



**Gate Pā School**  
Pukehinahina

# WHĀNAU - SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Thursday 21st August, 2025

## Newsletter No.8, 2025



Download the HERO app. and connect to Gate Pā School.



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## Empowering Tamariki to Become Rangatira Who Value the Past to Create the Future

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Rochelle Jensen*

🌺🇺🇦 Fakaalofa atu ki he fāmili ‘a e ako - Greetings to our school family.

This week our kura has come alive with the colours, rhythms, and traditions of Tonga as we celebrate Lea Faka-Tonga, the Tongan language. A special highlight was the evening where our Filipino and Pasifika whānau came together to share kai and dance, a beautiful celebration of community and culture.

We also give a very warm welcome to the new tamariki who joined our school whānau this week: Abby, Hitesh, Ishani, Ishman, Kaia, Oketopa, Uate, Vahn, Hamiora, and Ngahaka. We are delighted to have you with us.

📚✏️+Quality teaching of the foundational skills in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics remains at the heart of our school day. Alongside this, we make the most of every opportunity to enrich learning with a broad curriculum and meaningful cultural experiences. This term, our new focus is Science – The Physical World, with plenty of hands-on learning taking place across the school.

Our teachers are currently in report-writing mode and it's pleasing to see improved academic results coming through. In Week 1 of next term, you'll have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress.

💡 We've also heard from many of you asking for more regular feedback on your child's learning, along with ideas to support learning at home. This is encouraging, as the closer we work together, the better the outcomes for your child. In 2026, we will launch a new reporting system, with regular feedback as a key feature. In the meantime, please keep up to date through HERO and don't hesitate to pop in or email your child's teacher if you have specific questions.

⚽ Beyond the classroom, our senior students have proudly represented Gate Pā in winter interschool sports tournaments over the past few weeks. A huge thank you to the many parents and staff who supported these events, your involvement really added to the fun and success!

🛍️ Other highlights so far this term included our lively Market Day, a celebration of technology learning where budding entrepreneurs brought their ideas to life. If you missed it, check out the video on our Facebook page. We also had the privilege of hosting Labo Japanese International students. Their visit was filled with laughter, and cultural sharing, with gift-giving — a special Japanese tradition — being especially enjoyed by our students.

School Starts: 8.55am -- School Ends: 2.55pm

Report Attendance 📧 HERO app or 0275785325

[www.gatepa.school.nz](http://www.gatepa.school.nz)



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### 📌 Important Reminders

- **Our School Choir at Baycourt**

Our school choir will be performing at Baycourt next Friday evening (29th). A huge thank you to Ms Bremner for training and leading this group of singers. Tickets can be purchased by phoning 0800 289 849. Limited tickets available.

- **Parent Representative Board of Trustees Election**

We are delighted to have 12 parents standing for 5 positions on our School Board. This is an important role in the governance of our school, ensuring our strategic direction reflects the aspirations of our community. Please make sure you vote for your preferred candidates. **Voting closes: 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

- **Enrolments for Term 4 and 2026**

To support planning, it is essential that you inform the school early if your child will be enrolling. You can do this by popping into the school office or completing an enrolment form via our school website.

- **Community Consultation – Strategic Plan 2026–2028**

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback so far. There's still time to have your say: <https://shorturl.at/NWVxB>

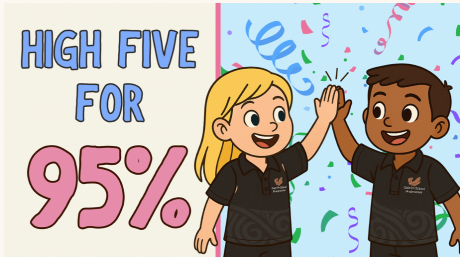
- **Māori Whānau hui:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm. Shared kai, whanaungatanga and celebrating te wiki o te reo Māori.

- **Year 6 Transition to Tauranga Intermediate**

Open Evening on tonight - Thursday 21st August, 6:00–8:30pm! Also, online enrolments are open now via their school website. Enrol your child now!

- **High Five for 95% Attendance**

At Gate Pā School we reward excellence including excellent attendance. Students with 95%+ attendance for this term will enjoy a celebratory lunch with the Principal.



Finally, you may have seen in the media that some schools are closing as part of union meetings and strike action. At Gate Pā, our intention is to remain open wherever possible, so that learning and routines continue smoothly for our students and whānau.

As we pass the halfway point of the term, the benefits of our focus on learning competencies, culture and character are shining through. Ngā mihi for your continued support.

*Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi*

With your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive.

Ngā mihi nui

Rochelle Jensen - Tumuaki / Principal

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