



**PAPATOETOE**  
HIGH SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Week 5 | Term 2 | 2026



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



As we near the mid-term point, it provides an opportunity to share with you some of what has taken place since my last newsletter.

Earlier this term, you may have seen via our social media platforms the sad passing of Mr Viliami Tu'ifua. Vili was a long-serving staff member who will be

remembered fondly by both staff and students for his humility and his willingness to always put others before himself.



In addition to being a valued staff member, Vili had a deep passion for rugby and gave generously of his time to support our students. In the mid-2000s, he served for several years as a parent manager for the 1st XV team, demonstrating his commitment to our young people both on and off the field. We are deeply grateful for his service to our school and wider community, and we acknowledge his lasting contribution. May he rest in peace.

We also farewelled a number of staff this term:

- Mr Keith Francis, who retired after 26 years of dedicated service within the Social Sciences learning area. Alongside his classroom teaching, Keith gave significant time to supporting students beyond the classroom, including leading trips throughout New Zealand.
- Mr Jonathan Pahlmann, who has taken up a position at Maraetai Beach School, returning to his preferred teaching age group.
- Miss Brooke Morpeth, a teacher aide supporting English language learners, who has begun her overseas travels in true Kiwi fashion.
- At the same time, we are pleased to welcome several new staff to our school:

- Ms Nikitta Naidoo and Ms Harpreet Kaur, who join us as English teachers
- Ms Kishalya Naidoo, our new Occupational Therapist
- Mr Luiz Seetai, who joins us as a Teacher Aide

We also extended our best wishes to Ms Lauren Sharpe, who began her maternity leave at the end of Week 3. I am pleased to share that she has welcomed a healthy baby boy, Reece William Hay, and both mother and baby are doing well.

Congratulations are also extended to Mrs Mansimran Kaur, who married Mr Jagraj earlier this term.

In my previous newsletter, I shared an update on our 2026 attendance strategies. I am pleased to report that these have been effective, with regular attendance reaching 64% at the end of Term 1 (defined as students attending more than 90% of the time). This is a positive result, and I would like to thank both our staff, who worked tirelessly to support this, and our parents and caregivers for ensuring your children attend school regularly.

Our house competition has also begun to intensify this term. The competitive spirit among our houses and our passionate deans continues, with only a few points separating all four houses. This is shaping up to be a closely contested competition throughout the year. Thank you to all students and staff who contribute to making this such a special part of our school culture.

At the same time, winter sport is now underway, with teams competing across Auckland each week. Thank you to our students, staff, and parent volunteers who make these opportunities possible, we could not do this without your support.

Finally, teaching and learning are now well underway across all learning areas. This is a timely reminder to check in with your children about their progress. You can monitor their achievement through the parent portal, and if you wish to connect with their teachers, contact details are available on our school website.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Mr B Williams  
Acting principal

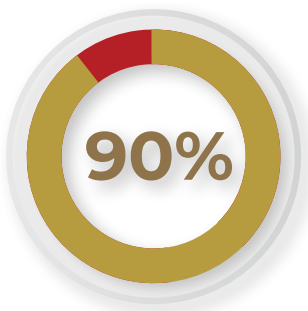
# ATTENDANCE

## EVERYDAY COUNTS

Kia ora whānau,

Regular school attendance is essential for student success. Being at school every day helps students build strong learning habits, stay connected with everyone, and achieve their academic goals.

### WHAT DOES GOOD ATTENDANCE LOOK LIKE?



**90% Attendance = Regular Attender**

This means **no more than 5 days absence per term**. Consistent attendance tracking supports student's achievement, wellbeing and positive pathways for the future.

Missing just **1 day every two weeks** may not seem like much...

