



# Houghton Valley School Newsletter

*Caring, Exploring and Inspiring Together*

*Ka Manaaki, Ka Rapu, Ka Whakamanawa tahi ai tātou*

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Week 3 of Term 1

## HVS Reminders

- Thurs - Swimming every week
- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb – Bake Sale 2:55pm
- Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Feb - Home & School Meeting 7:30pm
- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> March – Movin' March Starts

## Kia Ora Whānau,

It has been a great start to the year with our recent beach trip and school picnic. We have enjoyed getting to see everyone.

We hope you find time to pop into classes to see the learning that is taking place. We want to continue building relationships with whānau.



## Exploring our Backyard

We have been invited by the Houghton Valley Progressive Association to partner with them and WCC to design and have creative input into the new Houghton Bay playground (opposite Hungerford Road).

Along with this we are working on a 100 Year Vision of the Valley. This is our Inquiry focus for terms 1 and 2 - *How do communities' regenerate spaces?*

We are looking forward to being able to connect with our local community and to use our green spaces in the valley. We ask that you sign and return your permission slips as soon as possible as we are planning our first hikoi/trips for next week.

## Reminders

At the start of the year, it is always good to be aware of some of the reminders:

- Our tamariki are welcome at school no earlier than 8.30am and that we like all children to be in class by 8.50am to support their transition into school for the day. When children arrive at 9.00am or later it can be more challenging for them to settle into the classroom
- The car park is for kaimahi/staff only. We remind whanau that they can use it from 4pm onwards
- Swimming is on Thursday, so the bus backs into our driveway. We also ask that you put a little extra into lunch boxes as they get very hungry after swimming
- Tamariki need to wear caps with a flap or a wide brimmed hat in term 1 and 4. Unfortunately, caps do not meet the sunsmart requirements
- To check playground equipment and areas as some are closed at the moment during and after school

Nga manaakitanga, Luana Carroll, Tumuaiki, Houghton Valley School

## HVS BOARD OF TRUSTEES FEBRUARY UPDATE

Kia ora koutou

We hope the 2024 school year has got off to a great start for your whānau - it was fantastic to have the school community come together for the events last week such as the meet the teachers evening and the school picnic.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held our first meeting for the year this week. The first important announcement is that we are on the **hunt for a new secretary**. We want to thank the wonderful Emily Faith for her mahi as secretary providing invaluable support to the BOT over the past 3 years. Ngā mihi nui kia koe e hoa!

The BOT secretary is a paid role. If you're interested in finding out more please speak to Seb Bishop (BOT Presiding Member).

2023 was a big year for the BOT with the creation of a new strategic plan. Thanks to all whānau and kaimahi who contributed to the the HVS vision and strategic goals. Those goals have now been developed into a full strategic plan for 2024 - 2026, with implementation actions and measurable outcomes. We're at the final fun stage now of working with a graphic designer to make it come to life visually and will be pleased to share the finished product with you soon.

Special thanks to Luana for the time and care she's put into developing the goals into an in-depth plan.

It's exciting to see one of the new strategic goals - to integrate our natural environment into our learning to inspire our ākonga - already begin to be put in place through the 'Exploring our Backyard' initiative (hopefully your child brought home a permission slip with more info on Wednesday). This will give our kaiako more flexibility to use the wonderful natural environment around HVS for learning.

We also want to acknowledge that we're aware that the closure of the fort play equipment will be disappointing for tamariki and whānau, however it is currently a safety risk and not a simple fix. We are doing all we can to get it up and running as soon as possible, with the first step being an assessment by a playground specialist who will be able to advise what needs to be done to address the problems, and what the cost might be. The BOT will continue to keep whānau updated.

For families new to HVS this year, welcome, and here's a short intro about the Board and what we do. The BOT is responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the school. Our BOT consists of:

- Seb Bishop (Presiding Member)
- Bret McKenzie (Property Lead)
- Mike Brough (Treasurer)
- Jesse Pirini (Tiriti o Waitangi Lead)
- Michelle Podmore (Health and Safety / Policy Lead)
- Ana Tovey (Communications Lead)
- Stephanie Bosch (Staff Representative)
- Luana Carroll (School Principal)

You can find out more about us - and how to spot us around the school - in our bios on the [HVS website](https://houghton.school.nz/board-of-trustees) - <https://houghton.school.nz/board-of-trustees>

Whānau are welcome to attend board meetings. Our next meeting is Monday, 18 March, 7-9pm. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about your Board of Trustees you can contact us via our presiding member Seb Bishop at [botsebastian@houghton.school.nz](mailto:botsebastian@houghton.school.nz) or 027 391 8026

