriculum for Science, Social Science, Health and Physical Education are expected to be implemented at the beginning of 2027, which is an unrealistically short time frame for schools and teachers to become familiar with the new curriculum documents and then to be ready for implementation, assessment and reporting on them.

At Kenakena in 2027 we will be focused on implementing the new English and Mathematics Curriculums, as well as having a focus on becoming familiar with the Science Curriculum.

**What is happening with assessment and reporting at Kenakena School?**

The Ministry of Education produced some very useful assessment descriptors, which we began using towards the end of 2025. A final version of those has been produced for use this year, along with a set of corresponding progress descriptors for reporting to you on your children's progress. As these have been made mandatory by the Minister, we need to re-develop our reporting templates for Reading, Writing and Mathematics, as well as ensuring we can celebrate learning in other curriculum areas through our Learning Snapshots, which we share with you on HERO.

HERO is working on producing a reporting format for its membership schools to use.

At Kenakena School in 2027 we are re-working our assessment and reporting schedule and documentation to fit with the Ministry of Education's mandated reporting timeframes and provide you with an update, shortly.

#### What are our assessment and reporting challenges?

1. Becoming familiar enough with the English and Mathematics curriculum documents to assess and report accurately.
2. Adapting to new assessment and reporting descriptors and deciding which assessment tools we use to assess and report accurately.
3. Being ready to teach, assess and report on new Science, Social Science and the Health and Physical Education curricula in 2027. Like many other schools, we may not be ready to do this.

#### Where to now?

Once we are certain of our timeframes and created our documentation, you will receive information from Kenakena on what the new reporting schedule and format will look like. This should be in the next two weeks.

### INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

To begin the year, we have hosted students and parents from China. They have expressed their enjoyment of their time at Kenakena and the Kāpiti Coast and are talking about coming again! Their time here coincided with Chinese Lunar New Year, the Year of the Fire Horse.



It is great to see our international students interacting with our students when they are, for a short time, 'Kenakena Kids'.

Our International Education page can be viewed at:  
<https://kenakena.school.nz/international/>

#### International Student Homestay Co-Ordinator Role

We have an opportunity for employment at Kenakena School. This is a part-time, fixed term position as Homestay Co-Ordinator for our International Student Programme. If you are interested in finding out more about this role, please contact: Renee Pellikaan, Office Manager on email: [Principalspa@kenakena.school.nz](mailto:Principalspa@kenakena.school.nz)

## LIFE EDUCATION TRUST

Kenakena School has hosted Johnny Thompson and The Life Education Trust mobile classroom to work with our Year 5–8 students. Johnny delivered engaging, age-appropriate sessions that supported our health curriculum, focusing on building confidence, making positive choices, and strengthening wellbeing. These interactive lessons are always a highlight for our senior students and provide valuable tools they can use both at school and beyond. And of course, the programme wouldn't be complete without a much-anticipated visit from Harold the Giraffe to round off the experience!



## PARENT DONATIONS

Since 2020, the Kenakena School Board of Trustees has elected to participate in the Ministry of Education's *School Donations Scheme*. The scheme means the Ministry of Education funds eligible schools \$150 per student to cover curriculum-related expenses that they might otherwise as parents to cover, such as school trips, subscriptions to on-line resources, buses, Years 7&8 Kapiti Island visit, Boys' Mentoring Programme etc.

Kenakena School has for many years covered curriculum-related expenses so that we minimise the costs to parents. Being a participant in the Ministry of Education's scheme means that those expenses are now covered, which enables us to free-up that money for the many other school programmes we run.

Being in the scheme means we can still ask parents to cover school camps and the materials fee for Year 7&8 Technology Classes, but we can no longer ask parents for the 'Family Contribution', an annual donation from families often referred to by parents as 'School Fees'.

**We have been approached by a number of parents who would still like to make a monetary donation to the school. That is absolutely ok, as is any voluntary contribution of that nature. If you still would like to make a family donation to the school, please approach one of our office staff.**

## **SAFETY AT THE SCHOOL GATE**

With 530 students coming and going to and from school each day, our entrances on Donovan Road and Arnold Grove get very busy. It is therefore essential for parents and caregivers to encourage and model safety at the school gate.

Since the start of the year, we have observed several very close encounters between students and cars which has been frightening for all involved.