But it adds up to: **20 DAYS A YEAR**

That's nearly **4 WEEKS OF LEARNING MISSED**

### HOW ATTENDANCE IS RECORDED:

Papatoetoe High School periods:

- » Most days: 60-minute periods
- » Wednesdays: 50-minute periods



### HOW CAN WHĀNAU HELP?

Check attendance anytime via the Parent Portal

- » Report absences by phone (09 278 4086), via [email](#) or [Parent Portal](#)
- » Planned travel during term time requires a formal letter to the principal well in advance
- » For appointments during school hours:
  - Provide a signed note for Student Reception
  - Contact the school office in the event of an emergency before collecting your child.
  - Only parents, caregivers, or approved contacts listed on the student's contact list are permitted to collect students.

**Thank you for your ongoing support.**



Attendance@  
papatoetoehigh.school.nz



Parent Portal



09 278 4086  
select option 1

# WHAKATŌNGIA TE KĀKANO

## WHIWHINGA TOHU MĀTAURANGA

Kia ora Whānau and welcome to our second newsletter for 2026. Term Two has been fruitful so far in getting some of the initiatives and groundwork done in Term One, up and running.

We had our second Whānau Hui in Week four, where we introduced Poutama Reo to Whānau, explaining what it is and how it will look in our Kura. We also discussed our Māori achievement rates which look great to date. Attendance to school is still an area we want to improve, so let's keep open communication going with our Tamariki about what's happening with them and at school.

The Whānau committee, led by Moana, is going strong with regular meetings and great korero happening. They have a Facebook page you can join to keep you up to date with everything.

Te Whānau o Te Rautotōe – ask to join.



## POUTAMA REO

This is a student led initiative to help lift the use of Te Reo around the Motu but also our school community. In summary, there are 4 levels students and staff work towards where they will gain a badge they can wear to show their achievement. We have students leading this initiative who will then become the 'assessors'. Students and staff will go to them when they feel ready to pass a level. Rautotōe students will also be leading staff in some Professional Learning on Wednesday 27th May to support them in their confidence to get involved. An example of Level 1: Nga Uri a Tane – The first Poutama is green and is associated with bringing life.

Students will create a shareable document for Whānau to look at if you are interested in more detail.

Keep safe and we look forward to continuing to help support our students towards the next break.

# PINK SHIRT DAY



On Friday 25th May, our school community came together to support Pink Shirt Day and take a stand against bullying by promoting kindness, respect, and inclusion.

Thank you to everyone who wore pink, made donations, helped organise activities, and supported the day in so many ways. Your involvement helped create a positive and welcoming atmosphere across the school.

A special thank you to our students, staff, student leaders, and wider community for showing the importance of looking out for one another and helping make our school a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and included.

Together, we continue to strengthen our school community through kindness and respect.

## SUPPORT STAFF WEEK

In week 4, we celebrated Support Staff Week.

Our incredible support staff play an important role in the daily life of our school. From administration and student support to library services, teacher aides, grounds, maintenance, attendance, finance, and technical support, their hard work often happens behind the scenes but makes a huge difference to students, staff, and families every day.

Throughout the week, staff and students took the opportunity to thank our support teams for their dedication, care, and commitment to our school community. A special thank you to the teaching staff who provided a morning tea to show their appreciation.

We are grateful for the positive impact our support staff have across all areas of school life. Their kindness, patience, and willingness to help are truly valued, and our school would not run without them.



# CULTURAL GROUPS AWARDS

In Week 2, we celebrated our 14 Cultural Groups at the newly established Cultural Awards Celebration. The evening recognised students for their leadership, commitment, service, and dedication to their groups throughout the year.

Awards were presented to student leaders who made valuable contributions by supporting their groups, leading by example, encouraging others, and strengthening cultural connections within the school community. Service Awards were presented to students who have shown five years of commitment and contribution to their cultural groups, recognising the time, effort.

The PHS Pasifika Council were also presented with their badges, and we were honoured to welcome Tree as our guest speaker. Her inspiring words and outstanding performance helped make the evening truly special.



