



Principal: Mr Fintan Kelly

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Welcome, kia ora

The staff and Board at Pakuranga Heights School take pride in the fact that school is a place where people feel welcome and secure.

We believe it is important to educate our children to be confident in the basics of literacy and numeracy, and to be critical, creative, connected, lifelong learners who develop values and enjoying learning.

Our curriculum is designed to emphasise reading, writing and visual literacy as well as developing strong numeracy skills, particularly in the Junior School (years 1-3). We apply effective inquiry learning and research skills to encourage children to use the many wonderful resources available to them – teachers, parents, books, experiences and other technologies – to find the answers to questions and research information.

As often as we can, we try to give the children real and relevant contexts for their learning, and this will often involve trips outside the classroom and the school. Within the school our teachers provide learning environments that are bright, interesting and stimulating – school needs to be a great place to be.

Our expectations for our children are high because we want them to be the best they can be. Our aim is to assist them to leave us well equipped for life beyond our school and to look back on their years with us with warmth, appreciation and a sense that they have developed into confident, capable young people.

Thank you for your interest in Pakuranga Heights School and welcome!



Fintan Kelly
Principal

Reaching New Heights Together

At Pakuranga Heights School learning is our core focus. We have high expectations and encourage our children to strive for excellence in all areas of the curriculum, particularly in literacy and numeracy. We believe effective teaching practice and quality learning environments are of paramount importance in raising student achievement.

At Pakuranga Heights School we provide children with an education that will prepare them for their future. We aspire to develop lifelong learners who have the attitudes, dispositions and skills to adapt to our ever changing world. Through our innovative curriculum design and delivery, we develop learners who are problem solvers, communicators, challenge takers, thinkers and team players.

These six skills are represented in our school dispositions and our mascot the Pak Heights Learner. Our Pak Heights Learner incorporates the vision and key competencies of the New Zealand Curriculum.



Our Values

We pride ourselves on our strong values programme, making sure each and every child feels safe, happy and valued in our school. Our Bee Valued programme is embedded into all aspects of school life and underpins the way we treat and relate to each other.

Our Bee Valued programme is based on the Cornerstone Values approach. All children learn about these values, are celebrated for using them and are expected to adhere to them. This promotes a wonderful, positive and safe environment to learn and play in.

Our school values are:

- **Honesty**
- **Kindness**
- **Responsibility**
- **Respect**



The Bee Mascot

At Pakuranga Heights School the bee mascot is used to signify our commitment to the values approach. The bee statements are used to focus our behaviour towards:

“Bee-ing the very bee-st we can bee!”

Our Houses

Your child is an integral part of a classroom, team and also a house group. Each child is placed into a house led by our student leaders which helps build our school spirit. We have special events throughout the year where children learn, play and participate across year levels as part of their house group. These events include sports days, team singing, lunchtime activities, technology days etc. Students can earn house points throughout the year, which contribute to the winning house cup at the end of the year.

Our houses are:

- Weka – Red**
- Tui – Yellow**
- Kea – Green**
- Piwakawaka – Blue**



The Curriculum

Our school has effective and well researched learning programmes in all learning areas.

The school community has high expectations for student achievement, we encourage students to set goals around their own learning and work hard to progress towards achieving them. Our lessons are well resourced, flexible and designed to meet the specific needs of the individual learner.

We believe in incorporating a range of strategies and learning opportunities to improve student outcomes in all curriculum areas, these include problem solving tasks in an authentic context, explicit teaching, sharing of learning, visual and material support when needed, engaging and motivating lessons, questioning, ongoing and regular self, peer and formal assessment and reflection.

Literacy

A strong focus in the basics of literacy is essential for our students to fully participate in today's world. In the first years at school students are immersed in written, oral and visual language and taught to master the basics of reading and writing. We start to develop oral literacy and oral performance skills in children from year 1.

In the middle and senior school, children then extend their reading and writing skills, and experience a range of reading and writing styles. They apply their literacy skills to research projects, performance and speech and refine and develop these so that they are fully independent and confident by the time they leave primary school.



Numeracy

At Pakuranga Heights School we want our students to be highly motivated and confident in numeracy. We believe maths is much more than solving simple number equations, we develop students' abilities to think creatively, critically, strategically and logically.

Pakuranga Heights School has an effective and balanced mathematics programme. The mathematics curriculum in New Zealand is divided into three areas; number and algebra, geometry and measurement, and statistics.

