



PROPECTUS 2024

Welcome to Whakamaru School.

Kia ora koutou katoa nga whanau o tenei kura
Greetings to all our families.

To children and parents we are a vibrant, friendly school with a family atmosphere and are pleased to have you as members of our school community.

We are a decile 4, full primary school providing high quality education to children in years 1 to 8. While we have a very strong focus on reading, writing and maths, we provide a positive balance between academic, physical, social and cultural opportunities for our students.

Our school mission is about **‘Growing Creative Thinkers’**, ensuring our students are prepared for their future. We are also focused on students well-being, fitness and ensuring our school has strong community connections. We provide provocations (questions) to challenge our students thinking and encourage students to think out of the box. We have the latest technology and devoted teachers who work hard to inter-twine devices into a balanced classroom teaching programme.

Our school has five values based around ‘KAAHU’, the name of the mountain range behind the school. These values underpin every decision made and helps to create a school environment where students voice is valued with positive interactions and outcomes that ensure students thrive.

In welcoming you to Whakamaru School we would like you to know that the Māori word for **‘Whakamaru’** literally mean **“to give shelter or safeguard”** so please feel assured, that we have a genuine interest in your child’s wellbeing and educational success.

Our Mission Statement

*“ We are **Growing Creative Thinkers** for life”*

Our Vision Statement & Values

*“ We are **K.A.A.H.U. kids** who are”*

Knowledge Seekers—*He tangata whai matauranga* (curious, inquiring and reflective)

Always respectful—*He tangata whai manaaki* (to ones self, others and property)

Accountable—*He tangata whakairo* (towards ourselves, our actions and our words)

High achievers—*He tangata piki ake ki te teitei* (that show excellence, personal best and perseverance)

Unified— *He whanau Kotahi* (by working together, showing teamwork for the benefit of all)

We strongly believe our “KAAHU” values help our students become successful individuals who are creative thinkers with a growth mindset.



*E huri tō aroaro ki te rā tukuna tō ātaarangi ki muri i a koe.
Turn and face the sun and let your shadow fall behind you.*

Our Whakatauki



Pursue that which is precious and do not be deterred by anything less than a lofty mountain.

“Always reach for the top”

Our school logo

Our school logo as seen below is split into various parts.

At the top are five koru which represent the five KAAHU values.

Below these are the distinctive shape of the mountain range that the values are named from, Kaahu mountain which over looks our school.

The Waikato river snakes around the base of the mountain, water indicating the essence of life and the river regarded as a highly valued natural resource, requiring our protection.

From the river are three koru “our school”, each koru representing Staff and Whanau (large koru) looking after students (small koru). This links to the English translation of Whakamaru , a shelter or safeguard.

Our colours are earthly with a maroon sky indicating how we always strive to reach for the top and green reinforcing the notion of growth and progress.



What makes us special!

- **Open door policy**—We have an open-door policy so please talk to us if you need anything from us or would like to talk to us about your child. A **dedicated staff** of experienced teachers.
- A school providing **challenges** for our learners.
- **Balanced** academic inquiry learning with focus on reading, writing and math.
- **Learning through play** to inquiry based learning.
- Children are encouraged to **learn to the best of their ability**.
- A rural school with a family atmosphere whose members **genuinely care for each other**.
- Our students are active country kids - **open play, tree climbing, hut building, tackling, kids being kids**.
- A **technologically savvy** school – Ultra Fast Broadband, up-to-date computers
- Year 7/8 class – 1 to 1 access to **ICT devices**
- Weekly Year 7 & 8 **Technology sessions** at Forest View college (Tokoroa)
- A school that's passionate about **Outside of the Classroom activities**.
- **Sports Days**—A member of the local Pinelands cluster a group of schools for inter school events & take part in regional sporting events—Taupō & Waikato Full Primary events
- **Whole School Kapa Haka** sessions and opportunities to perform at regional events.
- **Specialist teachers** on staff.
- **Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour** (RTLB) and Learning Support onsite.
- Access to a **Social Worker in Schools** (SWiS).
- A **Duffy Book School** – free books available for every child in the school.
- A **'Kwi Can'** school – a values and life skills programme delivered weekly from the Graeme Dingle Foundation.
- A **heated school pool** and trained instructors for swimming.
- **Pool open to our public** for use with an extended swimming season due to heat pump.
- A **fantastic library** also accessible online.
- **Enviro-school** - Enviro-team, recycling plan and implementation and pest tracking etc.
- **Student Leadership** opportunities – encouraging student voice with weekly council meetings as well as opportunities to attend leadership conferences (National Young Leaders Day or regional leaders days)
- **Supportive community - BoT & PTA**
- A **Healthy eating** promoted through Fruit in Schools , Weetbix club, Milk in Schools
- **Healthy School Lunches** programme for all students. Lunches provided daily for all students.
- Normalised use of **Te Reo Māori** and tikanga in our school.
- A range of communication options to see what is going on at school such as **Classdojo, Skool Loop, Facebook, Instagram and the Whakamaru School Website**.