Ngā mihi nui  
Houghton Valley School Board of Trustees

A BIG WELCOME IN HARAKEKE CLASS TO:

☺ Lily

## ROAD PATROL - URGENT

# WE NEED YOU!!

	Māne	Turei	Wenerei	Taite	Paraire
<b>Morning Adult</b> 8:30-9am	Parent Helper tbc		Parent Helper confirmed		
<b>Afternoon Adult</b> 2:50-3:10pm					

We need the help of our parents and community to get our road patrol successfully up and running as soon as we can to help keep our tamariki safe on their way to and from kura. The above timetable shows what times are still available and yet to be filled. If you could help with one or more, please email Nina: [nina@houghton.school.nz](mailto:nina@houghton.school.nz).

We appreciate any time you can give. Nina Hornell

## MOVIN' MARCH STARTS FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH – WATCH THIS SPACE



## TEACHER EMAIL ADDRESSES

Teacher	Class	Email
Nina Hornell	Rata-Rm9	<a href="mailto:nina@houghton.school.nz">nina@houghton.school.nz</a>
Nicola O'Halloran	Rimu-Rm10	<a href="mailto:nicola@houghton.school.nz">nicola@houghton.school.nz</a>
Fiona Crossett	Karaka-Rm4	<a href="mailto:fiona@houghton.school.nz">fiona@houghton.school.nz</a>
Claire Keys	Pohutukawa-Rm1	<a href="mailto:claire@houghton.school.nz">claire@houghton.school.nz</a>
Felix Cullen	Kowhai-Rm2	<a href="mailto:felixc@houghton.school.nz">felixc@houghton.school.nz</a>
Miriam Gaynor	Ngaio-Rm8	<a href="mailto:miriam@houghton.school.nz">miriam@houghton.school.nz</a>
Stephanie Bosch	Ti Kouka-Rm6	<a href="mailto:stephanie@houghton.school.nz">stephanie@houghton.school.nz</a>
Abby Lummis	Harakeke-Rm5	<a href="mailto:abby@houghton.school.nz">abby@houghton.school.nz</a>



The Term 1, Week 3 H&S news:

**Pikiniki**  
*Picnic*

- **GREAT TO SEE YOU AT THE PICNIC LAST WEEK**



- **BAKE SALE - FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY**

Join us from 2:55pm on Friday 23rd February for community fun and yummy homemade baking from **Rimu** and **Ngaio**.

- **HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING - MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY**

This meeting is open to every HVS parent and caregiver. Meet us at 7:30pm in the staffroom to discuss our 2024 community events and suggestions on how to spend funds in 2024. The full agenda includes:

- Board Report
- Teacher's Report
- Events
- Treasurer's Report
- Other Business

- **ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR WONDERFUL WHĀNAU REPS**

Whānau reps are the go-to people for coordinating community events and comms for your class. Here are our wonderful reps for 2024...





**Emma Christie**  
Ti Kouka / Stephanie / Year 1



**Jen Andrew**  
Harakeke / Abby / Year 1



**Carlie Uivel**  
Ngaio / Miriam / Year 2



**Kate Mulligan**  
Karaka / Fiona / Year 3/4





**Nicola Du Toit**  
Kowhai / Felix / Year 3/4



**Janine Crane**  
Pohutakawa / Claire / Year 3/4



**Kirsten Podmore**  
Rata / Nina / Year 5/6



**Fenella Rich**  
Rimu / Nicola / Year 5/6

## What is the Home & School Association?

Our Home & School Association is a collective of HVS parents and caregivers. Our purpose is to support the school by connecting the community and raising funds. Everyone in the HVS community is part of the Home & School Association. Yes, you are already a member :)

Save the date - Term 1	Later events
Bake Sale by Rimu & Ngaio: Friday 23rd Feb Bake Sale by Karaka & Ti Kouka: Friday 22nd Mar Term 1 Home & School Meeting ( <b>ALL ARE WELCOME</b> ): 7:30pm Monday 26th Feb	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Term 2</b></p> Bake Sales: 17th May & 14th June Matariki: 28th June  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Term 3</b></p> Bake Sales: 9th Aug & 13th Sept  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Term 4</b></p> Disco, Quiz, Fair, & Bake Sale

## There's ALWAYS a chance to join in. Here's how you can help...

Our school events rely on volunteers. Volunteering is easy - *no experience necessary*. Just an hour of your time can make a real difference to our community and help you meet other parents and caregivers. To learn more, contact [homeandschoolchair@houghton.school.nz](mailto:homeandschoolchair@houghton.school.nz).

