



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



KENAKENA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Exciting. Motivating. Positive

Kia ora koutou katoa

Welcome to Term 3 at Kenakena School!

Last night, ex-Kenakena student Matanoko McDonald competed in the 86kg division of the weightlifting competition at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last night, earning a 7th placing. In her final lift in the clean-and-jerk she powered 113kg above her head!



Matanoko secured her place through outstanding performances at the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau and the 2026 Universal Cup in Samoa, earning a Commonwealth ranking of 6th.

After stepping away from the sport between 2020 and 2023, Matanoko's journey back to the platform has been nothing short of inspiring. Alongside her sporting achievements, she has balanced full-time work in mental health, completed her Master of Social Work, and undertaken research focused on Pacific mental health.

Congratulations, Matanoko!

WEARABLE ARTS SHOWCASE

We are incredibly proud of our Wearable Arts Group, who showcased their amazing creations at the Paraparaumu College Wearable Arts Show last night. Throughout Termtime students worked in teams to design and create original wearable art pieces, sourcing their own materials, managing their time, and bringing their imaginative ideas to life during Performing Arts sessions and beyond. Their creativity, dedication, and teamwork were evident in every garment on display. Most impressive was the positive attitude they showed throughout the entire process and on the night itself. Congratulations to all our talented students for representing our school so wonderfully at this special celebration of local student creativity.





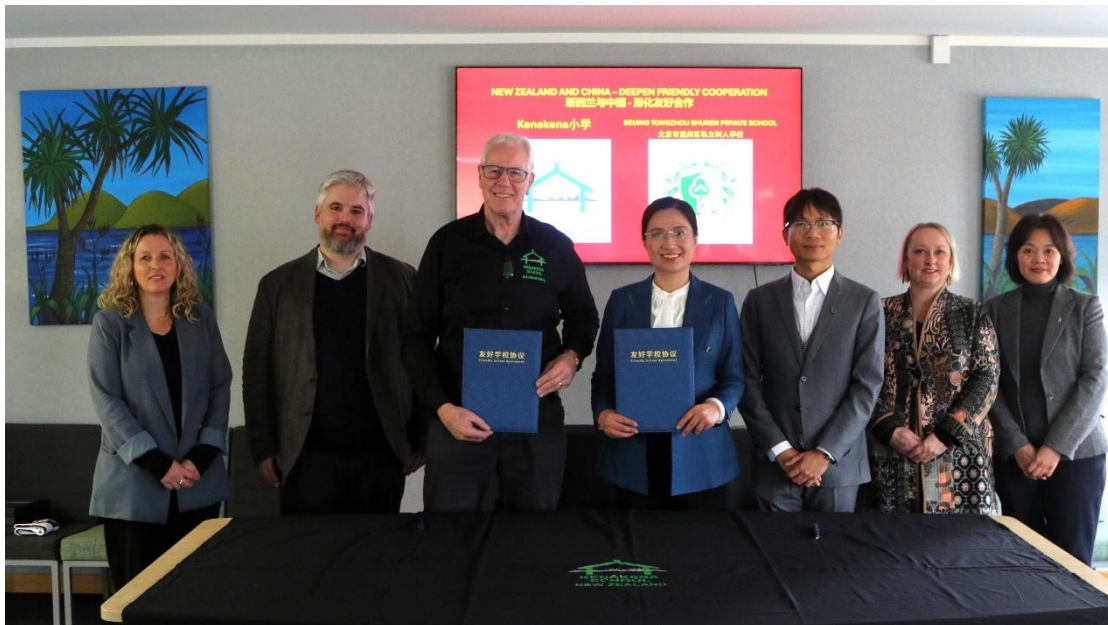


The above photos are from backstage before the event. Official photos were taken, which will be shared with us. Once those are received, we will feature the magnificent garments created by our students.

[INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AT KENAKENA SCHOOL](#)

For the first two weeks of this term we have hosted the executive principal, deputy principal and secretary to the board chair of Beijing Tongzhou Shuren Private School from China, along with six of their students. Members of the Shuren team visited Kenakena last year to talk about possible international collaboration before committing to sending their principal and students this year. This week, we signed a memorandum of agreement with Shuren school for future collaboration. Shuren School has made a commitment to sending more students next year for a greater length of time and is exploring the idea of establishing a 'learning base' for their students in Kāpiti. Yesterday, the principal committed to Kenakena School being the only primary school in New Zealand to where they will send their students. She told me that the group's two weeks in Kenakena had exceeded their expectations.

Thank you to Shuren school for coming to Kenakena, to our teachers for hosting their students in our classrooms, to our student buddies for looking after our Chinese students, our homestay whānau who accommodated students and staff, and to our international management team for your work in making this possible.



The official Memorandum of Agreement signing ceremony on Wednesday this week. From left to right: Marie Mead (International Programme Manager - Kenakena), Clint Smith (Presiding Member, Kenakena School Board), Bruce McDonald (Principal), Zhao Yurong (Executive Principal – Shuren School), Zhou Jianming (International Director and Assistant to the Board Chair – Shuren School), Renee Pellikaan (International Education Administration Manager – Kenakena), Guo Xiaoguang (Deputy Principal, Shuren School)

POWHIRI FOR NEW STUDENTS AND WHĀNAU

On Tuesday last week, we welcomed new Kenakena whānau and our international whānau to our school. Our kaikaranga did a superb job of calling and bringing our whānau into our school and our Kaikōrero did a wonderful job of speaking on the school's behalf and on behalf of the manuhiri (new whānau). It is terrific to be able to grow student leadership in our school in this way.

Our Kapahaka Group led our school in waiata, with all our students and teachers singing to welcome our new whānau. Our Shuren School group appreciated the cultural experience of a powhiri.







REPORTING TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS – TERM 3

Attached with this newsletter is an update of 2026 *Reporting to Parents and Caregivers*.

Nga mihi

Bruce McDonald

PRINCIPAL

School News

CELEBRATING PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION DAY AT KENAKENA SCHOOL!

Today we took time to celebrate and say a huge thank you to our Principal, Mr. McDonald!

A special shoutout to a couple of creative students from Room 25, who put together a wonderful **Principal Appreciation Video**. They interviewed students from all across the school, capturing sweet, hilarious, and heartwarming answers about what everyone loves most about Mr. McDonald.

To top off the day, our staff put on a lovely morning tea to show our gratitude for everything he does to lead, support, and care for our school community.

Thank you, Mr. McDonald, for your endless dedication, positive energy, and leadership!

SETTING OUR STUDENTS UP FOR SUCCESS: THE IMPORTANCE OF A GREAT START

Kia ora whānau, we know that mornings in any busy household can be a rush, and occasionally, running late is unavoidable. However, we have noticed an increasing number of students arriving at school after the morning bell. **This week we saw 147 Students or 27% of our school arrive late.**

Getting to school on time is about much more than simply following the rules—it is one of the most effective ways to set our tamariki up for a successful, confident, and positive day of learning.

Here is why arriving before the bell makes such a big difference:

- **A Calm and Positive Start:** Arriving 10 to 15 minutes before the bell gives students the chance to unpack their bags, say hello to their friends, and settle into the classroom environment. This smooth transition reduces morning anxiety and prevents them from starting their day feeling rushed or flustered.
- **Catching the Daily Game Plan:** The first few minutes of the day are crucial. This is when teachers take the roll, share the daily notices, and outline the timetable and learning goals for the day. Students who miss this often feel "one step behind" and spend the rest of the morning trying to catch up.
- **Minimizing Classroom Disruption:** When a student arrives late, it naturally interrupts the flow of the lesson, drawing the teacher's attention away from the class and breaking the concentration of other students who have already begun their work.
- **Building Lifelong Habits:** Establishing a routine of punctuality teaches children the value of time management, independence, and respect for others' time—skills that will benefit them well beyond their school years.

We greatly appreciate your support in helping us make every minute of learning count. By working together to ensure your child arrives with time to spare, we can give them the best possible start to their day!