Essential safety modelling includes:

- Using the pedestrian crossing with your children (Donovan Road) rather than crossing with them at another point on this busy road.
- Observe the instructions of our students on Road Patrol Duty on Donovan Road, crossing only when given instructions to do so.
- Avoid parking on the yellow 'No Stopping' lines on Donovan Road. Our Road Patrollers cannot see past your vehicle.
- Observe the 'Drop-Off' Zone on Arnold Grove.
- Refrain from calling your children across the road to your vehicle. We have had many near misses.

Let's all work together to ensure our children are safe at the school gate.

Nga mihi

Bruce McDonald

**PRINCIPAL**

# School News

## SPORT REGISTRATION

### Hockey - Registrations Close Tomorrow - Friday 27 Feb 2026

See HERO app – Community post for more details.

### Netball -

Netball permissions and registrations are available in the **Hero app**.

You can access the information for Netball by following these steps:

#### **Via the Community Feed:**

1. Scroll down to the post you're looking for (e.g., *Kenakena School Netball Registrations Year 3 & 4*).
2. The third line will say:  
*Event: Kenakena School Netball Registrations Years 3 & 4*
3. Click on this link to go directly to the event page and complete the permissions and Netball Kapiti registration link.

Alternatively, call into the office and we will be happy to show you on your phone 😊

### Movin' March

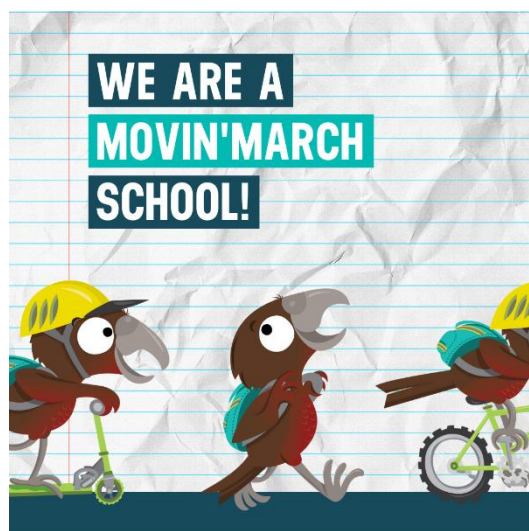
**Movin' March** is our annual celebration of active travel to and from school, supported by Greater Wellington and Kapiti Coast District Councils. Active travel is any travel where children are not in the car from your gate to the school gate – it could be walking, biking, scooting, skating or using public transport. You could also park and stride – if you live too far away to come the whole way actively, park a bit further away from school and come the rest of the way actively. It's great for our kids' bodies and minds, good for your wallet, and better for the planet! The aim of the month is to get children actively travelling to and from school every day if possible - and that it's the start of a year-long, or even school-long, habit!

This year there are two events for Movin' March. Dates are below, and more information for each event will be available on Hero and Facebook a day or two before the event. There are no postponement dates for the events – look for a cancellation notice on Hero around 8am on the day if you're unsure about the weather.

**Friday 6 March:** Walk Your Dog to School Day

**Friday 27 March:** A Wheely Big Extravaganza  
Bike and Scooter tracks and trails, and our Dress Up Your Wheels/Foot Parade.

Thanks for your support in making Movin' March a marvellous month!



## **2026 COHORT ENTRY FOR FIVE-YEAR OLD NEW ENTRANTS**

Along with many Kapiti primary schools, Kenakena School has implemented Cohort Entry for five-year-old new entrants since 2024.

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/starting-school/cohort-or-group-entry-children-starting-school#cohort-entry-start-dates-1>

If you, friends or relatives are intending to enrol a five-year-old New Entrant in 2026, it would be good for us to know that now as it will help us plan for how we will structure our Year 1 classes.

**Enrolment for New Entrance students for Cohort 2 – start date 9 March 2026 are now open.**

### 2026 Cohort Entry Dates

Term	Start of term date	Mid-term start date	End of term date
1	Between 26 January and 9 February 2026	9 March 2026	2 April 2026
2	20 April 2026	2 June 2026	3 July 2026
3	20 July 2026	24 August 2026	25 September 2026
4	12 October 2026	16 November 2026	No later than 18 December 2026

## **KENAKENA SCHOOL POLICIES**

At Kenakena, our school policies are provided by SchoolDocs. SchoolDocs is an independent service that provides core policies that meet legislative and regulatory requirements and good practice, incorporating relevant school-specific information.

