

Weekly Newsletter

31st January 2025



SAVE THE DATE!

Week 2:

Thurs 6th Feb- School
Closed for
Waitangi Day

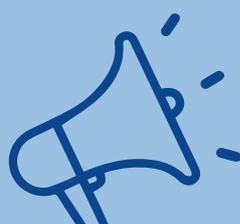
Week 4:

Thurs 20th Feb- Growers
Festival 5-7pm

Week 6:

Monday 3rd March-Wed
5th Camp A

Wed 5th to Friday 7th
Camp B



Mr Williams' Message

Nau mai, Haere mai and welcome back to school for 2025!

The start of the school year is always an exciting time. Everyone is refreshed and pleased to see their friends again.

It was great to see people taking the opportunity to visit classrooms on Tuesday as part of our open afternoon. The purpose was to allow our students, who may have been feeling a bit nervous about the start of school, the opportunity to visit before the first day. The feedback about this has been positive with a more settled start to school.

A special welcome to all those students starting at Pukekohe Hill for the first time. We hope both you and your whānau feel welcome and your time here is both enjoyable and rewarding.

Simone Keven

021 907 345

simone.keven@harcourts.co.nz

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New Staff

A special welcome to Miss Sam Millar who has joined our teaching team this year. Sam is an experienced teacher who was previously at Bucklands Beach Primary. Welcome to Pukekohe Hill and Room 30.

We also welcome back Whaea Ange who is returning to Room 14 this year after taking a year's maternity leave. It is great to have Whaea Ange back.

We are pleased to announce that Frances Kircher has been appointed as our new Learning Support Coordinator. Frances brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this role, along with well-established connections within the Learning Support space. She has already made a significant impact in our school community, and her deep understanding of our students' needs will ensure a seamless transition as she steps into this position.

Growers Festival

PUKEKOHE HILL SCHOOL
GROWERS FESTIVAL & WHĀNAU EVENING

We hope your pumpkins are growing well.
Remember there is also the Designer Grass Heads,
Bug Hotel and Photography competition.

- From week 2 Photographs can be sent with your child and taken to Mrs Willis in Room 23 or given to their teacher. Named, room number and year level on the front of the photo please.
- Pumpkins, Grass Heads, Bug Hotels and Photographs are to be taken home during the evening between 5-7pm.

20th February 2025
5-7pm

The countdown is on to our Growers Festival! We are excited to see all your creations for 2025!

Make sure the date is free in your calendar!

Check out more details on the flyer below:



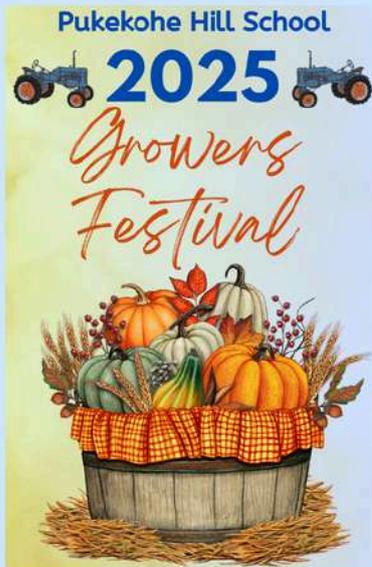
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Growers Festival



THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

Pukekohe Hill School
Growers Festival/Whānau Evening is
about bringing our community
together, making connections, and
Growing Great People
Together.

CATEGORIES/IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There are 4 student categories. Children can enter into more than one category.

- Pumpkins
- Designer Grass Heads
- Bug Hotels
- Photography

Categories will be displayed in teams, Pohutukawa, Kauri, and Totara.

First, last name, year, and room number must be on each entry.



1 PUMPKINS

- Seeds will be given to your child. Only pumpkins grown from those seeds will be judged.
- Please fill out the seed request form on **Class Dojo**.
- Pumpkins can take 4 to 6 months to grow. So plant soon in time for our Growers Festival.
- Cut the pumpkin off the plant and bring it to school on the morning of the Growers Festival.
- NOTE: No diaries this year

GROWING INFORMATION



5 Steps to Pumpkin Success

- Choose a sunny area of the garden with enough space for plants to spread.
- Prepare your soil with organic matter like compost and sheep pellets.
- Add a layer of vegetable mix to plant into. Pumpkins are best planted in spring once frosts have passed.
- Feed every four weeks during spring and summer with vegetable food.
- Keep your pumpkins well-watered as they establish and grow, avoiding the leaves.

Judges will be looking for:

- Pumpkin is firm
- There are no scars
- Or soft spots

For more information:

<https://tuigarden.co.nz/how-to-guide/pumpkin-growing-guide/>

2 DESIGNER GRASS HEAD

Whether you make a person, monster, or animal, grass heads are great fun to grow!

You will need:



- Grass seed
- Potting mix
- Old nylon stocking
- Jars, upcycled container or other items to serve as a reservoir for their bodies
- Upcycled or natural materials for decorating

Create Your Grass Head - plant seeds 3 WEEKS

before the Growers festival for good growth.