Our team

Staff members are all experienced and enthusiastic:

Position, responsibilities	Name	email
Principal	Mr James White	principal@whakamaru.school.nz
Deputy Principal NE—Year 2 Teacher	Ms Keriana Whatarau (Ms Whatarau)	kerianaw@whakamaru.school.nz
Office Manager	Mrs Elva Lorenz	elval@whakamaru.school.nz
Year 2-3 Teacher	Ms Lianne Baker (Whaea Lianne)	lianneb@whakamaru.school.nz
Year 4,5-6 Teacher	Ms Donna Northcroft (Whaea Donna)	donnan@whakamaru.school.nz
Year 7-8 Teacher	Mrs Leanda Moor	leandam@whakamaru.school.nz
Teacher Aide	Mrs Christine Taylor	teacheraide@whakamaru.school.nz
Teacher Aide (Te Reo Māori)	Whaea Margaret McCarthy	
Caretaker	Mr Ian Scarlet	
Cleaner	Mrs Zipora Millward	

Board of Trustees

The school is governed by five elected Board of Trustees members. The Board hold monthly meetings in the Whānau Room. Parents and members of the wider community are welcome to attend. Dates are advertised in the school newsletter and minutes are available on request.

Shaun Swann (Chairperson & Finance)

James White (School Principal)

Janet Anderson (Policies & Procedures)

Alley Makelow (Property)

Alex Sanft (Community consultation)

Calem Wilkinson (Community consultation)

Donna Northcroft (Staff rep)

Elva Lorenz (Secretary)

Our A-Z information

Absences

In the case of a child being absent then please contact the school. Ph 078828872 or text 0277587401. The school will follow up on all unexplained absences through texts to families. Skool Loop app has an "Absentee" form for easy communication to our school office (check it out) or send a message to your child's teacher through Classdojo.

If your child is late to school then please have them go to office before heading to class to sign in on our school vistab register (tablet).

Bell Times

Time	Description
8:45 - First Bell	After roll/admin then: Assemble outside a classroom for karakia. (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday) Tuesdays our senior school (Year 4 - 8) head to Kapa haka in the Whare Manaaki. Friday assembly in Whare Manaaki
10:30 - 10:55 Interval	No bell at beginning of interval, hand bell at end. Eating first 10 minutes - playtime after
12:30 - 12:40 Lunch eating	No bell at the beginning of lunch eating. All students to eat in the Whare Maanaki. Food is cooked and prepared by Russmans Café in Whakamaru— Healthy Lunches for Schools Programme.
12:30 - 12:40 Lunch eating	12:30 - 12:50 First half Duty teacher / 12:50 - 1:15 Second half Duty teacher Duty teacher aide to roam playground, students are to stay out of classrooms unless it is a wet lunch break.
1:15 End of lunch bell	Hand bell - Children go back into class .
2:45 End of day	No bell to end the day.
After school	Teachers/staff - to monitor car park and student bus monitors Bus students must line up, under the covered area by the coal shed. Students picked up by car must sit on the seat outside the staffroom, unless or until their parents/caregiver collects them. Walkers can be released to walk home towards the village.

