MĀKARA MODEL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Principal Message

Kia ora e te whānau,
It is hard to believe we are already over halfway through the term! It has been wonderful to see our tamariki back at school, reconnecting with their friends and settling quickly into their learning. There has been a great energy around the kura as students dive into their classroom programmes and re-establish routines.

With the warmer weather, it has also been fantastic to see our tamariki making the most of our outdoor spaces. The pool and bike track have both been very well used, and it has been great seeing students enjoying the opportunity to be active and learning in our beautiful environment.
Our stream restoration project is also coming along really well. This is an exciting project for our kura and community, and it's great to see the progress being made. There is a further update later in the newsletter if you would like to read more about how this mahi is developing.

Parent-teacher meetings are coming up soon and are a valuable opportunity for whānau and teachers to connect and talk about the learning and goals for the year ahead. We really value these conversations and the partnership we share in supporting our tamariki.
We are also looking forward to welcoming two new kaiako, Amy and Jenae, to our teaching team in Term 2. We are excited about what they will bring to our kura. You can read more about them in their profiles later in the newsletter.

Ngā mihi nui,
James

Term Dates

Term Dates

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent–teacher meetings are on Monday 23 March and Tuesday 24 March. Bookings are now open on HERO. If you need help with booking, please email or call Sara office@mms.school.nz.

Kiwi Class parent–teacher meetings will take place in Week 4 of Term 2, once Amy has had some time to get to know the tamariki and their learning.

Upcoming Events

- Friday 20 March: Tui Trip
- Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March: Parent-Teacher Meetings and Meet the teacher for Kiwi and Tūī whānau
- Tuesday 24 March: Board Meeting @ 5:30pm
- Thursday 26 March: Karearea trip
- Wednesday 1 April: Māori whānau hui
- Thursday 2 April: Whānau hui and last day of term. 3pm finish.
- Monday 20 April: First day of term 2.

Stream Restoration Project

Over the past six months we have been working to make the Mākara Stream area safe and accessible again so our tamariki can reconnect with the awa through learning.
Thanks to the efforts of staff, whānau and supporters, we have made great progress. Garden waste piles near the classrooms have been cleared and replaced with compost bins, most of the blackberry along the lower field riverbank has been removed, and work is underway tackling other streambank weeds. We also secured a Natural Environment Fund grant to remove several hazardous liquid amber trees near the classrooms.
As a result, the area is now safe for tamariki to access again as part of our MTS learning programme. A wet summer has helped many of the newly planted trees survive, although ongoing weed control will remain a priority.

Next Steps (to September 2026)
Our next stage focuses on improving the stream bank by the classrooms. Plans include creating a small outdoor classroom space with log seating and shade, and building a track along the bank to the upper field gate (subject to approvals).

We will also seek funding for an ecological report to explore long-term restoration options for the stream and nearby wetland, and are exploring the possibility of establishing a water quality monitoring site at the school to support learning and contribute to improving the health of the awa.

If you would like to support this project, please contact Debbie: debbie.bidlake@gmail.com
Ngā mihi to everyone who has supported this important mahi.