## KELLY CLUB

<b>KELLY CLUB</b>		<b>THEME: KC Top Chef</b> Term 1 Week 3, 19 February 2024				Weekly Activities Plan Kelly Club Houghton Valley
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
2:55 – 3:10 pm	Sign In & Structured Free Time	Sign In & Structured Free Time	Sign In & Structured Free Time	Sign In & Structured Free Time	Sign In & Structured Free Time	
3:10 – 3:30 pm	Intro & Afternoon Tea Crackers, Cheese & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Sammie's & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Noodles & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Corn thins & Fruit	Intro & Afternoon Tea Pizza & Fruit	
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Structured Freetime Outside	Structured Freetime Outside	Structured Freetime Outside	Structured Freetime Outside	<b>COOKING</b>	
3:45 – 4:25 pm	<b>DISCOVERY</b> Marshmallow Slime 	<b>CRAFT</b> Rainbow Noodle Art 	<b>COOKING</b> Chocolate Chip Fruit Cookies! 	<b>GAME</b> Wacky Waiter Relays & The Fruit Loop Challenge 	<b>Baking Club!</b> What will we create this week? 	
4:25 – 4:35 pm	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	Tidy Up	
4:35 – 4:50 pm	Snack Time Biscuits	Snack Time Fruit Bars	Snack Time Baking	Snack Time Veggie Crisps	Snack Time Fruit Salad	
4:50 – 5:10 pm	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	Homework & Quiet Time	
5:10 – 6:00 pm	Project Time: Board Game Decorating!	Project Time: Board Game Decorating!	Project Time: Board Game Decorating!	Project Time: Board Game Decorating!	Project Time: Board Game Decorating!	



<b>Wk 0</b> 29 Jan	<b>DIY Extravaganza!</b>		We're getting crafty this week as we come up with all the best crafts to take home with us!
<b>Wk 1</b> 5 Feb	<b>Year of the Dragon!</b>		Chinese New Year is a time for families to reflect and connect. Let's do it at Kelly Club.
<b>Wk 2</b> 12 Feb	<b>We're off to Neverland!</b>		Join us on an adventure as we meet mermaids, fight pirates and find the lost boys....
<b>Wk 3</b> 19 Feb	<b>KC Top Chef</b>		We're cooking up a storm as we take to the kitchen to create masterpieces!
<b>Wk 4</b> 26 Feb	<b>Staff Choice</b>		The staff have got you covered with a week filled with their favourite activities.
<b>Wk 5</b> 4 Mar	<b>Lost World Explorers</b>		We're visiting the past as we experience the coolest history week yet!
<b>Wk 6</b> 11 Mar	<b>International Sports</b>		Sports is played all over the world! Let's bring some of it to Kelly Club!
<b>Wk 7</b> 18 Mar	<b>Ooey Gooley</b>		It's going to get messy this week as we explore all things ooey & gooeey!
<b>Wk 8</b> 25 Mar	<b>Egg-stra Special Easter</b>		Get creative and celebrate Easter the Kelly Club way!
<b>Wk 9</b> 1 April	<b>Book Worms</b>		Let's be transported into the magical world of our favourite books!
<b>Wk 10</b> 8 April	<b>Kids Choice</b>		It's up to you what we do at Kelly Club this week.



## What is the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon? Kilbirnie Park Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon is designed for Kiwi kids aged 6-15 years to help them stay active and healthy through a programme of participation. The series has been running since 1992 and is a rite of passage for Kiwi kids. To date, over 475,000 Kiwi kids have given it a TRY. Open to Kiwi kids of all sporting abilities the Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon is a fun day out for kids, parents and families. Participants get to swim, cycle, and run their way around age-appropriate courses. You can enter either as an individual or as part of a team of two also we have created a **school group for HOUGHTON VALLEY SCHOOL**. Earlybird closes 18/2/24.

Every participant who enters receives:

- a Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon medal
- a downloadable certificate of achievement
- an official Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon t-shirt, drawstring kit bag & swim cap
- complimentary breakfast from the Weet-Bix Breakfast Tent
- PLUS the chance to WIN awesome spot prizes and meet their sporting heroes.

