

# KELBURN NORMAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## NGĀ TĀTARAKIHI O AHUMAIRANGI PĀNUI

THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW ISSUE 40 WEEK 10, TERM 4 2024

RĀAPA 18 HAKIHEA ~ WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER



Where students learn creatively and strive for excellence in preparing for lifelong learning  
Kia auaha te ako a ngā ākonga me te whai i te iti kahurangi mō te akoranga tūroa

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

This is my final newsletter at Kelburn Normal after 8 years in the principal's chair.

For this week and last the school has had a lovely hum to it as the work has drawn to an end. We enjoyed each other's company for the last few days of 2024. Christmas activities have made way for a massive tidy up. The kiwi summer break is upon us.

Through the tamariki sharing stories of life at school, our weekly newsletters, teacher emails, the School App, and Facebook communications, our school community will have gained an impression of school-life throughout 2024. School-life is always "full on" and the website, facebook, engagements and learning journeys certainly capture the moments of the many activities and exciting events the children have been involved in. Whānau who have been keeping track of these will have gained an understanding of the vibrancy and rich curriculum the school has promoted.

As we farewell our year 8 and departing students at the end of their time at Kelburn, we have a lot to be proud of. As we reflect on our vision statement - 'At Kelburn children learn creatively, strive for excellence, preparing for lifelong learning' - and we can see the fruits of our collective goals, the resolve of teachers and support staff, and the collective and individual effort of these children. Our academic results this year continue to be very strong - we measure at Y5-8 and we continue to achieve collectively well above similar schools to Kelburn. We will share this in summary in the new year. There is no slippage in any achievement at Kelburn in English, Maths and Science - that their achievement has sustained levels of achievement that go back 8 years.

Beyond the data though, most importantly though is that Kelburn is a community of people who are focused on the collective, rather than the individual. People who are generous of spirit and recognise and acknowledge the strengths of others. People who embrace our concept of manaakitanga, where we work together to create our successful community. To that respect I take the time to thank our whānau for the support and care that you have given us through this year. You have wonderful children and we do enjoy trying to bring out the best in them. Some families are leaving Kelburn, some after many years of being part of our community - we thank you and wish you all the very best.

So many people contribute to this place...thank you for the little bits or the big bits that you do.

We thank the PTA and the Board who have been so supportive of us all - the children and staff - as well as organising the community's connection to Kelburn. The Board of Trustees and PTA spend many extra hours helping to take our school forward and to keep us close together. We are blessed with such an experienced and capable group working for all of us.

**Finally...**

Ehara tāku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitini ~ Our strength is not as individuals, but as a collective.

On a personal level I want to thank the team closest to me, Danielle as DP, Libya as AP and Loraine in the office and to Nickie as Board chair, and Susie who starts our tamariki's time at kura - they have all provided such wonderful support in our school organisation, decision-making and direction.

I want to say a huge thank you to our staff for their mahi and support for students and whānau over this year. I know how much 'emotional investment' and care you have for your students and know how hard you work to enable them to do their best work. You all contribute so much to the success of Kelburn Normal School and with most staff returning (again) for 2025, the continued stability of the last few years adds strength to our learning environment.

I wish all of our tamariki and whānau a safe and relaxing holiday break. To our school leavers and departing staff and whānau, all the very best for your future years. Remember, you will always be a part of Kelburn Normal School.

This year Arlo and Fiona spoke to the year 8s at the final assembly and I was struck by how well they had encapsulated this group and our manaakitanga at Kelburn. Some people advocate to achieve order through control, systems and structure. At Kelburn we aim to drive our culture through natural leadership, quality relationships, high expectations and a children's community that cares for all...a tuakana teina approach. Here are their words about how the year 8s nurtured them ...

**Arlo:** *School had just begun. We walked into the Maia space not fully realizing that this year would become both the most enjoyable and challenging year we'd had so far. I remember the first time I walked into Maia, just before school ended in late 2023. We had just found out about our classes. I was feeling nervous and unsure of what to expect. But within minutes, those nerves turned into pure excitement. The Year 8s, who had been here for a while already, were so welcoming and kind, and they made me feel at home straight away. It's crazy to think that just a couple months ago we were the nervous newcomers, and now, here we are, ready to move up ourselves.*

**Fiona:** *Looking back, it's hard to believe how far we've come since those early days. The first few weeks were full of awkward introductions and unfamiliar faces. But, slowly, we started to build friendships, find our place, and really get to know one another. It's funny how, over time, the people who once felt like strangers now feel like family. Watching the Year 8s leave Kelburn is a bit bittersweet. It's hard to imagine school without them, especially because they've been such a big part of making this year so memorable.*

**Arlo:** *The impact the Year 8s have had on the school is huge. Even though they're a smaller group, they've shown all of us what it means to be a part of a community. Whether it was helping with school events, guiding us through tricky situations, or simply spending time together, their presence has been felt in every corner of Kelburn. Their energy, their teamwork, and their kindness have set a standard that we can only hope to live up to in the years to come. We've all learned something from them, whether it's how to work together or how to be a good friend.*

**Fiona:** *As they prepare to leave, it's clear that the Year 8s have left a lasting mark on this school. They've not only made our time here better, but they've also taught us what it means to be kind, supportive, and involved. We may not always realize it, but their example has shaped our journey in ways we'll carry with us for years to come. So, while we say goodbye, we also say thank you. For everything they've done, for the memories they've created, and for the inspiration they've given us. We'll do our best to carry that spirit forward and make them proud.*

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To finish ... I am so proud of our team for what we all do at Kelburn - one of the things I am most proud of is being the Tumuaki that ushered in our school name Ngā Tātarakihi o Ahumairangi. The honour of being given a name by Te Atiawa, a name that connects us to Parihaka - 'the sound of the cicada basking in the sun at Ahumairangi'...or in Parihaka terms - the sound that children make at play. To have kaumatua Kura Moeahu connect the essence of Kelburn, our mana, to the beautiful sounds we make in the Arts at Kelburn is a privilege that I'm not sure we as a community understand or value enough. Our school name is not focused on our location, our name reflects our tamariki and their aroha for each other. I think that is really special cause that to me is what Kelburn has.

Travel safe Kelburn...  
Ngā manaakitanga

Andrew