# FIELD TRIP TO IHUMĀTAO

On 19 May 2026 SST Level 2 class visited Ihumātao as part of our learning on social action, rights, and responsibilities within communities. The trip gave students an opportunity to explore the historical and cultural significance of the area and develop a deeper understanding of how communities can work together to protect places that are important to them. It was a valuable learning experience that encouraged discussion, reflection, and real-world connections to our classroom studies.





# AUT ACADEMIC AWARDS EVENING

On 30 April 2026, two of our English Language Learners proudly participated in the Academic Awards Evening organised by the Migrant and Refugee Education Services, Ministry of Education, held at AUT South Campus. The evening celebrated the achievements of ethnic learners while also recognising the strong partnerships fostered through the Learning Community Hubs between families, communities, schools and support agencies.

At the event, Jhanelle Dimaandal and Sean Jayden Kubulan were awarded medals and certificates in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement in NCEA Level 2 during 2025. Both students, who are currently in Year 13, joined Papatoetoe High School in 2024 as second language learners and have demonstrated remarkable growth and commitment in their learning over the past two years. Their success in NCEA reflects their perseverance, dedication and positive attitude towards academic excellence.

The occasion was made even more special as both students were accompanied by their proud parents, who shared in celebrating this significant milestone and achievement.



# CAREERS

We had a Defence Force presentation where the entry requirements were discussed and the career pathways that are available.



We took 40 students to NZMA to check out their Sylvia Park and Mt Wellington campuses. Students were able to learn about the programs available at NZMA as well as participate in interactive activities.



A group of students attended an open day at the University of Waikato. They were able to explore the campus, meet lecturers and find out about the degree programs on offer at the university. This trip shows students that there is an alternative option on where they can study their degree.



11 Maori and Pacifica senior students attended TechWeek26, The Nui Wave: Tech Futures trip in Manukau. Hosted by Auckland City Council - students were able to explore emerging technologies and get a feel for what is happening across AI, digital, health and green tech.



11 Year 13 Pacifica students went to Aspire Day at AUT. The day was filled with speakers, activities and to help them think about life beyond school and to make informed choices.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**University of Auckland scholarships are now open.** Please book an appointment with Mrs Parshotam to assist you with your application

**AUT scholarship** applications open on 1 June

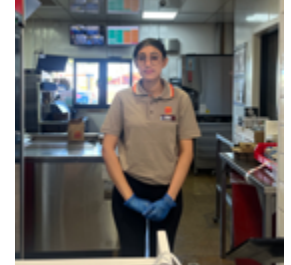
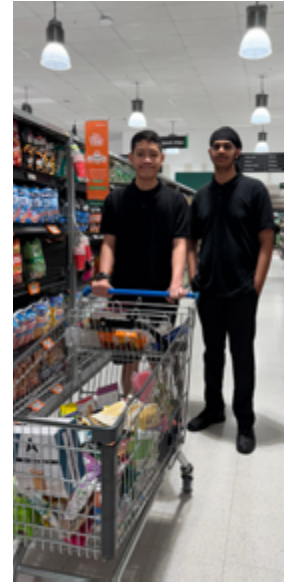
**The Keystone Study Trust Award scholarship** is available to Year 13 students who are planning to study a degree in Property, Law, Construction Management, Urban Planning, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Surveying or Engineering. Students must meet the eligibility criteria. An email was sent to students with the details. Please come and see Mrs Parshotam in G5 if interested in applying for this scholarship.

## CAREERS EXPO

**The South Auckland Careers Expo** will be held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 at the Due Drop Events Centre. We will be taking Year 12 and 13 students to this event. Whanau are welcome to attend. There will be over 50 exhibitors.

# GATEWAY

Term 2 has been an exciting time for our Gateway students, who are currently out on placement across a range of industries. These real-world opportunities allow students to gain hands-on experience, build confidence, and work towards valuable credits. We are proud of their efforts and the positive way they represent our kura in the community.



