

Welcome to this edition of our school newsletter. The school has been particularly busy this week with all of our students visiting the nearby streams to complete a stream study. The weather has been generally kind, and I know a lot of enjoyment was had, along with the study. We have also had a performance by a group of our students who participate in dance classes with “Defy Dance”, the dance group which uses our Hall each day after school. This was well received by our students. Congratulations to all involved.

As the end of the school year gets closer, we have a number of events happening. In particular we have our two final assemblies. Year 8 will have their final assembly and prizegiving on Monday 14 December starting at 7:00pm. Our Year 8 students will be expected to be in full school uniform, and to be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. This is quite a formal assembly, and we expect it to finish by 8:30pm, at which time our Year 8 students complete their time at Kahikatea Kirkwood Intermediate. Year 8 students are not expected to attend school on the following Tuesday.

Our Year 7 final assembly is a much less formal event. Our Year 7’s will begin school at the usual time and then meet in the Hall at 11:30am. They will be dismissed around 12:15pm. We are trying to arrange for the school buses to run at 12:30pm that day, we will confirm this in the next newsletter.

Next year sees the introduction of our new school uniform. New uniforms will be available from NZ Uniforms (455 Blenheim Road) by mid December. The current school uniform is able to be worn next year – please don’t think you need to buy new uniform if your child’s current uniform is still suitable. Please also note that the rules around school shoes will not be changing – children need to wear black, leather, lace up shoes.

The next meeting of the Friends of the School – PTA will be held on Tuesday 1 December, starting at 2:00pm. All interested parents and whānau are welcome to attend. The next meeting of the Board takes place on Thursday 10 December, starting at 5:15pm. Again, all interested parents and whānau are welcome to attend.

Teachers are busy completing end of year reports for each child. These will be available through Hero on Friday 11 December. They contain important information on your child's progress. If you cannot access them on Friday 11 December, please feel welcome to contact the school office.

During this busy time, I do hope that you are able to make time as a family to reflect on the year you have had, and to make plans for time together over the Christmas break. I firmly believe that families are the glue that hold us together. I hope you are able to spend an enjoyable Christmas break with yours.

Kind regards

Phil Tappenden
Principal

Pickleball

Thank you so much to Ms Rowe and the PTA for organising the purchase of Pickleball for our students.

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It is played either as singles or doubles on a badminton sized court using a solid paddle and a perforated plastic ball.

The students have had a great time playing this game during their PE classes.





For Review: Draft Strategic Plan 2027 - 2028

The Draft Strategic Plan for 2027–2028 is now available for community consultation. Please click the following link to view the document.

Draft Strategic Plan 2027 – 2028

If you have any comments or feedback, please email us at school.information@kirkwood.school.nz by 27 November 2026.

Josiah Tualamali’i visits our Pasifika Group

The Pasifika Group were excited to welcome Josiah Tualamali'i to visit and share his incredible sailing journey around Antarctica. Josiah spoke about his experiences, the challenges of travelling through such an extreme environment, and the importance of his mission. He also brought along some of the equipment for our students to see, touch and even dress up in, giving them a hands-on opportunity to experience a little of what life is like on an Antarctic expedition.

Josiah is a man of many talents and achievements. He is the co-founder of Pacific Youth leadership, former New Zealand Children's Commissioner, and has also been involved in the book The Apology, the sequel to Dawn Raid, written by Pauline Smith. Alongside sharing his journey and experiences, Josiah generously gifted our school a new set of both books, which we are incredibly grateful for.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear from someone who has made such a positive impact in our communities, learn about his adventures, and be inspired by his leadership, storytelling and commitment to making a difference.



School App

Our school uses the Hero App for communicating to our school community.

This is also our emergency contact system.

Please click on the following link for instructions on how to download” HERO APP



Interview with Mrs B on Google Meet

Room 9 has been lucky to have two Teacher Aides for 2025/26. Last week our class interviewed Mrs B on Google Meet. Mrs B was our Teacher Aide in 2025 but left to return to England at the end of last year.

