



Whakamaru School

Tena Koutou/Greetings

*Welcome to our school. We cater for all primary and
intermediate aged students
Year 1 to Year 8.*



***At Whakamaru School we develop attitudes and skills
for life-long learning.***

***Kaahu Rd, RD1, Mangakino · Phone (07) 8828872 · Fax (07) 8828822
principal@whakamaru.school.nz***

Welcome to our very special school.
Why is it special?

- A school providing challenges for our learners.
- Children are encouraged to learn to the best of their ability.
- Small class sizes.
- A rural school with a family atmosphere whose members are encouraged to genuinely care for each other.
- Our kids are active country kids.
- A technologically savvy school - up to date computers and interactive whiteboards in every classroom.
- A school that's passionate about out of school experiences - especially for our Senior Class - eg River Trail 100km Challenge, Tongariro Crossing, etc
- Annual Ag Days.
- School Choir.
- Sports Days.
- A member of the local Pinelands cluster group of schools for interschool events.

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- Kapa Haka group.
- Specialist teachers on staff.
- A Social Worker in Schools on site - Rochelle Lemberg
 - We listen and act on concerns and comments.
- A Duffy School - free or subsidized books available for every child in the school.
- A 'Kids Can' school - a values and life skills programme delivered weekly.
- A school pool and trained instructors for swimming.
- A fantastic library.
- Gardening Club.
- A dedicated staff of experienced teachers.
- A Student Council - encouraging leadership in students.
- A Health Promoting School.

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Staff

Staff members are all experienced and enthusiastic:-

Principal	Mrs Jill McArthur
Year 0 - 1 Teacher	Ms Keriana Whatarau (Deputy Principal)
Year 2 - 3 Teacher	Ms Jenny Collins
Year 4 - 5 Teacher	Mrs Kareena Sneddon
Year 6 - 8 Teacher	Mrs Melanie Pasco
Teacher Aides	Mrs Christine Taylor, Mrs Claire Hamilton,
Office Manager	Mrs Elva Lorenz
Social Worker	Rochelle Lemberg
Caretaker	Mr Roly Schwass
Cleaner	Ms Malia Iele

Talk to us if you need anything from us. We are here to help and provide the best learning opportunities for your child.

We are at school early to ensure we are prepared for the day and are in our rooms from 8:30am to spend time with the children before the school day starts at 8:45am.

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Absences

In the case of a child being absent from school then please contact the school. Ph 078828872 or text 0277587401. The school will follow up on all unexplained absences.

If your child is late to school then please have them go to class via the school office to let us know they have arrived.

Bell Times

Please ensure your children are here ready for the school day by **8:45am.**

Session 1	8:45 - 10:30
Morning tea	10:30 - 10:50
Session 2	10:50 - 11:45
5 minute break	11:45 - 11:50
Session 3	11:50 - 12:30
Lunch	12:30 - 1:15
Session 3	1:15 - 2:45

Board of Trustees

This group of elected parent representatives meets monthly - usually on a Tuesday. Meetings are advertised in the school newsletter. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Elections are in April this year.

Buses

We have two buses:-

Farm Bus (Pouakani Farm/Ranginui Road)	Grahame (driver)
Sandel/Tihoi Roads	Doreen from Go-Bus.

If you have a question about bus routes then please ring the office to talk to Elva (Office Manager). The Principal is in charge

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of the buses apart from that. If you need to discuss anything further then please ring the school and ask to speak to Jill. Every child in the school who travels on the bus (including Year 7 and 8 Tech Arts students) is required to sign a behaviour contract. There are senior children who report daily to the Principal about bus behaviour. Good behaviour can be maintained by speaking to your children about your expectations.

Donations

We ask for a donation of **\$20 per family** to help meet expenses. This is voluntary but much needed.

Duffy Books

We are a Duffy School which means we receive lots of new books into the school. We give these books out to children at every opportunity - including on starting school, at assemblies, and other times as appropriate. We feel this recognizes the place of reading and literacy development at Whakamaru School.

Enrolments/Pre-School Visits

It is important that we know when your child is starting school so please ensure their name is on our list. All children may have two school visits to familiarize themselves with their new surroundings. These are usually one morning and one afternoon in the week before their birthday. Please contact Ms Whatarau to organize dates. Parents must be on-site during these visits. Please remember all 5 year old enrolments must be accompanied by a copy of their birth certificate/passport and immunization record. A new requirement is that we have a record of their preschool education.

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Gardening Club

We have the opportunity for students to take part in this club where they have a say in how the school grounds are developed. This is held at lunchtimes.

Healthy Schools

We are part of the Healthy Schools programme. This means we are lucky enough to have fruit for the students to eat every day - usually just before morning tea time. This is delivered fresh to the school twice a week. We also have other healthy initiatives - including being an accredited sunsmart school - through this programme.

Kapa Haka Group

This group meets fortnightly and will be taking part in performances through the year as our Maori culture is an integral part of our school.

Library

We have a library on-site which every child has the opportunity to use weekly during class time. We have new software which means students can access the catalogue and records remotely.

Newsletters

These are sent home with the eldest child each Monday. Please take the time to read them as they tell you about what is happening at school. We are more than happy to print your ads or community news if space allows. If you wish to receive our newsletter by email then please let us know.

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Parent Help

Parent help is always hugely appreciated. Gardening, reading with children, art, etc - all offers are gratefully received.

P.T.A.

We have a very supportive group of parents who meet twice a term or as necessary. They are responsible for fundraising and have organized some fantastic events. We are very lucky to have this group backing the school. Think about what you can do.

School Pool

We are lucky enough to have a pool. All teachers are trained in the Swim Safe Instruction Programme and are qualified to teach swimming. Please make sure that your child has their togs and towel at school during the swimming season as it is expected that they will all take part in this part of the school programme. If, due to sickness, they cannot swim, then please make sure they have a note. There are consequences for non-swimmers.

Social Worker

We have a social worker in schools who works in our school once week. You are most welcome to request that your child sees her if you would like. Just contact the school office to arrange a time or contact Rochelle directly - phone 0276500063.

Stationery

All supplies may be purchased from the school. It is important that your child is ready to learn with the appropriate stationery so please ensure it is purchased when the request notice is given.

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Student Council

This year the Student Council will be selected by the teachers. This group will be organizing special days for the other students so children feel they have a real say in what happens in the school. There are only well-behaved students required for this valued position.

Sunhats

Children must have a hat at school during Term 1 and 4. During this time they will be expected to sit in the shade if they do not have one. This means they may not play on the playground.

Technology Classes

All Year 7 and 8 students attend Technology classes at Forest View High School in Tokoroa. This is held every second Wednesday. There is no charge for transport by bus but there are associated course fees which the Board subsidises. Students may also be expected to supply some ingredients for Food Technology.

Visitors

All visitors to the school are welcome and should report to the school office to sign in as you arrive.

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