## FROM THE HEALTH CENTER

### FUELLED BY IRON

Are you low in iron? Symptoms are : Fatigue and weakness • **Shortness of breath** • Irritability • **Sensitivity to cold temperatures** • Frequent illness and infections • **Difficulty concentrating**

**IF YOU ARE AT ALL CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR IRON LEVELS, BE SURE TO SEE YOUR DOCTOR.**

Think red for higher iron content. Red meats are generally richer in haem iron than chicken and fish; a common rule of thumb is the redder the meat, the higher the iron content

Who needs more iron? There are certain people who may be at a greater risk of iron deficiency such as:

- People who get their period
- Infants and young children
- People who are pregnant
- People eating plant based and vegan diets, as plant iron is harder to absorb + plant-based diets may be low in iron if not well planned

Iron is an essential mineral. Iron is needed for growth and development. Since our body can't make iron, it's important to get enough from the foods we eat to keep everything working properly.

IRON-RICH FOOD LIST				
ANIMAL-BASED SOURCES	VEGETABLES	LEGUMES & PULSES	GRAINS & FORTIFIED FOODS	NUTS, SEEDS & OTHERS
BEEF LIVER	SPINACH	LENTILS	QUINOA	PUMPKIN SEEDS
ENHANCED EGG	SWISS CHARD	CHICKPEAS	OATMEAL	SESAME SEEDS
LEAN BROWNING BEEF	KALE	BLACK BEANS	CHELSEA SP WHEAT	SUNFLOWER SEEDS
TURKEY (DARK MEAT)	BROCCOLI	SOYBEANS	FORTIFIED BREAKFAST CEREALS	CASHews
LAMB	GREEN PEAS	KIDNEY BEANS	BROWN RICE	ALMONDS
TUNA (CANNED)	BEET GREENS	NAVY BEANS	WHEAT WHEAT BREAD	TOFU
SALMON	COLLARD GREENS	EDAMAME	MILLET	DARK CHOCOLATE (85%)

#### TOP TIPS FOR IRON INTAKE

- Eat a mix of animal and plant protein foods. Our bodies absorb haem iron from animal sources better than non-haem iron from plant sources.
- Space out tea and coffee as the tannins in them can reduce how much iron your body absorbs.
- Enjoy a variety of nutritious foods every day as part of a healthy, balanced diet.
- Enjoy lean red meat up to three times a week as part of a balanced diet. Red meat provides haem iron that our body absorbs well.
- Add vitamin C foods to your meal to help iron absorption.
- Plan meals carefully if you are at risk of low iron.



The Bee Team, led by Mrs Hart, harvested honey at the end of term one. Nearly seventy bottles of honey was produced and students enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in this process.

# ENVIRONMENT GROUP

A group of students attended the Kohuora Park Citizen Science Day at the end of last term. The event was organised and run by Auckland Council's Sustainable Schools staff. Students were engaged in stream testing, learning how to set traps for rats, mice and possums, bird identification and native plant identification. Thanks to Cate Jessep, Ross Martin, Nick Eacott and their teams for an eventful day where students learnt a lot.



Three students - Victoria Warfield, Zara Dale and Charlotte Thompson - attended the REAL (Rangatahi Environmental Action Leaders) programme during the last school holidays. The event was held over 4 days and was run by Auckland Council's Sustainable Schools. More than 50 students from around Tamaki Makaurau secondary schools attended the event. The aim of the event is to connect young like-minded people and to develop skills, leadership and understanding around caring for the taiao (earth).



A successful Stream Project day was held on Wednesday 20th May at our school's environment area and stream. 35 students participated in the various projects that were led by Sustainable School's staff. Projects included steam testing, eel monitoring, riparian planting, weed identification and removal, setting trap lines, native tree and shrub identification and planting of nearly 200 native species.

