



2026 FEBRUARY WHĀNAU PĀNUI



He ao, he ao, he pō, he pō! Huihuia katoatia ō tātou mate ki te pae o maumahara, ki reira, tangihia ai, poroporoākītia ai e tātou, e ngā makorea kua mahue ki muri nei. Ko rātou te ranga mātai pō ki a rātou, ko tātou te ranga mātai ao ki a tātou.

Kei ngā mana o te tai whakarunga, o te tai whakararo e papaki kau mai nei ki runga o Turitea, ki runga tonu o te kaupapa o MANUKURA, tēnā rā tātou katoa.

Greetings to you all. It is my pleasure to introduce to you our first pānui of 2026. It has been a privilege to be a kaitiaki of this role and to lead our kaupapa this term. We have made a great start to the year, with routines, practices and protocols set in place. Students have settled into the everyday aspects of MANUKURA, getting used to being in sometimes challenging situations created to build character and develop mental fortitude; at the same time, having lots of fun, engaging in learning, and connecting with one another.

I am proud of our tuākana, our Year 13 cohort who are leading in a nurturing way; organising and running house competitions and being positive role models across our kaupapa.

We look forward to catching up with you all on the 17th and 19th of March, whether face to face or by video call, 4.00-7.00pm for our whānau chats.

Noho ora mai nā i ngā manaakitanga,
Nāku nā Nick Fonotoe

Tumuaki Taupua.



IMPORTANT MESSAGES

STUDENT DRIVERS

Student Drivers: a reminder that Restricted Licence drivers are **not to carry passengers** unless they have a full licence driver in the vehicle who has had their licence for 2 or more years or you are the primary caregiver or spouse. The fine is \$100 per passenger and 35 demerit points.

Learner Licence Drivers **cannot drive on their own.**

In addition to fines, a reminder that if our drivers are breaching their licence conditions and are in an accident, they are not covered by insurance.

WHĀNAU CHATS

Tuesday 17 March and Thursday 19 March, 4.00pm-7.00pm onsite.

This is an opportunity for whānau to meet with staff to discuss your child's progress at MANUKURA. Please fill in the spreadsheet with your child's name in the time slots that are available.

[Here is the link.](#)

There is also the option to video call our staff - please write (zoom) in brackets if that is what you would like.

Written reports will be sent out at the end of Term Two.

LOST PROPERTY

Please remember to name all clothing and belongings. It makes our job so much easier to return these to the owners.

Also we have noticed there are a lot of lockers without a padlock. Please remind your tamaiti to use their padlock to ensure their belongings are secure. Pā Gavin collects items from the **top** of lockers **everyday.**

A reminder that all students must wear 'Blacks' for their conditioning and sports training.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH?

4/3 Girls 7s begin

5/3 Pūhoro STEM Wānanga

7/3 Waka Ama Regionals - Masterton

7/3 Poukai at Poutu Marae

17&19/3 Whānau Chats

18/3 Manawatū Athletics

23 - 27/3 Waka Ama Nationals - Rotorua

24/3 Race Unity Speech Regionals

27-29/3 1st Kapa Haka Wānanga



2026 BUS ROUTES

Levin

6.40am Bath Street, Levin Intercity Stop
6.55am Foxton iSite Information ,92 Main Street
Foxton
7.10am Shannon (Near the Foxton/Shannon turnoff,
(by the 70 k traffic sign)
7.20am Tokomaru - Williams Rd/Makeura Rd Turn off
7.21am Tokomaru Hall
7.25am Linton - Tennent Drive (just past Linton
Camp Rd)

7.40am MANUKURA

Our Levin bus this term is at capacity so it is really important that students who are not entitled to take that bus do not jump on when they feel like it. Any changes or requests **must** to come through to the office.

