MĀKARA MODEL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Term Dates

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Principal Message

Kia ora e te whānau,

It has been a fantastic start to Term 3, and it has been wonderful to see our tamariki making the most of the many opportunities to learn, grow and connect with each other and our wider community.
I would like to extend a warm welcome to Jen Ward, who has joined our staff as a Teacher Aide. We are also delighted to welcome Chloe, who has joined us as a student teacher in Karearea. We are very pleased to have both of them as part of our Mākara Model School whānau and look forward to the contribution they will make to our kura.

It was also great to connect with so many of you during our recent parent-teacher meetings. These conversations are such an important part of building strong partnerships between home and school. Please remember that we are always available if you would like to talk about your child, their learning, or how we can best support them. You are always welcome to get in touch with your child's teacher or me.

We have had a particularly busy and exciting first half of the term, with many fantastic events and opportunities for our tamariki. Whakanui Ahurea, our planting day, Mathswell, the Classics trip and Western Zones netball have all provided wonderful opportunities for our students to learn new things, challenge themselves and have fun with their friends.

A huge thank you to our staff and parents who have given their time, energy and support to help organise and make these events possible. None of these opportunities would be possible without the incredible support of our school community, and we really appreciate everything you do for our tamariki and our kura.

We look forward to an equally exciting second half of the term and all that it will bring.

Ngā mihi nui,
James

Upcoming Events

- Monday 7 September: Year 5/6 Futsal
- Tuesday 8 September: Year 7/8 Futsal and Board Meeting
- Friday 11 September: Onesie Day Fundraiser
- Monday 14 September: EOTC Week (years 5-8)
- Tuesday 15 September: Karori Library Visit
- Monday 21 September: Athletics trials
- Tuesday 22 September: Musical Stars trip
- Friday 25 September: Whānau hui and last day of term.

Whakanui Ahurea





Thursday 6 August was a very special day for our school community as our tamariki took part in Whakanui Ahurea at Wellington College. We were incredibly proud to see our students take to the stage with such confidence, enthusiasm and pride. They represented Mākara Model School beautifully and should feel very proud of their efforts.

It was also wonderful to see our tamariki standing together in their uniforms, looking so smart and showing a real sense of pride in being part of our kura.

A very special ngā mihi nui to Jasmine for the mahi she put into organising the day and making sure everything was ready. We would also like to acknowledge Whaea T, Whaea Liz and Matua Jim for the time, energy and commitment they gave to preparing and supporting our group. Their mahi and guidance played a huge part in making the performance such a success.

Thank you too to our wonderful whānau and staff who helped with preparations and supported our tamariki throughout the day. An event like Whakanui Ahurea takes a lot of teamwork, and we really appreciate everyone who contributed.

Most importantly, ka pai to our tamariki! You were fantastic, and we couldn't be prouder of the way you represented Mākara Model School.





Planting Day





Friday 31 July was a fantastic day for our latest Planting Day, with beautiful weather and plenty of helping hands. Our tamariki spent the day planting native trees and shrubs along the stream banks, continuing the exciting transformation of this special area of our school.

The day provided a wonderful hands-on learning opportunity, giving students the chance to connect with nature, work together and make a positive difference to our local environment. It was also lovely to welcome a group from Childspace Wilton, who joined us for the day.

A huge thank you to all our parents and whānau who helped with preparation on Thursday and supported our tamariki throughout Friday. Your time, energy and enthusiasm helped make the day such a success.

A very special thank you to Debbie for her incredible mahi coordinating the event. Her organisation, planning and dedication ensured everything ran smoothly, and we are incredibly grateful for all she does.

The stream area is looking fantastic, and it is exciting to see the new pathway beginning to take shape. We look forward to watching the native plants grow and seeing this special space continue to develop over the coming months and years.

It was a memorable day filled with learning, teamwork and plenty of fun, and we are proud of the way our tamariki got stuck in and helped care for our environment.





Classics Trip









What a fantastic day we had visiting the Classics Department at Victoria University! We were incredibly lucky to have lecturers and professors take time out of their holidays to host us and share their knowledge and passion for the ancient world.

Our tamariki had the opportunity to learn about Ancient Civilisations, including Greek and Roman history, and explore fascinating artefacts and clothing from the past. The highlight for many was getting hands-on and even having the chance to wear some ancient-style helmets!

It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn beyond the classroom and experience history in such an engaging and memorable way.

A huge thank you to Whaea Jasmine for organising such a fantastic trip, and to the parents who joined us and helped make the day possible. We really appreciate your support!

Mathwell







On Tuesday 18 August, we were incredibly proud to have a team of six Year 7/8 students represent Mākara Model School at the annual Wellington Mathematics Association Mathswell Competition, hosted by Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington.

It was extra special because this was the first time in a long time that Mākara Model School has entered a team in the competition!

Mathswell puts students' mathematical thinking, teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test, with teams of six working together to tackle a range of challenging mathematical problems and multiple-choice questions.

Our team rose to the challenge and showed some fantastic mathematical thinking, perseverance and teamwork throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school.

A huge thank you to Whaea Sarah for training and preparing the team in the lead-up to the competition, and to Matua Andrew for all his organisation and support in making the day happen.

Well done to our six mathematicians — what an awesome achievement and a fantastic way to bring Mathswell back to Mākara Model School!