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



Buses

We have two buses:

Farm Bus—Driver Charlie

(Whakamaru, 1 km down McDonald road, Mitchell, Scott—State Highway 30, Ranganui, McLean Roads)

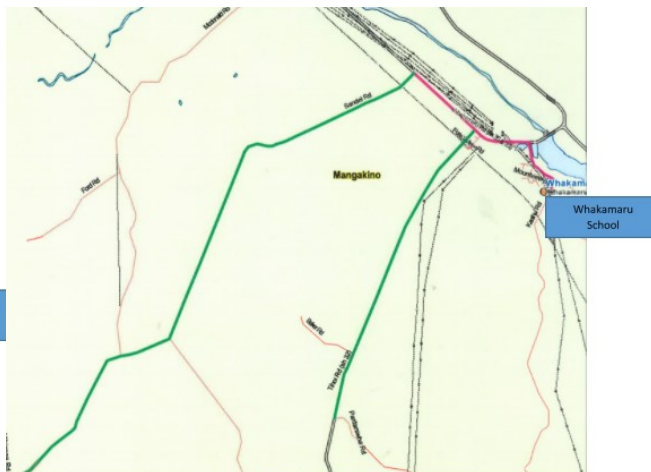
Sandel Road Bus—Driver Dorreen

(Whakamaru—State Highway 30, Sandel, Tihoi, Kaahu Roads)

PLEASE NOTE: the farm bus is a pay to use service, please contact the office to organise payments.

If you have a question about bus routes then please ring the office to talk to our Office Manager. The Principal is in charge of the buses apart from that. If you need to discuss anything further then please ring the school and ask to speak to James.

Every child in the school who travels on the bus (including all Year 7 and 8 for Tech Arts students) are required to sign a Bus Code of Conduct form. There are senior children who are bus monitors that report daily to the Principal about bus behaviour. Good behaviour can be maintained by speaking to children about the schools and our expectations while using the bus.



Classdojo

Classdojo is an online platform that we use as our main source of communication for our schools community. It also provides a space for students to add content to their own online portfolios. Please contact your child's teacher for access to our school's Classdojo site.

Community sports nights

During term 1 & 4 we have held a touch rugby evening between 6-7pm at our school, this is for the whole community to be a part of. See our school newsletter for further details about a sports night, this is being held at school.

Duffy Books

We are a Duffy Book School which means we receive lots of new books into the school. We give these books out to children at every opportunity – including when your child starts school, at assemblies and other special times as appropriate. We feel this recognises the importance of reading and literacy development is placed at Whakamaru School.

Enviro-school

Enviroschools is a nationwide school programme that gives our students, staff and community an opportunity to learn about our environment. It also allows our school to use a network of schools who share and see innovative and inspiring ways to care for our planet, learn creatively and live healthy, sustainable lives.

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. New entrant children may have two school visits to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings. These are usually one morning and one afternoon in the week before their 5th birthday. Please contact Ms. Whatarau, through the school office, to organise visits. Parents must be on-site during these visits.

Please remember all new enrolments must be accompanied with a copy of a birth certificate or passport, immunization record and a record of their preschool education if they have one, as well as the completion of a range of forms in the enrolment packs.

Facebook Page & Instagram

Like our school Facebook page and follow our Instagram to keep up-to-date with events happening at school. Our Facebook page is: **Whakamaru School Education**

Our school Instagram : whakamaruschool

NOTE: Our facebook page can be easily accessed through our school website.

<http://www.whakamaru.school.nz/>

Fonterra Milk

We are part of the Fonterra **Milk for Schools** programme and milk is given out daily during lunch. Please let us know if your child cannot drink this milk as we do have an understanding of alternative food intolerances.

Food Programmes in Schools—Healthy Lunches in Schools programme

We are part of a range of food programmes that provide food here at school. This means we are lucky enough to have **Kickstart Breakfast club, Fruit in Schools & Healthy Lunches for Schools** for students to eat every day. We have fresh fruit delivered to the school. We also have “Healthy Lunches” supplied by Russmans Café delivered to school each lunchtime. We encourage all of our students to eat the healthy food supplied by Russmans. Note: please let us know if your child has any dietary requirements.