Marie Mead, Tumuaki Tuarua | Assistant Principal Kenakena School

WET WEATHER - PLEASE SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH SPARE CLOTHES.

The wet weather has arrived and it can be very tempting for the students to play outside in the rain or to splash in the puddles. Sitting in wet clothes can be very uncomfortable and hinder their learning.

Please send a spare set of clothes to school in your child's bag, particularly the junior year levels. Pants, undies and socks are the critical items.

Also we are running short in our emergency supply of clothing, so please wash & return any items that your child may have borrowed by your child.

TEACHER ONLY DAY – MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2026

As you have been informed, the Ministry of Education has approved all schools to hold two teacher only days (Curriculum Days) in 2026.

<https://tahurangi.education.govt.nz/curriculumdays>

The second of our two “Teacher Only Days” is scheduled for Term 3 on Monday 31 August.

We tag “Teacher Only Days” onto weekends to make it easier for families to exercise the option to arrange annual leave for long weekends at a time when the rest of the country is not also on the road.

Our usual out-of-school-care providers will be contacted and asked to provide a service for whānau who need it. If required, please get in touch with these care providers directly to make a booking.

We do appreciate that this can be disruptive for families and thank you for working with us to fulfil our obligations to the Ministry of Education.

Kenakena School Parent Teacher Association News

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

To keep up to date with the exciting events organised by the KSPTA, keep an eye on the HERO - Community Feed, the Kenakena School and KSPTA Facebook pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/KenakenaSchoolIPTA>

🕒 GOT 30 MINUTES TO SPARE ON A FRIDAY MORNING?

Why not join the Kenakena School Parent Teacher Association (KSPTA) Friday Lunch Team!

Our Friday morning routine is simple:

- 🚗 Drop the kids off at school
- 📍 Meet in the Library Hub at **8:55am**
- 😊 Spend around 30 minutes helping out while chatting about life, the universe, and everything!

The jobs are super easy:

- 🖨️ Print labels and class lists
- 📍 Stick labels onto lunch bags
- 📦 Sort Juicies into class order

No experience needed—we'll show you everything you need to know.

Can't make mornings? We could use your help too! 🙋🙋

We're also looking for **one or two volunteers** who are available **around lunchtime on Fridays** to help distribute lunches to classrooms. It only takes a short time and makes a huge difference to keeping everything running smoothly.

The Friday Lunch programme is a regular fundraiser that helps provide extra resources for our tamariki, including library books, classroom resources, and activities that benefit the whole school.

Interested in joining the roster?

✉️ Contact **Hervé** at lunches@kk.school.nz



Friday Morning Volunteers Needed

- Super easy jobs eg stickering bags
- Drop off the kids then join the crew
- 30 minutes of fun and you're done
- Help out as often as you like
- Regular lunchtime slots also available
- We make \$8-\$10,000 a year for the school!

 Friday mornings at school library  09:00 AM to 09:30 AM

 Contact Hervé (pictured) at lunches@kk.school.nz



Make a Real Difference at Rebus Morning Tea!

- First Tuesday of the month
- Drop off the kids then meet the team
- Chat with Rebus Club members, pour tea and coffee & all done by 11AM!
- Rebus donates money to the school in exchange for our time. Easy as!

 First Tuesday of month, Paraparaumu-based  09:00 AM to 11:00 AM

 Contact Lou & Melissa @ kspta@kk.school.nz

🧡 **COULD YOU SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS ONCE A MONTH?**

Why not join the Kenakena School Parent Teacher Association (KSPTA) Rebus Team!

Rebus is an independent social club for retired and semi-retired people, bringing people together through friendship, community, and lifelong learning. The KSPTA supports the local Rebus group by providing volunteers to serve morning tea at their monthly meetings—and we'd love a few more people to join the roster.

Here's what it looks like:

🚗 Drop the kids off at school

🕒 A group of us arrive at a hall in Paraparaumu at **9:00am** on the first **Tuesday morning of each month**

☕ We help prepare and serve tea and coffee, then enjoy a friendly chat with the Rebus members

We're all finished by **11:00am**. No experience needed—just a smile, a willingness to lend a hand, and a couple of hours of your time. In return, the Rebus group makes a donation to the KSPTA, which is put towards our kids' activities that aren't centrally funded, such as Mana Wahine, Boys Mentoring, classroom tech, library books, resources, and more!