Feilding/Kelvin Grove

6.55am Feilding Intermediate
7.10am Stonebrook Lane (on Stoney Creek Rd)
7.15am 26 McLeavey Drive Bus Stop
7.17am 124 Roberts Line
7.20am 84 Roberts Line (Woolworths)
7.23am 45 Rata Street
7.24am Vogel Street (Opp Oceans Takeaways)
7.25am 157 Vogel Street
7.26am Memorial Park on Main Street
- Opp Weston Ave
7.28am Cnr Ferguson and Stewart Cres
7.30am Albert St (past Hokowhitu School)
7.32am St Albans Church, Albert St
7.34am 8 Te Awe Awe St by Wallace Park

7.40am MANUKURA

Town

6.55am Cnr Seddon & Liverpool Sts
6.57am 181 Featherston St
7.02am Ruahine St, Hospital Stop near Puriri st
7.04am 1 Fairs Rd
7.05am 70 Langely Ave
7.06am 37 JFK Dr bus shelter by Langley Ave
7.08am 112 Benmore Ave
7.10am 72 Benmore Ave
7.11am 109 Gillespies Line
7.12am 198 Tremain Ave
7.13am 156 Tremain Ave
7.14am Cnr Turakina & Halswell Sts
7.17am 24 Pembroke St
7.18am 120 Monrad St
7.19am 580 Pioneer Highway
7.20am 5 Maxwells Line
7.23am 77 Slacks Rd
7.25am 36 Pitama Rd
7.26am 12 Pitama Rd
7.29am West End School, Botanical Rd
7.30am 35 Park Rd
7.32am 156 Park Rd
7.35am 301 Fitzherbert Ave Harringtons Lodge
7.37am Massey University Stop

7.40am MANUKURA



TIPENE VISIT TO MANUKURA



'E rangatira ai te tū, me aorangi te titiro atu.'

We are excited to be hosting TIPENE at the end of this term and welcome Pā Nathan and Whaea Yvette back to their kaupapa. While the entire kura of 72 students and staff are visiting our region we have organised two days of sharing with them. This is an opportunity that our young men are especially excited and preparing for with their learning of haka and waiata to celebrate the occasion.

Monday 30th March - Sports

Pōwhiri

Junior & Senior Basketball

Junior and Senior Rugby

Hākari

Tuesday 31st March - A day at MANUKURA

Conditioning

Breakfast / Briefing

Ako Waiata / Haka

Workshops of Speechmaking / Debates / Creating Content / Chess / Performing Arts.



YEAR LEADS UPDATES

Year 9 - Kua tau pai ngā ākonga hou kei waenganui i a tātou katoa!

Our Year 9 cohort have made a strong and positive start to their journey here at MANUKURA. I am extremely proud of how well they are embracing our MANUKURA kaupapa, embodying our tikanga, routines, expectations, and values of our kura.

Our Year 9 taiohi are developing growing independence as they learn to regularly check their timetables and calendars, arrive organised and prepared for learning, and ensure they have the correct equipment each day. These positive routines are helping to build a strong foundation for their ongoing success at MANUKURA.

What stands out most is the positive energy our Year 9 taiohi bring into our kura. They have added a fresh and uplifting presence to our kaupapa. Our taiohi are demonstrating enthusiasm, a genuine willingness to learn, eagerness to participate in conditioning, and a strong commitment to making the most of every opportunity presented to them at MANUKURA.

Kia kaha rā taiohi mā! Nā Awhina Rameka

Year 10 - Settling in well and reminders for home!

Year 10s have settled in well. We welcome nine new year 10 students in the 2026 cohort and they have adjusted well to MANUKURA life.

By now, all whānau should have received the [start-of-year newsletter](#). This has important reminder information around devices, stationery etc.

There are some year 10 classes with 'Independent Learning Time' allocated in their timetable.

Teachers have also asked to assign weekly tasks so students can complete them during this time.

Homesickness - It is important that we continue to check in with the private boarders and keep encouraging them that adjusting to this lifestyle and our kaupapa will be challenging to start with, but it does get easier. Please contact year leads should any pastoral issues arise at home and how we can best support at kura.