Gardening Club—Enviro-team

We have opportunities for students to take part in the garden/enviro-teams where they have a say in how the school grounds are developed and created.



Kapa Haka

All students take part in our weekly Kapa Haka session. Students will be taking part in performances throughout the year as our Māori culture is an integral part of school. Our students all take part in our whole school Kapa Haka group. We practice each week for events or pōwhiri.

Every year Whakamaru School attends a performance festival either in Tokoroa (The South Waikato Cultural Festival) or Taupō (Taipenga o Tuwharetoa festival) on alternative years. These events are the highlights of the school year.

Library

We have a library on-site which every child has the opportunity to use weekly during class time. We believe it is extremely important that students have access to physical books to read. We also have soft-ware which means students can access the catalogue and records remotely from home or at school. See our school website—click on 'About Us' then 'School Library' to see our catalogue.

Mangakowhirwhiri Restoration

We are involved in the restoration of our community wetlands Mangakowhirwhiri project along side Mercury Energy. This gives our students opportunities to plant native flora and fauna, trapping and tracking pests in this area etc. We are working closely with Mercury, Greening Taupō and Enviro-schools to help beautify our community.

Maunga events

Whakamaru School have Maunga Ropu which are Tauhara (yellow), Titirapenga (red), Pureora (green) and Tongarero (blue). These maunga compete in a range of school competitions such as quizzes, challenges, sports events etc, for points for their maunga ropu.

Students can also gain valuable Maunga points through our award system—KAAHU cards for displaying the KAAHU values. These are tallied up to see who is the top Maunga for each term and the overall top maunga of the year who receives the Maunga Shield at the end of the year.

Newsletters (fortnightly)

Newsletters are sent home with the eldest or only child fortnightly usually on a Wednesday afternoon. Please take the time to read it as it will provide you with information about what has and is happening at school. We are more than happy to add any advertisement or community news you may want us to if space allows, just contact our school office if you have something.

Our newsletters are available as a hard-copy, on Clasdojo, our website, skool loop, and on Facebook page as PDF's. If you wish to receive our newsletter on either of these and not in paper form please let us know.



Parent Help

It is important to us that we develop positive partnership between home and school. We encourage you to be involved in your child's schooling. Parent help is always hugely appreciated. Gardening, reading with children, art, etc – all offers are gratefully received. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you are able to help in anyway.

Performing Arts

Staff, children and parents all enjoy being involved in school shows. The children build confidence and skills across all aspects of producing and directing a school show and showcase their talents.

We also provide an opportunity for students to learn how to play the guitar and possibly piano should there be interest. These are run by special tutors who come to school to teach students how to play these instruments weekly. If your child is interested please contact the office, note: this is a private service and comes with a small charge.

PMP –Perceptual Motor Programme

Whakamaru School staff believe that a child's early school years are the foundations for launching into lifetime of learning.

We understand that bridging the gap between a playful world of preschool and the different expectations of the primary classroom is important. We work closely with Kiwi Steps (Early Childhood Centre) to gain valuable partnerships with children. PMP is a special way to bridge that gap. PMP is a movement / language development programme that focuses on motor coordination, cognitive development (brain), self-esteem and social skills which develops the students ability to cope better in the classroom situation.

This development is necessary for success in the early years of school. When children move they learn. We run this fun challenging programme twice a week in term two.

P.T.A.—Parent-Teacher- Association (reignited)

Over the years a very small supportive group of parents and caregivers organized some fantastic events. We were lucky to have this group backing our school and raising funds for different aspects of the school. We would love to get this group up and running again so think about what you can do to be involved and help start this group up again. Any one is welcome to join our PTA, please contact the office if interested.

Reading Together

Reading together is a research based workshop programme for parents, children, teachers and librarians. It helps parents effectively to support their children's reading at home.

Reading together consists of four workshops for parents/caregivers which are lead by the teacher.

Reading Together continued:

These workshops cover:

How to help with reading at home.

How to check the difficulty level of reading materials.

How to help children overcome problems in their reading.

How to keep up support at home.