The Arts

We have a robust arts curriculum with many skilled and qualified teachers supporting the development of the visual arts, dance and drama in classrooms across the school. In addition to strong class programmes, we hold an art exhibition annually proudly displaying visual art from years 1-6. We organise a bi-annual school production and have many school groups such as choir, dance and drama groups that learn to perform to our school and participate in local community events.

eLearning

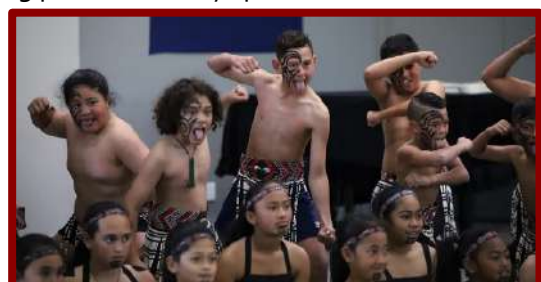
We are a Google Apps for Education school. Our teachers have strong knowledge in transforming learning by using technology to suit the needs of their students. We have a range of devices in our classes. In the junior school students have the opportunity to extend their learning on iPads and desktop computers while in the middle and senior school, classes have access to chromebooks and iPads. These devices are available alongside our BYOD programme. Our students are able to join our coding club and also have access to a range of educational technology including OSMO kits, Tinker kits and Ozobots.



Kapa Haka

The Pakuranga Heights School kapa haka roopu (group) has a great sense of identity and self-pride. A team of around 100 students who are part of Ngā Whanake Kākano o Pakuranga. This is a testament to the positive attitude and culture of our challenge takers at school, and the importance we place on all students having the opportunity to learn Tikanga Māori.

We have a performance group comprised of year 3-6 children, and a development group for the year 1-2 children, with external performance opportunities offered to both groups. Students are taught the principles and kaupapa that underpin the learning and support that are given through performing waiata and haka for an audience. Children of all cultures gain a sense of pride, belonging, confidence and identity by taking part in this very special area of the arts.



Enviroschool

Pakuranga Heights School is a proud silver Enviroschool that has student established gardens including vegetable, herb and butterfly gardens and a native bush trail. We promote waste free lunches and recycling. We have Kaitiaki student leaders, a gardening club and many events throughout the school to promote the understanding and learning around looking after our environment.



Sport, health and physical education

Health and physical education is incorporated into the curriculum, where the children's fine and gross motor skills are developed through a range of exciting activities designed for different ability levels. In term one and four, year three and four students enjoy development in swimming skills taken by qualified instructors at Lloyd Elsmore Leisure Centre.

We also provide a range of sporting opportunities outside of the classroom by taking part in the HPPA cluster inter-school competitions which are organised for softball, netball, hockey, football, rugby, dance, cross country and athletics.



The Hive of Learning and our Integrated Curriculum

We have developed an integrated approach to delivering the curriculum based around inquiry learning strategies and real contexts for learning.

Our inquiry model encompasses our science, technology, health and social studies curriculum areas.

Children are immersed in 'authentic' tasks and questions as part of the learning process and with the assistance of a range of resources, seek to find answers to these questions and apply the information to answer the questions they have posed.



The Heights Hive of Learning was developed to illustrate the stages in the learning process and to reinforce the metaphor of learning and working together.

Our inquiry model is based upon the acronym HEIGHTS. To align with our school vision of 'Reaching new heights together', a honeycomb was symbolic to represent our Bee Valued programme and our bee school mascot.

There are six stages in the inquiry learning process and learners should always know what stage they are at. The six stages always link back to the central "H" honeycomb where learners are asked to reflect on their learning by asking "how is my learning progressing?"



The Junior School

As a school we are extremely proud of our learning environment and supporting students and their families as they begin their learning journey. Our school is a well established school that has a tradition of excellence and a welcoming community feel.

Our school has an open door policy and endeavours to maintain high levels of co-operation between home and school.

We believe in the development of the whole child and encourage yourselves as parents to support them in their preparation for school.

School Zones

While many schools in Auckland are now zoned, Pakuranga Heights School does not have a zone. This means we are able to accept students who live outside the immediate area.

**Please note that this may change in 2023*

School enrolment

Enrolment packs can be picked up from the school office. The following documents are required to enrol your child at Pakuranga Heights School:

- Enrolment form
- Birth certificate or passport
- Immunisation certificate
- Dental enrolment form
- Student digital citizenship form
- Blanket EOTC consent form

Please enrol your child with our staff at the school office.



Leadership and Service Roles

At Pakuranga Heights School we regard growing and fostering leadership as an important part of school life. There are many opportunities for leadership or service, these include:

- House leaders
- Peer mediators
- Enviro team
- Sports monitors
- Crossing monitors
- Wet day monitors
- Milk monitors

Community Involvement

We have a wonderful whanau environment. We welcome all families to our school community in our open, friendly and positive way. Throughout the year we hold many community events such as parent workshops, BBQs, assemblies, sports days, discos and festivals.

We have an active Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) who play a vital role in our school by:

- Providing a link between school and home
- Running our whanau centre - regular get together coffee groups, information boards etc
- Providing opportunities for parents and caregivers to contribute to the school and be involved
- Raise funds to support the school
- Provide focus groups for discussion and feedback

All parents and caregivers are welcome to join and be involved in our PTA team. If you would like to be involved, please contact the school office.

Celebrating Success

We believe it is important to celebrate success. We recognise and celebrate our learners by recognition of our school dispositions, individual learning and values we see throughout the school. We value and acknowledge success at our school in assemblies, newsletters, class blogs and the awarding of our famous Top Kid Awards.