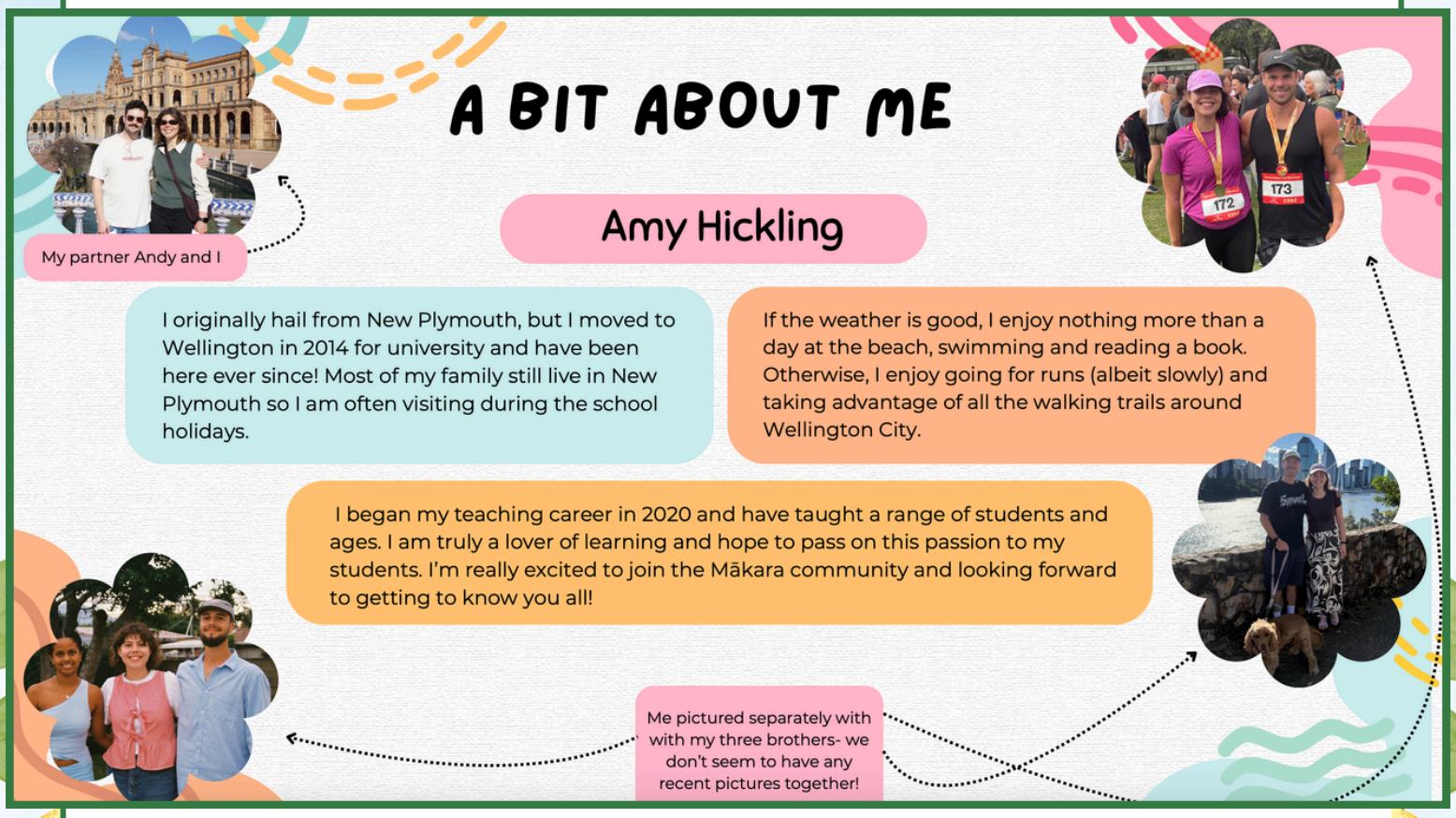




New Staff Member

We are excited to announce that Amy Hickling has been appointed to teach Kiwi class from the beginning of Term 2.

Amy brings six years of teaching experience across two schools in Wellington and has a strong passion for developing the whole child. She has particular strengths in drama, learning languages and literacy, and enjoys being actively involved in school and community events.



Kiwi parents can meet Amy between 3:15-3:45pm on Monday 23 March

New Staff Member

We are delighted to share that Jenae Ryan has been appointed to teach Tui class from Term 2. Jenae brings a wealth of teaching experience and a passion for creating engaging, enjoyable learning opportunities for children. She is looking forward to joining the team and sharing her strengths in drama, literacy and her love of the outdoors. Tūī parents can meet Jenae between 3:15-3:45pm on Monday 23 March

Introducing Jenae Ryan



Kia ora Koutou

I am thrilled to be joining the teaching team at Makara Model School in Term 2.

I may be a familiar face to some members of our community as mum to Emma in Kiwi class and Oliver, who was a Year 8 in Karearea last year.