Check out the **Location** page for your closest event and for more details. Go on "Give it a TRY!". <https://tryathlon.co.nz/locations/wellington/>



**Pippins**  
5 - 6 years

**Join in the fun at Island Bay Pippins.** Being a Pippin with GirlGuiding NZ is a very popular choice for 5 and 6 year old girls. We welcome all girls interested to join our Unit in Island Bay at St Hilda's Church from 6-7pm on a Tuesday night during the school term. If you have a 5 or 6 year old daughter would like to have fun then contact Dianna on phone: 04 3837518 or email [meates21@gmail.com](mailto:meates21@gmail.com) or Denise in the HVS office.

**Marrzipan Drama Classes:** "Is your child shy? Do they feel intimidated by the idea of public speaking and performance? Do they sometimes find it difficult to make eye contact? Do they just need 45 minutes a week to take part in organised craziness?! Come and join Marrzipan! We run awesome drama classes which focus on key life skills in the Houghton Valley Hall on Thursday Mornings! We play fun engaging games and perform at the end of term once to parents and once to the school. All scripts are original, engaging, educational and HILARIOUS. All parents receive weekly class reports too to keep them up to date on their child's development. Give me a call to come along for a free trial, or just a chat to discuss how our classes can benefit your child's development. You can sign your child up for a Trial Lesson via our website [www.marrzipandrama.co.nz](http://www.marrzipandrama.co.nz) (we have contact numbers on there too, should you prefer to talk to a human!)"

**ICONZ - Junior Boys' Brigade** for boys Year 1-3. Meets 3.30-5pm on Thursdays at St Hilda's Church, 311 The Parade. Loads of fun activities, games, stories, crafts, and sports. Afternoon tea and a walking bus from school provided. For more info contact Brenda Watkin on 0211378062 or [brendajwatkin@gmail.com](mailto:brendajwatkin@gmail.com). [Enrol here](#).

**Junior Girls' Brigade** – loads of fun for girls in Years 1-5, 4.30-6pm Wednesdays at Island Bay Presbyterian Church Hall, 88 The Parade. Crafts, games, stories, and friendship. **Senior Girls' Brigade** – fun, friendship, crafts, life skills and more for girls in Years 6+, 7-8.30pm Mondays at Island Bay Presbyterian Church Hall, 88 The Parade. For more info contact Brenda Watkin on 0211378062 or [brendajwatkin@gmail.com](mailto:brendajwatkin@gmail.com). [Enrol here](#).

## Term 1 Events for 2024

Term 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 3 12-16 Feb				<u>Swimming</u>	
Week 4 19-23 Feb				Swimming	Bake Sale – Rimu and Ngaio 2:55pm
Week 5 26- 1 March	Home & School Meeting 7:30pm in the staffroom			<u>Swimming</u> Newsletter	
Week 6 4-8 March				Swimming <i>FYI: No Seniors Swimming today</i>	
Week 7 11-15 March				<u>Swimming</u> Newsletter	
Week 8 18-22 March	BOT Meeting 7-9pm			Swimming	Bake Sale - Karaka & Ti Kouka 2:55pm
Week 9 25-29 March				<u>Swimming</u> Newsletter	<b>Easter Holidays – Public Holiday</b>
Week 10 1-5 April	<b>Easter Holidays – Public Holiday</b>	<b>Easter Holidays – Public Holiday</b>		Swimming	
Week 11 8-12 April				<u>Swimming</u> Newsletter	<b>Last Day of School 2:55pm</b>

<b>Houghton Valley School Information</b>	
<p>Houghton Valley School Ph: 939-3318                      Website: <a href="http://www.houghton.school.nz">www.houghton.school.nz</a>                      PrincipalEmail: <a href="mailto:principal@houghton.school.nz">principal@houghton.school.nz</a></p>	<p>HVS Facebook page  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/houghton.school.nz/">https://www.facebook.com/houghton.school.nz/</a>                      School Office Email: <a href="mailto:admin@houghton.school.nz">admin@houghton.school.nz</a></p>
<p><b>Healthline 0800 611 116 OR COVID-19 Info 0800 358 5453</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Bee Healthy Dental Clinic</u></b>                      • 0800 825 583</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ezlunch.co.nz</u> • Thursdays • Sushi</b>                      • Fridays • Pita Pit - go online to  <a href="http://www.ezlunch.co.nz">www.ezlunch.co.nz</a> please order before <b>8:30am</b></p>
<p><b><u>Kelly Club After School Care</u> - <a href="http://www.kellyclub.co.nz">www.kellyclub.co.nz</a> Cell 022 010 9981</b>                      Phoebe – Co-ordinator Book before 4pm the day before or Email <a href="mailto:houghtonvalley@kellyclub.co.nz">houghtonvalley@kellyclub.co.nz</a></p>	