It was evening in the UK. We were interviewing her for our class magazine about her time as a Teaching Assistant. She had some funny moments to share.

She also showed us around her house and explained where her town was located on the map. It was so cool to see her and hear her warm and caring voice again.

Thanks to Jo for organising this. It was very cool.

Nicole Room 9



School Uniform

We have our current 2026 leftover uniform stock from 'The Warehouse' now in our school office. If you would like to purchase any items, we will be selling (the current uniform) for only $10 an item. We will also be selling brand new long grey socks, with the red and green band, for $10 (two pairs) or $5 (one pair). Various sizes are available.

Please note, our new 2027 school uniform will be sold at NZ Uniforms, 455 Blenheim Road by mid December.

Our current 2026 uniform is able to be worn in 2027.



Christchurch Boys' High Mentors

Every Wednesday morning, we are fortunate to welcome a group of boys from Christchurch Boys' High, alongside Ed Finch, who spend time mentoring our Pasifika boys.

These mornings are all about building positive connections, encouraging friendships and providing great role models. The boys enjoy spending time reading together, having a bit of a play with the ball and sharing some kai.

It is a great opportunity for our Pasifika boys to build confidence, strengthen relationships and learn from positive role models, some ex-students of Kirkwood are there as well.

We really appreciate Ed and the Christchurch Boys' High School students giving up their Wednesday mornings to spend time with us.



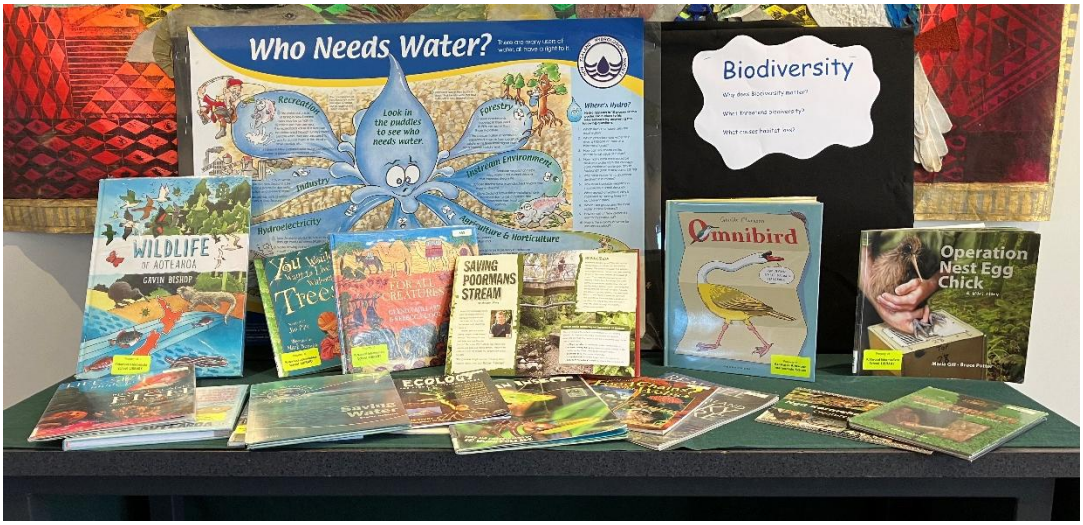


School Calendar

Please view via our website: School Calendar

Library News

Week 6 & 7: The display is focused on Biodiversity. The display only showcased a few of the many books we have covering this topic.



Lunch Orders (Friday's only)

You can order lunch via Ezlunch on Fridays by simply clicking here!
Sushi Ninja and Subway is available and will be delivered in time for lunch.

You may order (or cancel) **before 9am** on this day or schedule in advance. Click here to view the menu.

Orders are made online through your MyKindo account. One account for the whole family! Please click here or go to www.mykindo.co.nz to start ordering!
Note: For Apple and Android users, please download the mykindo app.

Help? Visit support.mykindo.co.nz or tel. 09 869 5200 weekdays 8am – 4pm.