All our policies and procedures can be viewed at <https://www.schooldocs.co.nz/Home/SchoolLogin> .

Username: kenakena

Password: tiaki

## **BEING SUN SMART**

In the summer months, it is important that you give consideration to keeping your children safe in the sun. At school we will be ensuring our children wear their sunhats and keep a supply of sunblock on hand.

We need you to play your part in the SunSmart partnership by sun blocking your children before they leave for school and by providing sensible clothing that covers their shoulders.

**SUNHATS** - In Terms 1 & 4, all students are required to bring a sun to school. It must be a “Bucket Style / Wide brim hat” as this type of hat protects the ears, face and back of the neck from the sun. Please note caps do not provide enough protection and are not acceptable.

Students not wearing an appropriate hat will be required to stay in the shade or to attend the indoor sun smart education session.

For more information on skin cancer prevention please visit:

<http://www.sunsmartschools.org.nz/>

# Kenakena School Parent Teacher Association News

"Kenakena School Parent Teacher Association (or KSPTA)".



Kenakena School PTA is delighted to invite school whānau to join us for a fun afternoon in the pool to fundraise for... the pool! Friday 27 February, 3:15pm to 5:15pm.

Free entry of course, but please bring cash for the BBQ, drinks and snacks.

Parents and carers are required to attend with and actively supervise their kids.

Hope to see you there!

## KENAKENA SCHOOL PTA MEETINGS

New or Prospective Members are always welcome to join and attend meetings which are held in the evenings in staffroom at Kenakena School.

Monday, March 30th	7.30pm-9pm
Monday, April 20th	7.30pm-9pm – Location Library
Monday, June 29th	7.30pm-9pm
Monday, July 20th	7.30pm-9pm
Monday, November 30th	7.30pm-9pm

To contact us by email, see the addresses below:

- [kspta@kk.school.nz](mailto:kspta@kk.school.nz) (General Enquiries – Cat Grant)
- [treasurer.kspta@kk.school.nz](mailto:treasurer.kspta@kk.school.nz) (Finance – Meg Price)
- [lunches@kk.school.nz](mailto:lunches@kk.school.nz) (Friday Lunches - Hervé Sitterlé)

Ngā mihi,

The Kenakena School Parent Teacher Association

# Important Dates

Fri 27 Feb 2026

KSPTA – New Families

Welcome Pool Party 3-5pm

Fri 20 Mar 2026

Teacher Only Day -School Closed

Tue 21 Apr 2026

Pōwhiri - Term 2 11am

Tue 26 May 2026

School Photo Day

Tue 16 Jun 2026

Boostrix & Gardasil

Year 7 immunisations

Tue 21 Jul 2026

Pōwhiri - Term 3 11am

Tue 13 Oct 2026

Pōwhiri - Term 4 11am

Kauri Y 7&8 – Makahika Camp 2026

Mon 2 Nov – Wed 4 Nov - **Camp 1**

Wed 4 Nov – Fri 6 Nov - **Camp 2**

Sat 14 Nov 2026

Festival of Fun – Gala

Tue 8 Dec 2026

Gardasil – Dose 2

Year 7 immunisations

## Term Dates 2026

[Tue 03 Feb – Teacher Introduction Meetings /  
Whakawhanaungatanga Meetings](#)

Term 1 –Wed 04 Feb - Thu 02 Apr 2026

Term 2 - Mon 20 Apr- Fri 03 Jul 2026

Term 3 - Mon 20 Jul - Fri 25 Sep 2026

Term 4 - Mon 12 Oct - Thu 17 Dec 2026 –

**On 17 Dec school finishes at 12 noon**

## Before / After School Care & School Holiday Programmes

### Funzone

#### BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE BASED AT KENAKENA SCHOOL



The poster features a blue background with a large red speech bubble containing the text 'FUN ZONE'. Below this, the text 'Come and have some FUN!' is written in a bold, dark blue font. Two circular images are included: one showing a child's hands using scissors to cut paper, and another showing a group of children playing a game on a grassy field. The poster lists two main services: 'Before School Care (Breakfast Club)' and 'After School Care'. The 'Before School Care' section states it is open from 7am, serves breakfast, and provides crafts, games, and homework help. The 'After School Care' section states it begins at 3pm, serves afternoon tea at 3.30pm, and offers various daily activities. At the bottom, it specifies the location as Kenakena School Hall, Monday to Friday, and provides contact information: a website, a phone number, and an email address.