Kristina Sue



YEAR LEADS UPDATES

Year 11

We have a cohort of 37 students, with two being new to our school. With timetables now finalised, we are well into academic classes, and they are discovering the expectations of a full year of NCEA. Morning conditioning is also well underway, and the initial soreness should now be settling! Last week's Athletic Sports were a highlight, and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the wonderful talent we have. Regular attendance is an expectation of our kaupapa so it has been pleasing to see the great start. Please do not hesitate to make contact if there is anything you are unsure of.

Toni Manuel

Year 12

With a big step up from 2025, all students have settled well into the everyday life of MANUKURA. With the increase in content knowledge, work output and demands, all Year 12 students are focussed in achieving their goals for the year. From a conditioning perspective, many students have been sore for the past 3 weeks but this is a good thing, as their bodies are now adapting to the conditioning. It is great to see them settle into their routines and am looking forward to seeing the progression through to the end of the Term.

Renee Matoe

Year 13

Our Year 13 cohort continues to grow as purpose-driven leaders committed to shaping a culture of excellence. Through their deliberate efforts to strengthen relationships across year levels, particularly through house events that encourage healthy competition while remaining grounded in integrity and fairness.

Tanu Aumua



ACADEMIA HIGHLIGHTS

SCHOLARSHIP

We are incredibly proud to acknowledge the achievements of our tauira at Scholarship level.

At the beginning of the month we were delighted to announce that Rewihaukore Himiona-Te Peeti was awarded '**Outstanding scholarship**' for the 2025 Te Reo Rangatira examination, as well as achieving scholarship for the Te Reo Māori examination.

Keita Takitimu-Cook attained a Scholarship in Level 3 Painting. A testament to her conceptual depth, technical control, and sustained commitment to her practice.

Kohae Cherington achieved Scholarships in both Te Reo Māori and Te Reo Rangatira. An exceptional accomplishment that reflects linguistic excellence, cultural integrity, and academic rigour.

These achievements exemplify our kaupapa of striving beyond standard expectations and embodying excellence across creative and cultural domains.

Mathematics

Our NCEA classes are well underway with their first unit of work. Year 11's are either doing the learning for their Number projects or doing a Statistical Investigation into the climate in the Cook Islands. Year 12's are studying non-right angle triangles in Trigonometry, and Year 13's are doing a Time Series investigation, analysing Weather and Climate data over the past 52 years in New Zealand.

English

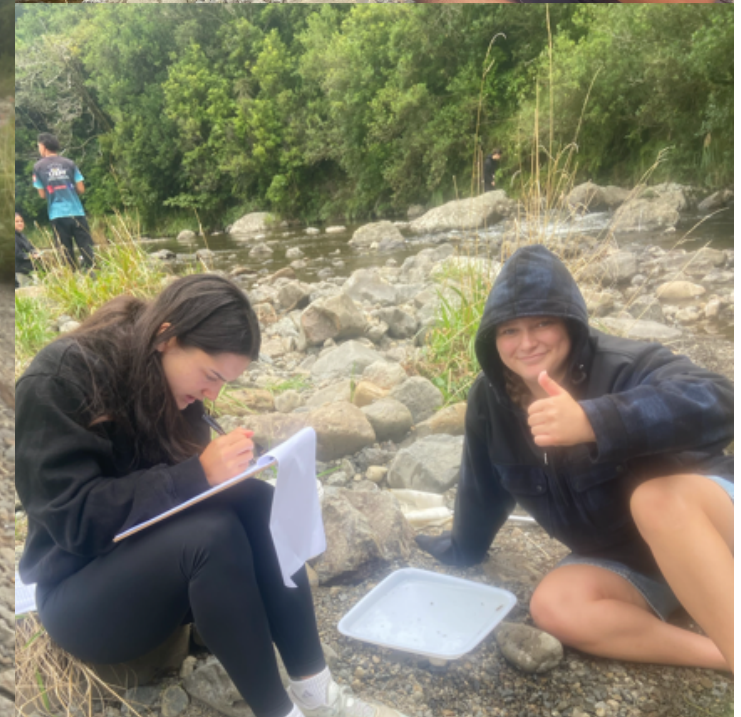
PAT reading comprehension. All year 9 students sit this test on entry to MANUKURA. Twenty-two students scored average or above average marks. Twelve students will be assessed individually and placed in the reading support programme if needed. Thank you to the parents who already informed us of your child's need for support on the enrolment form.