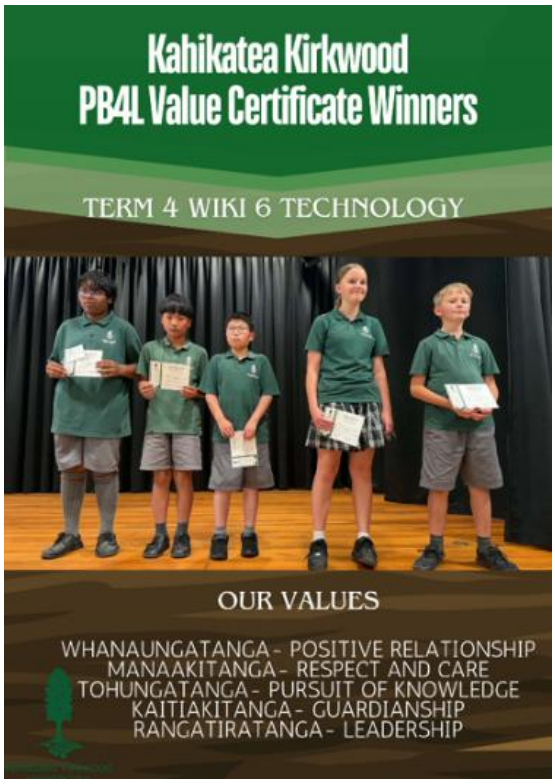
www.ezlunch.co.nz
www.mykindo.co.nz

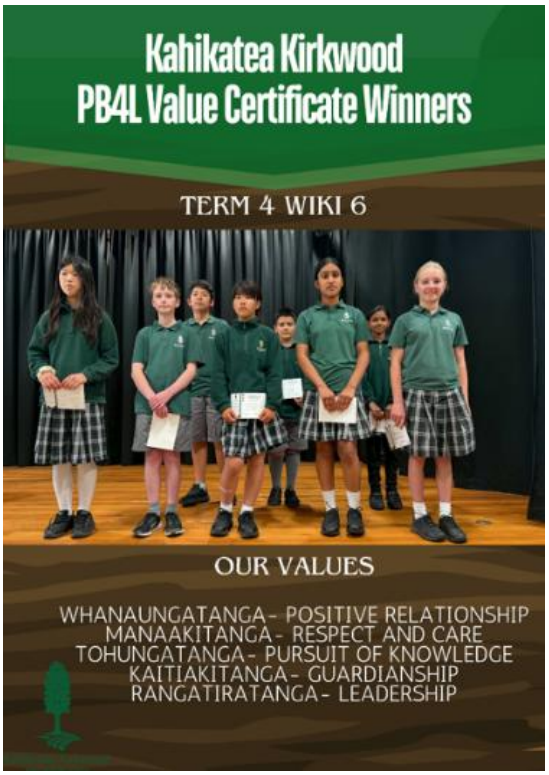


Black Friday Ezlunch offer: Use the code **BF2OFF** to get $2 off one order per family while discounts last.

Value Certificate winners

Congratulations to the Classroom and Technology Value certificate winners for Term 4 Week 6.





Home Stay Families

We are looking into the future for homestay families to host short and long term international students for 2027. For those interested please contact Alison Xie, our International Director alisonxie@kirkwood.school.nz. Alison will give you a Homestay Application form along with a Police Vetting form. These need to be filled out and delivered to the school office. Thank you

Period Products

Period products are available at the school office at no cost.

Kahikatea Kirkwood Blues Awards

We offer Blues Awards for Academic, Cultural and Sports. The goal of our Blues Awards are to:

- Acknowledge the achievement and attainment of our students;
- Acknowledge the depth and breadth of their attainment; and
- Acknowledge citizenship and students who display our school values;
- Encourage students to strive;
- Place a high value on 'In-school' achievement.