**FUN ZONE**

**Come and have some FUN!**

**Before School Care (Breakfast Club)**  
Open from 7am  
Breakfast served on arrival  
Crafts & Games & Last minute homework help

**After School Care**  
Begins at 3pm  
Afternoon Tea served at 3.30pm  
Games, crafts & activities that vary each day

Monday to Friday - Kenakena School Hall  
Contact us to find out more!

[www.funzone.co.nz](http://www.funzone.co.nz) | 0800 543 9696 | [info@funzone.co.nz](mailto:info@funzone.co.nz)

We provide Before & After School Care for all families in the Paraparaumu region.


Our services include breakfast options and homework assistance during our Breakfast Club, along with a complimentary drop-off service to your child's school.

In the After School program, we collect children from their schools and bring them to our facility at Kenakena School. Here, we offer afternoon tea and a variety of engaging activities for kids to select from.

All our programmes are accredited by the Ministry of Social Development, and we also offer Childcare Subsidies.

[www.FunZone.co.nz](http://www.FunZone.co.nz) / 0800 FUN ZONE (386 9663)

### Skids



Paraparaumu

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

sKids

**sKids Paraparaumu Term 1 2026- Before & After School Care**

Paraparaumu School

5 to 13 yr olds 6:45am - 6:00pm

Mon, 2 Feb 2026 to Fri, 3 Apr 2026

M T W T F S S

SEE DETAILS

### About sKids Totally Tamariki

At sKids Totally Tamariki we work along side your whanau to help grow awesome kiwi kids. We are dedicated to making your life just that little bit easier with the care and services we offer.

It's all about having lots of FUN and your kids will have so much fun at our sKids centre that they won't want to leave.

We offer Before-School Care, After-School Care and Holiday Programmes.

We provide afternoon tea, help them with their home work, let them play then do a fun activity with them so you can rest assured that they are safe, secure and having the time of their life.

Enquires: [sonia@skids.co.nz](mailto:sonia@skids.co.nz) / Sonia: 027 739 1986

# Community Notices

## ĀHURU MŌWAI TRUST

The Āhuru Mōwai Trust, creates safe spaces for families who have children with extra and special needs.

Āhuru Mōwai Trust, they run weekly low-sensory sessions at the Rebound Trampoline Park.

Sensory Sessions are held weekly at Rebound, Playland and Trampoline Park, in Paraparaumu.

### **Session Details:**

**When:** Mondays (Yes, even in the school holidays!)

**Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

**Cost:** \$10 per family (immediate, not extended)

**Who:** School aged children with extra and special needs and their parents, guardians, family members, carers, siblings.

Upon entry you will be required to register your attendance.

Come along in any dynamic that suits the family, to these relaxed and open sessions for families and kids living with special needs of all kinds.

Although we cannot cater to everyone's needs, we will do our best to support families to overcome obstacles to attend the sensory sessions.

Please speak with trustees regarding concerns.

(I.D or needs verification may be required at Trustee discretion).

Disclaimer: WE WILL GENTLY AND KINDLY TURN AWAY ANYONE WE FEEL SHOULD NOT BE THERE, AND WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DO SO



## JUNIOR JABS

AGES 8 - 12 YRS



### GROWING FUTURE CHAMPIONS- IN AND OUT OF THE RING

Evolve Boxing's Junior Jab (8-12yrs) builds discipline, resilience, speed, coordination, and unstoppable self-confidence  
ALL WHILE HAVING A BLAST.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



**EVOLVE BOXING & FITNESS**  
THE HOME OF KAPITI BOXING

# SPARKLERS PLAYGROUP

Wednesday Mornings

9.15am - 11.30am

For ages 0-5 years

For children & their whanau

6 Tongariro Street, Paraparaumu  
Grace Hall, Kapiti Impact Hub

Check out our facebook page  
[sparklersplaygroup](#)



*As this is a school community newsletter, please let the school office know of any successes that your child/children may have had outside the school. We are only too happy to share their achievements.*

*The Board of Trustees in no way validates or endorses services/products advertised.*

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