This year all year 10 students were reassessed. We have compared the entry 2025 marks with this year's and are very pleased with the progress that students have made. Fifty percent of our year 10 students have made very good to outstanding progress. Congratulations to the most improved reader, Makahuri Jarvis-Tawhai, and to Asha-Rose Waerea, the next most improved student. Congratulations to the other students who made excellent progress; Ella Paniora, Kahuraki Aumua, Keira Matena-Williams, Mana-Ariki Tairea-Tua, Keanu Tahiwī, Kyren Howearth-Ngamotu, Anessah-Rae Araia Dougherty and Haemata Ferris. There are another thirteen students who have shown good improvements.



ACADEMIA HIGHLIGHTS

Our L3 Biology class collected data from the Kahuterawa stream for their ecology investigation earlier this week. The weather wasn't the best, but the students all did a great job and are well on their way to completing their first NCEA assessment for the year.





HE RAU MANUKURA

Year 13 Leadership Camp

Our Year 13 students began the year with a two-day leadership camp themed “*Footprints That Outlast the Waves.*” Through challenge, reflection, and collective kōrero, they were encouraged to consider the kind of mark they want to leave grounded in character, courage, and contribution. The experience pushed them to lead with clarity, stand confidently in who they are, rise through adversity, and strengthen those around them. As the year unfolds, this cohort has committed to leaving footprints that future students will be proud to follow.



Ngā Pou o Te Kaupapa

The establishment of the POU leadership model for 2026 reflects a deliberate shift toward culturally anchored, purposeful, and accountable leadership. Rather than treating these POU roles as symbolic titles, each position is intentionally aligned to the four pillars of our kaupapa: **Purpose (IROĀM)**, **Unique (RAKA)**, **Ascend (AUAHA)**, and **Legacy (KOHA)**. Through this framework, students are challenged to lead with clarity of purpose, cultural confidence, resilience in adversity, and a genuine commitment to service. The model strengthens alignment between student leadership and our wider kura vision, while providing a structured pathway for reflection, growth, and measurable contribution. Ultimately, the POU approach positions our Year 13 leaders not merely to complete their final year but to act as enduring contributors who uplift whānau, hapū, iwi, and our kaupapa.





HOUSE SPORTS

We have started the year off with a range of House Sports Events every Friday led by our Year 13 students, with the theme for these events based around whakawhanaungatanga. We have had a full Athletics Day at Massey University, where we found our fastest runners across the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m track events and our high jump, long jump and shot put champions. These athletes will now have the chance to go through to the Manawātū Inter Secondary Schools Athletics held later in March. The year 13's also led a water sport afternoon with a range of activities which saw some houses outshine others and also a multi-sport afternoon.





SPORTS CODES

Boys Rugby Programme Update

It has been a fantastic start to the year for the MANUKURA Boys Rugby Programme. Our returning students have come back from the holidays refreshed and energised, showing strong intent and enthusiasm across both conditioning and training sessions. Our new students have also settled in seamlessly, bringing great energy and a real eagerness to learn, connect, and make a positive impression with both their peers and coaches.

The early weeks of the programme have placed a strong emphasis on whanaungatanga and connection, alongside on-field skill development and physical preparation. The boys have set an excellent tone for the year ahead, and it has been pleasing to see their focus, effort, and application during these opening stages of the season.

Boys Rugby League - MRL Competition

We are excited to announce that MANUKURA will be returning to the local MRL Age Grade Competition. In 2026, we will field one Under 15 team, made up primarily of our Year 9 and 10 Boys Rugby Programme members.