Many adults have found the information in the workshops helpful. They find that their children's reading

Have you downloaded our school app yet?
Never miss important school information again!



- ✓ Events
- ✓ Notices
- ✓ Instant school messages
- ✓ Absentee
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission slips



Simple free download:
In Google Play and App Store search 'Skool Loop' and choose our school once installed.



School Pool

We are lucky enough to have a heated school 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 in term 1 & 4. It is expected that all students take part in our school swimming programme. If due to sickness, they cannot swim, then please make sure they have a note. There are consequences for non-swimmers as this is a big part of our Curriculum - Physical Education. Our school pool is also available for our community so if you would like to purchase a key to use after school, in the weekends or school holidays, please contact our School Office.

School Uniform

Our uniform consists of a maroon polo (you can order & buy from school) and any type black shorts, track-pants, tights or trousers. The Board of Trustees have agreed to buy your child's first polo.

Hoodies are optional and can be ordered from the office, please be aware that orders take up to 8 –10 weeks to receive. Cost of polo's—\$30 & Hoodies \$60.

Skool Loop

We encourage all our parents to join our Skool Loop app. This app gives us as a school instant notifications to parents of any event that may be cancelled, it also provides an opportunity for parents to notify the school with any absentees and return permission forms from your mobile phone by a touch of a finger. Skool Loop is also linked to our Clasdojo app so communication should be easier.

Stationery

All supplies can be purchased from the school, where costs are kept to a minimum. A stationery notice will go home with your child after their first few days of school so students can use some of their current or any old books in the meantime. It is important that your child is ready to learn with the appropriate stationery.

Student Council & Maunga Leaders

Each year the Student Council & Maunga Leaders are selected by the teachers and students. Students who are positive, responsible role models are chosen for these valued position.

This group meets weekly to discuss school matters and organise special days so children feel they have a real say in what happens at our school.



Sunhats

Children must have a hat at school during Terms 1 and 4. During this time they will be expected to sit under the shade sails (in front of the classes) if they do not have one. This means they cannot play on the playground or on the playing fields.

Technology Classes

All Year 7 and 8 students attend Technology classes at Forest View High School in Tokoroa. This is held every Thursday morning. The bus leaves school at 8:30am sharp, then returns at 11:00am. There is no charge for transport by bus but there are associated course fees which the Board of Trustees subsidises. Students may also be expected to supply some ingredients for Food Technology.

Te Reo Māori lessons for the community

There maybe another opportunity for Te Reo Māori lessons at school this year. It is open to our community one weekday evening from 6:00-8:00. This is full funded by REAP—Taupō. Keep an eye on our school newsletter for further information.

Visitors

All visitors to the school are welcome and should report to the school office first to sign in on arrival and use our visitors tablet to do so.

Week day /weekend sports

We have soccer and netball teams that play in competitions in Tokoroa over the winter months and a basketball team that plays in Taupō, throughout the year. Please be aware this is dependant on numbers interested. These are run and supported by our wonderful community with trainings taking place at school. Other sports available locally, are rugby league with the Mangakino Hawkes and rugby run by clubs in Tokoroa or Taupō.

Whakamaru Sports opportunities

Every year we join other schools in a range of sporting events, including swimming, folk dancing, winter sports, cross country and athletics. **Kiwi Sport** run events in Taupō which we attend as well such as Rippa-rugby, Tee-ball, basketball etc. They also provide taster sessions termly at Whakamaru School to encourage students to try a sport.

Any athletes who show outstanding sporting ability are invited to compete in a range of Taupō or Waikato Full Primary Schools sporting events such as swimming, cross country and athletics to challenge our students further.

Whakamaru Social Media Communication

School Phone 07-8828872—Mobile —0277587401

Principal email—James White, principal@whakamaru.school.nz

Office administrator email—Elva Lorenz, elval@whakamaru.school.nz

Classdojo—connections through your class teacher for your child's ePortfolio.

School Website—<http://www.whakamaru.school.nz/>

Skool Loop app—download on your phone from Play Store or Apple Store, then find Whakamaru School.

Whakamaru School Facebook page & Instagram— Search our page and like it to follow