For details regarding eligibility criteria please visit our website: Blues Award Criteria and Application Form





Parakuihi Club / Breakfast Club

At Kahikatea Kirkwood we are fortunate to have a **Parakuihi Club/Breakfast Club** before the school day starts on Monday - Friday from 8:20am - 8:40am.

We've got yummy cereals and toast with delicious spreads – all free, all for you! Bring your friends, fill your tummy, have a chat with the youth workers and get ready for a great day.

Thank you to our awesome sponsors: Anchor, Sanitarium, and Woolworths Church Corner.

Please look at the Daily Notices on our website for more information.



Road Safety

Please can you emphasise to your children how important it is to cross Riccarton Road at the pedestrian crossing by Wharenui Road.

If you are dropping your child off opposite the school, they must walk down the road to this crossing. Please do not help them to cross opposite the school.

Thank you

Scholastic Book Club

Orders are due by **Monday 30 November**. To order online, please follow the instructions below:

LOOP is the easy way for families to order and pay for Book Club. Log in,

or create a new account at bookclub.scholastic.co.nz

1. If you are new to Book Club, follow the Wizard to set up your profile;
2. Click the ORDER tab, and select your school and child's class;
3. Add your child's first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for);
4. Enter the product item number shown on the Book Club catalogue;
5. Make payment via credit card.



School Driveway

Please ensure you **do not** drive up the school driveway (Riccarton Road & Kirkwood Avenue entrances) to drop off or pick up your children either before or after school. It is too unsafe for our children.

Please plan to pick up and drop off your child outside the Kirkwood grounds. Kirkwood Ave and Karamu Street are good options.

Thank you for your support with this.

Sprout for Starship

With every Sprout ordered helps the mission, with $10 from each purchase going to Starship Foundation. Every order helps get Starship closer to their $10,000 goal.

Thank you for helping a little Sprout make a big difference.

You can order your Sprout here.



Health New Zealand / Te Whatu Ora

For information on the School Based Immunisation Programme, please click here.

School Bank Account Details

Account Name: ***Kahikatea Kirkwood Intermediate Board***
Account Number: ***12-3147-0180900-00***
Particulars: ***Child's name (surname and first name)***
Reference: ***Parent's/caregiver's name (surname and first name)***

For those of you who wish to pay by internet banking for any school activities during the year, please make sure you submit your online permission along with your payment.

Community Notices

New Zealand Traveler Declaration – The digital declaration is free to complete using the official NZTD app or online form. You can do this before you land for a smoother, easier experience when you land.
Helensville School is turning 150 – If you would like to be kept up to date on next years festivities to celebrate Helensville's 150th birthday, then please email.
Bellies, Babies to Tweens Market – Selling quality pre-loved baby, children's and tweens items on Sunday 6 December, 9am – 12 noon at Halswell Rugby League Club in the Halswell Domain.
Family Cabs – 24/7 Airport Transfers, Cabs4Kids and Taxis4Teens. Visit their website for more information.
Avonside Girls' High School – If you know of whānau who will struggle to purchase uniform items for Avonside Girls', then please ask them to email Nardine who will be able to help.
Parent to Parent – Workshops, events, resources for parents & whānau of disabled kiwis can be found on their website.
Sara Cohen School Centenary Celebration – On Saturday 5 December at 12:30pm. For more information email mailto:centenary@saracohen.school.nz
Kip McGrath - Does your child need extra help or extension? Is your child ready for high school? We can help at Kip McGrath Avonhead with face to face, small group tutoring with actual trained teachers. Help your child build confidence in a safe environment. Book for a free assessment visit our website or phone 03 3427110.

Sports/Clubs

Mainland Pouākai vs Tokomanawa Queens – On Saturday 28 November, 7:30pm at Parakiore Recreation & Sport Centre. Tickets can be found here.
Z Manu World Champs - Where bomb legends from all walks of life come together . The Christchurch Qualifiifier is on Saturday 6 March 2027 at Jellie Park. Info found here.



Please note: Kahikatea Kirkwood Intermediate does not necessarily endorse or support any of the services advertised