With over 20 years of teaching experience, my goal is to create a learning environment that nurtures academic, social & personal growth while fostering creativity, resilience, inquiry, independence, and a genuine love of learning!

Strong connections with ākonga sit at the heart of my practise. These relationships help me understand each learner's aspirations, interests, and unique strengths and guide how I can best support them on their learning journey.

Outside of school, life is full with family time, cheering on my kids in their extracurricular activities, exploring walks with friends, trying out new recipes, and sitting down with a good book and coffee.

I'm looking forward to getting started and contributing to our community.

"Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi."
With your contribution and mine the people with thrive.

Movie Fundraiser

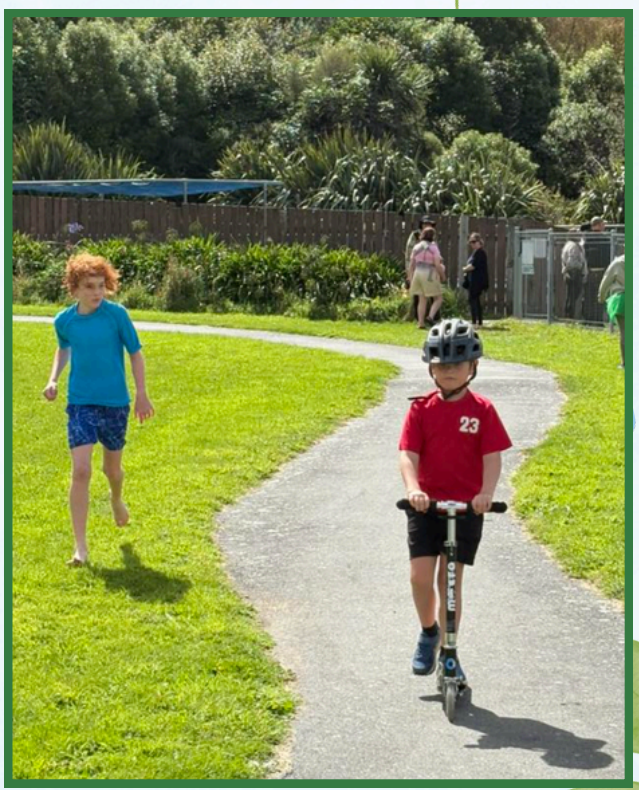
Please join us for an exclusive screening of this hotly anticipated blockbuster, simply email Sara at the office (office@mms.school.nz) with your name and the number of tickets wanted, and pop your payment into the school account:
Makara School
12-3223-0142499-000
ref: Movie and Family name
Or better yet just pop by the office, where we have eftpos waiting for you!
Please note all tamariki must be accompanied by a paying adult.
Can't wait to see you at the Penthouse on the 19th April, 3:00pm
Ka kite!
MMS Fundraising Committee



School Triathlon

What a fantastic day at our Annual School Triathlon! It was wonderful to see so many members of our community coming along to support the event and cheer on our students. The atmosphere was amazing, with students giving it their all, showing great determination, and encouraging one another every step of the way. We were especially proud to see how inclusive and supportive everyone was—students trying their best, celebrating each other's efforts, and creating such a positive spirit throughout the day. A big thank you to our incredible staff for their organisation, dedication, and hard work in making the event such a success. What a day!









Rugby registration

Join the OBU Junior GOATS this season!
Western Suburbs Junior Rugby has joined forces with Old Boys University Rugby Club to create OBU Junior GOATS — one united junior club for our tamariki, whānau and community.
We offer fun, inclusive rugby for kids of all abilities. Whether your child is picking up a rugby ball for the first time or already loves the game, our teams focus on learning skills, building confidence and making great mates along the way.
With experienced coaches and a welcoming club culture, OBU Junior GOATS is a great place for young players to grow and enjoy the game.
Excellent indoor training facilities at our home grounds located at Ian Galloway Park.
Registrations for the 2026 season are now open.
Follow the linkbelow. To register click on top right.
https://xplorer.rugby/old-boys-rfc-junior-/news/registrations-open-2026227