1. Place a couple tablespoons of grass seed in the toe of the stocking.
2. Fill the toe with soil to create the head OR Add enough soil to cover the seeds. Add enough topsoil to the stocking to create a ball the size of a tennis ball.
3. Tie a knot in the stocking just below the head. Place the end of the stocking in the upcycled container. The stocking "tail" serves as a wick moving the water from the reservoir into the soil. Keep water in the reservoir and make sure the soil stays moist.
4. Decorate the grass head with upcycled or natural materials.
5. The grass "hair" will soon sprout and grow. Use scissors to give your grass head a hair cut as needed.

You can use your own grass seed or request some from school. A google form will be sent out term 4.

Judges will be looking for:

- Most creative design
- Use of natural and upcycled materials



3 BUG HOTEL



Follow these steps to create a simple bug hotel.

Step 1. Collect twigs and sticks

You want a good quantity of dry hollow twigs, stems or bamboo canes.

Step 2. Cut sticks to size

Using a pair of secateurs, cut your sticks into 15cm lengths.

Step 3. Bundle and tie

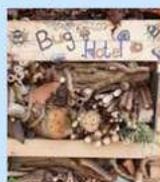
Bundle a handful of cut sticks together. Around 10 - 20 sticks should be fine.

Tie around the bundle tightly with twine. Make a knot to secure the twine. Make sure there is one long length of twine still when you do this. This will be used to hang up the bug hotel.

Step 4. Hang your hotel

If possible, place the bug hotel in a sheltered spot away from the wind. If it is somewhere that will get the morning sun, even better.

Use google for more difficult bug hotels.



The Bug Hotel must be made from natural/upcycled materials.

Judges will be looking for:

- Most creative
- Use of natural/upcycled materials



4 FOCUS ON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Have a go at photography - take a photo on a walk or in your backyard. Photography is a perfect reason to get outside and explore and notice what is happening around you.

Photos must have a Nature Theme.

Print a 6x8 inch (15x20cm). Approximate size photo.

Please add your child's first and last name, year and room number on the front of the photo.

Photos can be sent from week 2. Please send to

Mrs Willis in Room 23.

Judges will be looking for:

- Most creative
- Use of light
- Camera angle



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Senior Camp 2025

Port Waikato

In Week 6 of Term 1 the Year 5 and 6 students will have camp at Port Waikato.

Group 1 - Room 15, 19, 20, 30

Monday 3rd March to Wednesday 5th March (2 nights, 3 days)

Group 2 - Room 14, 16, 17, 18

Wednesday 5th to Friday 7th March (2 nights, 3 days)

Look out next week for more details and information to come out!



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Christchurch Real Estate

Community News

One to one Tutoring available.

I am an experienced teacher/tutor, running individualised programmes to target learning needs. I cater for a wide range of abilities and specialise in students with extra challenges.

For more information, please get in touch with Jocelyn Reilly, 021 153 1014, or jocelyn.reilly743@gmail.com

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FREE FEES 2025

PUKEKOHE JUNIOR RUGBY

**U5-U13 BOYS & GIRLS
WELCOME**



REGISTRATION DATES:
 Monday 17th Feb 5:00pm-7:00pm
 Wednesday 19th Feb 5:00pm-7:00pm
 Tuesday 25th Feb 5:00pm-7:00pm
 Thursday 27th Feb 5:00pm-7:00pm

Scan QR Code
to register



Boot exchange back for 2025

For more info:
gdm@pukekoherugby.co.nz
 Facebook: Pukekohe Junior Rugby Club
 Pukekohe Rugby Club: 47 Reynolds Road, Pukekohe



Piano Lessons

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Pukekohe Association Football Player Registrations Open

The 2025 winter football season will soon be upon us! If your child is keen to play, please go to our website and register. Link below:

<https://www.pukekoheafc.com/>

Important dates:

- **Registrations** are now open for all players age 4 years and above
- **Open training sessions for ages 9 to 17 years.** Tuesday 11 & Thursday 13 February, 5.00pm to 6.30pm at Bledisloe Park. An informal pre-season kick around.
- **Musters for ages 9 to 17 years.** Sunday 16, Wednesday 19 & Thursday 20 February. These are an opportunity for the club to see those who would like to play and figure out where their best fit might be within their grade. We have club volunteers who watch the muster games and give the club feedback about players.
- **Teams named**—on or before 5 March 2025
- **Season starts**—junior, youth & senior (ages 9 and over) - Saturday 5 April 2025
- **Season starts**—Small Whites (ages 4 to 8 years) - Saturday 3 May 2025. These teams will be formed in April. More information to come.

****Age groups are based on the age your child is turning in any calendar year.**

For example: turning 8 in 2025 = 8th Grade, turning 10 in 2025 = 10th Grade.

We have **training programmes for girls** aged 5-12 years (Fantails) & 13-17 years (Kickin it). These are held on Wednesday nights and begin on **12 February 2025**. See the links below for more information and to register. This is a free programme!

<https://www.pukekoheafc.com/fantails/>

<https://www.pukekoheafc.com/kickinit/>

Once you are registered you will receive all of our updates going forward. Look forward to seeing you all! Please contact me if you have any queries

Suzanne Ihaia

Club Administrator

admin@pukekoheafc.com