Interested in joining the roster? ✉️ Contact **Lou and Melissa** at kspta@kk.school.nz

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, November 30th 7.30pm-9pm

To contact us by email, see the addresses below:

- kspta@kk.school.nz (General Enquiries – Cat Grant)
- treasurer.kspta@kk.school.nz (Finance – Meg Price)

KENAKENA SCHOOL FESTIVAL OF FUN

 Calling all business owners in the Kenakena community! 

Want to put your company in front of thousands of local families while supporting an amazing community event?

The Kenakena School Festival of Fun returns on **Saturday 14 November**, and we're looking for **10 Major Sponsors (\$500+)**

 Our first 10 Major Sponsors receive maximum exposure, including:

-  Features in school newsletters
-  Promotion across our social media channels
-  Live shout-outs from the stage throughout the day
-  Professionally designed event signage
-  Inclusion in newspaper advertising
-  Public signage displayed around Kāpiti for 30 days leading up to the event
-  Feature on our digital billboard

With 3,000+ people expected to attend and many thousands more seeing our advertising campaign, it's a fantastic opportunity to support the school while raising your business profile.

We also welcome donations of products, vouchers, services and experiences for our raffles, auctions and prizes. Every contribution helps us raise funds for valuable school programmes and resources.

 Only 10 Major Sponsor opportunities are available.

Interested? Send us a message or email kkgala@kk.school.nz and we'll send you our sponsorship package.

 Support Kenakena. Be seen. Make a difference

Ngā mihi,

The Kenakena School Parent Teacher Association

Important Dates

Sat 29 August 2026

Tournament of Minds (TOM)
at Victoria University.

Mon 31 Aug 2026

Teacher Only Day -School Closed

Fri 11 Sep 2026

New Entrant Hearing & Vision

Wed 16 Sep 2026

WOW – Show Optional Trip

Tue 22 Sep 2026

Kapiti College – Option Day

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**

Thu 5 Nov 2026

Kahikatea Epro8 Inter schools

Sat 14 Nov 2026

Festival of Fun – Gala

Tue 8 Dec 2026

Gardasil – Dose 2
Year 7 immunisations

Term Dates 2026

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

Term Dates 2027

Term 1 –Wed 03 Feb - Fri 09 Apr 2027

Term 2 –Tue 27 Apr- Fri 02 Jul 2027

Term 3 - Mon 19 Jul - Fri 24 Sep 2027

Term 4 - Mon 11 Oct - Thu 17 Dec 2027 –

On 17 Dec school finishes at 12 noon

Before / After School Care & School Holiday Programmes

FUNZONE

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE BASED AT KENAKENA

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME**
Based @ Kenakena School

Convenient, Reliable, And Caring.

WE SUPPORT SCHOOLS BASED IN PARAPARAUMU

AFTER SCHOOL CARE
We Pick Up Your Child From Their School And Bring Them To Our Kenakena School Programme.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE.
Drop Off Your Child And We will Get Them Ready And Safely Transport Them To School.

ENROL NOW



FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.FUNZONE.CO.NZ



TO CONTACT OUR TEAM
INFO@FUNZONE.CO.NZ

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

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

Skids

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.