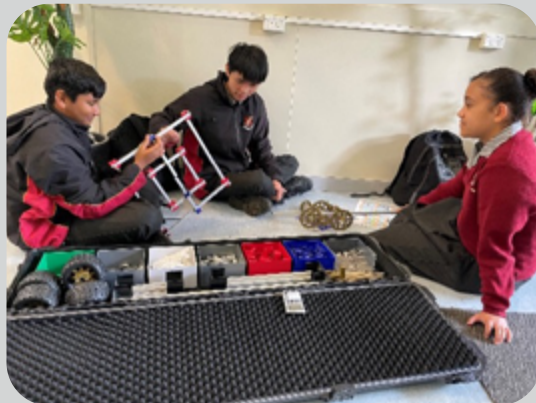
# YEAR 9 SOCIAL STUDIES

Learning in Social Studies through the use of a fun Play Dough activity. Student groups focused on sustainability and renewable forms of energy. Both 9 AF and 9 BL enjoyed working collaboratively in an engaging tactile learning activity aimed at mitigating climate change for the future. Mr Bosnyak



# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Well done to all those juniors who participated in the EPro8 trials early this term. The two top teams will represent our school at the inter-school tournament early next term.



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## PLAY IT STRANGE JUNIOR SONGWRITING COMPETITION

PLAY IT STRANGE JUNIOR SONGWRITING COMPETITION 2026 YEAR 9-11

**FINALIST**  
**ONE SIDED LOVE**  
BY  
**5 Hooligans**  
Tiare Ioramo, EJ Elama,  
Heleina Aukustino,  
Valaria Peluaga

PAPATOETOE HIGH SCHOOL



PLAY IT STRANGE JUNIOR SONGWRITING COMPETITION 2026 YEAR 9-11

**FINALIST**  
**Love Isn't Miles Away**  
BY  
**Coconutters**  
Corban Nyssen, Jethro Uliano, Lautele Jensen-Fa'Alili, Piu Tu'akalau, Vehiarii Leverd


PAPATOETOE HIGH SCHOOL



PLAY IT STRANGE JUNIOR SONGWRITING COMPETITION 2026 YEAR 9-11

**FINALIST**  
**My Mind**  
BY  
**5 Sotias**  
Jayjay Alofaki, Cash Fangatua, Victor Ah Soon, Hawley Sheck, Tyson Bourne

PAPATOETOE HIGH SCHOOL



Kia ora koutou,

In the Play It Strange Junior Songwriting Competition, three of our groups were selected as National Finalists for 2026 - an epic achievement!

Each of these groups will receive a professional recording session and have their tracks featured on the 2026 Junior Songwriting Digital Album which will be release on all platforms.

## SFRQ RESULTS

At the Smokefreerockquest Regional heats, the following bands progress to the Filals:

**RIBBIT**

Addiebays

All the best and massive congartulations!

## SFTB RESULTS

After the Smokefree Tangata Beats Manukau and Auckland Central Regional heats, all PHS bands that entered are heading to the Auckland Regional Final! Huge congratulations to the following bands:

Hiva Afi

Addiebays

RIBBIT

Rooted 7

Soul Prosperers

PAPATOETOE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

# OPEN MIC

FEAT. SPECIAL GUESTS  
QUESTION  
HALED  
EVANDER

**TICKETS:**  
ADULTS - \$10  
PHS STUDENT - \$5  
CHILD (5+) - \$5

**PRE-SALES  
AVAILABLE NOW!  
@ THE FRONT OFFICE**

SUPPORT OUR CHOIR FUNDRAISER!  
OPEN TO ALL!

# NIGHT

WED 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY - 6-9PM  
LIVE MUSIC | HOUSE BAND | \$2 SNACK BAR

PAPATOETOE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY  
DOORS OPEN: 5:30PM  
DOOR SALES AVAILABLE



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## JADE QUARTET VISIT



Our students had the exciting opportunity to experience a live performance from the Jade String Quartet, and it was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. We were incredibly fortunate to welcome such talented musicians to our school, giving students the chance to hear professional performers up close and experience the power of live music.