Reporting

We value strong on-going communication between home and school. At any time during the school year we encourage you to discuss your child's learning with their classroom teacher.

All students receive a formal written report twice yearly. These written reports are followed up with a parent/teacher interview to discuss the document. These reports are focussed on where your child is in relation to the national standards, what they can currently do and their individual next learning steps.

In years 1-3 in addition to the reports parents will also receive two progress reports (postcards) a year by mail identifying where students are in relation to the national standards.

Pre-school visits

Once we receive your enrolment form and before your child turns five, you will be contacted and given dates for your pre-school visits, these are invaluable for your child's smooth transition to school. Pre-school visits take place on Friday mornings.

On your first visit, you are able to purchase your child's stationery from the school office. Parents are welcome to stay for the first visit with their child, we encourage your child to be independent during the second visit. Children start the first Monday after their fifth birthday

Before and After School Care

Pukeko Preschool operate the after school care programme from the school hall. For registration and further details, please visit their website at www.pukekopreschools.co.nz or phone 09 576 4822.

Walking School Bus

Pakuranga Heights School has a number of walking bus routes that your child is able to join. For details on routes, please visit our website.



Dental Service

The Auckland Regional Dental Service (ARDS) provides free dental care for school children. If your child is not enrolled with ARDS, you can pick up an enrolment form when you enrol at Pakuranga Heights School or you can phone ARDS on 09 837 9130.

Office hours

The school office is open daily from 8:30am to 3:30pm. During the school holidays the school office may be closed, please check our website for holiday hours.

Top Start

Transition to school programme

Pakuranga Heights School runs a pre-school programme for helping children to transition into the primary school setting. We are now taking enrolments for four and a half year old children who wish to join this programme.

The Top Start programme is held on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00pm to 3:00pm during the school term for eight weeks.

As this programme is not funded by the Ministry of Education, there is a charge of \$80 per term (or \$10 per session) for children to attend:

- All materials are supplied
- Qualified teacher and teacher aide
- Maximum of 12 students per session

Each term there will be a theme that will be integrated to cover the following:

- Literacy and numeracy
- Alphabet – recognition of letters and sounds
- Writing opportunities
- Counting, shapes, proportions (maths concepts)
- Social skills
- Development of routines
- Cooperative play
- Responding to expectations

Getting Ready for School

It may help your child to get off to a great start if they know:

- How to mix/play with other children
- To read and write their own name
- How to dress themselves and manage their own hats, jerseys and shoes
- How to wash and dry their hands and use the bathroom without assistance
- To recognise some alphabet letters and sounds
- To count to 20 and count objects to 10, know their shapes and colours
- Most importantly, have a positive attitude about starting school

We believe that parents are their own child's first teachers and you can support your child by developing a love of books and stories.

Reading a wide variety of books with your children and then discussing the book during and after reading helps develop a love of reading and learning and will prepare them for starting school.



Communication

We pride ourselves on effective, ongoing communication with our community, we use the following ways to communicate:

- School Website – www.pakurangaheights.school.nz
- Facebook page
- Signmee/email
- Assemblies
- Parent partnership meetings
- Class blogs
- Junior team communication books
- Parent information evenings
- New parent meetings
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings

Our school has an open door policy and encourages close interaction with parents. This comes about through our desire to build and maintain high levels of communication between our school and the home.

School Uniform

At Pakuranga Heights we have a smart, comfortable uniform which is compulsory for all students. The uniform has a unisex polo top and a polar fleece jumper or sports jacket with a combination of either skorts or culottes for girls and shorts or trousers for boys.

All children must wear a school sunhat while outside during term 1 and term 4. The school uniform can be ordered from our website www.pakurangaheights.school.nz under the information menu. We have a range of sizes available for you to try at our uniform shop which is open on Monday mornings from 8:00am to 9:00am and Wednesday from 3:00pm to 4:00pm.

Stationery

To support your child's learning journey, we ask parents to purchase a stationery pack from the school office. Items contained in the pack are essential for your child's education.

Daily Timetable

8:30am - 9:00am	Students may arrive at school and prepare for learning in their classrooms
9:00am	Children are in class ready to begin lessons
11:00am - 11:30am	Morning tea break
1:00pm to 1:50pm	Lunch break
3:00pm	School ends





Reaching new heights together



Contact Us

See our website for:

- School charter
- Latest newsletter
- Notices
- Assembly times
- School events
- Stationery
- Our latest Education Review Office (ERO) report
- Term dates
- Board of Trustees information
- Uniform link
- Links to blogs and class learning websites

Contact one of our friendly staff:

- | | |
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| Principal: | Fintan Kelly |
| Deputy Principal: | Sue Kandasamy |
| Deputy Principal: | Monique Browne |
| Website: | www.pakurangaheights.school.nz |
| Email: | office@pakurangaheights.school.nz |
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