SKIDS Enquires: sonia@skids.co.nz / Sonia: 027 739 1986

Community Notices

The poster features a dark green background with a starry night sky pattern. A large, dark, irregular hexagonal shape is centered, containing the main text and event details. At the top, the Kenakena School logo (a stylized house) is above the text 'KENAKENA SCHOOL presents'. The main title 'an EVENING for every MIND' is in large, white, serif font. Below the title are three small icons: a glass of wine, a head with a brain, and a musical note. The text 'Fund Raiser' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The date 'THURSDAY September 3, 2026' and time '7pm - 10:30pm' are in a white, sans-serif font. The venue 'Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the left of the central hexagon, the text 'LIVE MUSIC' is in a yellow, sans-serif font. To the right, 'GUEST SPEAKERS' is in a yellow, sans-serif font. Below the central hexagon, the text 'INCLUSIVE EDUCATION' is in a white, sans-serif font, followed by 'Creating brighter futures' in a yellow, sans-serif font, and 'for neurodiverse children at Kenakena School' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there is an information icon (a lowercase 'i' in a circle) and the text 'To find out more and book tickets, scan here'. A dashed line points from this text to a QR code. Below the QR code, there is a graphic showing '1 x [ticket icon] = 3 hrs [person icon]' with the text 'for every ticket sold' and 'worth of individual support' below it. At the bottom right, the text 'VENUE' is in a white, sans-serif font, followed by the P.B.G.C. logo (a shield with red, yellow, and blue vertical stripes) and the text 'P.B.G.C. — 1949 —' in a white, sans-serif font.

KENAKENA SCHOOL
presents

an
EVENING
for every **MIND**

LIVE
MUSIC

Fund Raiser

THURSDAY
September 3, 2026
7pm - 10:30pm
Paraparaumu Beach
Golf Club

GUEST
SPEAKERS

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
Creating brighter futures
for neurodiverse children at Kenakena School

1 x [ticket icon] = 3 hrs [person icon]
for every ticket sold worth of individual support

To find out more
and book tickets,
scan here

VENUE
P.B.G.C.
— 1949 —

an
EVENING
for every
MIND



Guest
**Speakers &
Entertainment**

THURSDAY
September 3rd
7pm - 10:30pm
2026



Jase Te Patu
Keynote Speaker

Jase Te Patu is a master facilitator with 33 years in the wellbeing sector, blending brain science, mātauranga Māori, Te Whare Tapa Whā, yoga, mindfulness, and nervous-system education to help thousands across Australasia feel calmer, more connected, and holistically well.

His lived experience – nine years sober, neurodivergent, navigating trauma and healing – gives him a rare ability to meet people where they are. With warmth, wairua, humour, and practical tools, Jase makes complex ideas simple and leaves people with strategies they can use immediately.

A powerhouse performer with lead roles in The Lion King, Miss Saigon, Jersey Boys, and Maui, Jase brings the same energy and presence that lit up stages across Australasia, to his work as a sought-after speaker, TEDx presenter and champion of mental health and mindfulness for children.

Originating from the East Coast of the US, Sean is an internationally recognised autism and neurodiversity specialist who combines over 25 years of hands-on experience with evidence-informed approaches to help children, young people, and families thrive. Having worked with families across more than 20 countries, he brings deep expertise in communication, social development, emotional regulation, anxiety, and building independence.

A former Senior Teacher and Assistant Director of the Son-Rise Program, Sean has also trained in the Early Start Denver Model, Pivotal Response Treatment, and RPM. His compassionate, strengths-based approach empowers parents, educators, and neurodivergent individuals with practical strategies that build confidence, connection, and lasting positive change.



Sean Fitzgerald
Autism Specialist



Ryan Edwards
MC + Live Music

Introducing your host and band frontman for the evening – the talented Ryan Edwards.

For over 25 years, Ryan has been writing songs, telling stories, and lighting up stages around the world, from the iconic venues of London to gracing stages and headlining festivals right here in Aotearoa.

With a natural charisma honed through years as a radio presenter and performer, we couldn't be more excited to have Ryan at the helm of tonight's proceedings – performing with his phenomenal band and guiding you through an evening full of great music, memorable moments, and plenty of entertainment.

Settle in, soak it up, and enjoy – you're in very good hands!

To find out more
and book tickets,
scan here



Sonia Gray – a beloved fixture on Kiwi screens for over 20 years. Best known as the face of Lotto, Sonia is also an accomplished actress, writer, and model.

A passionate advocate for neurodiversity, Sonia has drawn on her own ADHD diagnosis and experience raising a neurodivergent daughter to spark important conversations across Aotearoa – producing the TVNZ documentary Kids Wired Differently and the multi-award-winning podcast No Such Thing as Normal.



a special message from
Sonia Gray

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.

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