We are fortunate to have a strong base of rugby league expertise within our staff and we would like to acknowledge Pā Potene Paewai, Te Huarahi Rask, Wipere Takitimu and Tanu Aumua for leading this opportunity for our boys. MANUKURA has a proud history in rugby league, and we are thrilled to see this pathway return.

The team is shaping up nicely and drawing a lot of interest. If your son is interested in being involved in the MANUKURA Under 15 Rugby League team, please feel free to get in touch with any of the staff mentioned above.

We're looking forward to an exciting year ahead and appreciate the continued support of our whānau. For more information and to stay up to date with MANUKURA Boys Rugby, please visit our [Boys Rugby Facebook Page](#) and be sure to like and follow along.

Waka Ama

We are excited to begin preparations for this year's Waka Ama Nationals campaign. The Regional Competition takes place in Masterton on the 7th of March. We will be taking four teams of six paddlers:

• J19 Girls • J19 Boys • J16 Girls • J16 Boys

The Nationals selection will be limited to two teams only. These teams will be selected based on performance at Regionals. 23–28 March – Secondary Schools Waka Ama Nationals in Rotorua.



SPORTS CODES

Touch

MSS Touch

Last Tuesday, Term 1 Touch kicked off at QEC. MANUKURA has five teams entered this year. Two Senior Girls teams and three Boys teams. At last years NZSS Touch Tournament MANUKURA had a successful campaign with the Senior Girls finishing 5th and the Senior Mixed finishing 4th. Pā Potene is confident the girls will do very well this year as they had no Year 13 players in the squad but he is looking to rebuild the Boys programme and work on bringing through the next generation of male touch players.

Youth Touch Nationals

Two weeks ago a large contingent of MANUKURA players travelled to Christchurch for Youth Touch. There were some very close campaigns and some unlucky results but our students have all come back wiser and better for the experience.

Open Nationals

Starting February 27th the Open Touch Nationals kick off in Upper Hutt. MANUKURA has many ex-students involved however current students include - Malina Leatherby-Millar, Payten Peka and Kiara Ngatai-Cribb. They will be joined by current staff member, coach and NZ Māori Touch representative Jayda Maniapoto. Pā Potene is coaching the Manawātū Open Mens.

Netball

Over the past few weeks, our MANUKURA Netball programme has made an exciting and purposeful start to the year. We began with a meaningful whakawhanaungatanga afternoon, strengthening relationships and building strong connections within our rōpū. During our Red Book theory sessions, we have explored our objectives as a netball programme, set clear goals for 2026, and established our team structures. The girls have developed their understanding of basic netball terminology, attacking and defensive principles, and structures. On court, training has focused on the importance of strong fundamentals, including pre-movement, straight lines, and zero phase. Our players have also experienced specialist positional sessions, working in smaller groups for focused one-on-one time with coaches. Each week, the girls have had opportunities to apply their learning through competitive match play. We are proud of the growth already shown and are excited for what 2026 holds for MANUKURA Netball.

[Netball Manwatu Draw 2026](#)



GIRLS RUGBY

Girls Rugby - 2026 Start & Japan Sanix 7s

A great start to the term with intense purposeful trainings in the morning followed by developing whānaungatanga and skills in the afternoon training. We have completed the inaugural Foxton Beach challenge which connected our girls through challenging physical activities. **Sevens Term 1** - After winning the Condors 7s national tournament in Dec 2025, we are now invited to attend the prestigious World Sanix Rugby tournament to be held in Fukuoka, Japan in April. 12 players and our three coaches will be taking the girls to Japan from **April 18th - 2nd May**. Please follow our MANUKURA Girls Rugby Facebook page and instagram to stay updated with upcoming fixtures, tournaments, and progress of the girls within our programme.

NZ WARRIORS CAMP <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16nj9PB3HC/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

UPCOMING Tournaments & Dates

MRU Weekly 7s - Starts on March 4th, every Weds for four weeks. Last Weds of term one, 1st April will be the Ashleigh Knight Rugby Tournament held in Feilding. We will enter two teams for this.