Formed in 2003, the Jade String Quartet is dedicated to performing both contemporary New Zealand compositions and internationally recognised string quartet masterpieces. The group has recorded four albums of New Zealand music and has performed extensively throughout the country, supporting and promoting chamber music across Aotearoa.



The performance captured students' attention from the very beginning, with many fully engaged throughout the session. Since the visit, students have continued talking enthusiastically about the experience and sharing their favourite moments from the performance.

Opportunities like this help bring the arts to life for our students and create lasting inspiration and appreciation for music.

## TINY DESK CONCERTS



As part of our New Zealand Music Month celebrations, students recently took part in our Tiny Desk Concerts in the Library, showcasing their musical talents in a relaxed and supportive environment.

The performances featured a range of singers and musicians, with students enjoying the opportunity to share their creativity and support one another. Well done to all students who performed and helped make the event such a success.



# ART DEPARTMENT



## AOTEAROA ART FAIR

Senior art students recently had the opportunity to visit the Viaduct Events Centre to see the Aotearoa Art Fair. The large exhibition displayed work from established artists from 65 galleries, including some international. There were interactive activities, and talks from the artists themselves, the students loved walking through the three floors and taking inspiration for their own practice.



## ART GALLERY WORKSHOP TRIP

Seventy-five students from the Art and Photography classes recently visited the Auckland Art Gallery for an inspiring day of learning and creativity.

The visit began with an introduction to artist Reuben Paterson, who was born and raised in New Zealand and is now based in New York pursuing his career as a painter. Students learned about how his work is influenced by his childhood experiences growing up on the West Coast of Tāmaki Makaurau.

Students also explored the exhibitions Taimoana | Coastlines: Art in Aotearoa and Louise Bourgeois. The experience provided valuable inspiration and ideas that students are excited to carry into the development of their individual art boards.

# ART DEPARTMENT



## ART INSTALLATION

The year 11 Art Digital students recently completed an art installation as one of their assessments. The students designed their panels on Photoshop, then painted them with special glass paint. The piece is now displayed on the school grounds full time for students and staff to view.



## WORKSHOP WITH LOLANI DALOSA - VISITING ARTIST

We were very lucky to have Lolani Dalosa spend time with our senior printmaking and painting students today.

Through sharing their creative journey and artistic practice, students explored how contemporary art can reflect culture, identity, humour, and everyday experiences using both analogue and digital techniques.

The session was inspiring for our young artists and encouraged them to see the value of their own stories, aiga, communities, and ideas within contemporary art. Fa'afetai tele lava.





# PHS SPORTS

## VOLLEYBALL BOYS WIN WAIRUA CUP

Congratulations to our Volleyball Boys team for being awarded the prestigious Wairua Cup following the Auckland Volleyball Championships in Term 1. The Wairua Cup recognises the school that best demonstrates sportsmanship, respect, and team spirit throughout the tournament, making this a very special achievement. College Sport Auckland described our boys as “outstanding”, and we are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school both on and off the court.



## WINTER SPORT

Winter sport is well underway at school, with teams now a couple of weeks into their respective seasons. Students are representing the school across a range of codes including Badminton, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, and Table Tennis.

There have already been some impressive performances, with several big wins and closely contested matches highlighting the talent and determination of our teams.

A special mention must go to the teams who have made an unbeaten start to their seasons so far: the 1st XI Boys Football team who have taken on the challenge of competing in the Auckland A4 grade this year, the 1st XI Girls Football team, the Netball Premier and Year 9 teams, Hockey boys and the Table Tennis A Team.

We look forward to following the continued success and growth of all our winter sports teams throughout the season.

## PHYSIO AVAILABLE

With winter sports now up and running, this is a timely reminder that a physiotherapist is available on-site every **Wednesday** during the school day, and students are encouraged to make use of this service if they are currently managing a sports injury or pick up an injury in any future matches or trainings.

Appointments can be booked by seeing one of the Sports Coordinators in the Sports Office.