



TE PAEPAE O AOTEA

Kia eke atu ki Taupaenui o te tangata



Message from the Principal



Kia ora koutou

This term has seen our students excel both academically and through a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Winter sports are now beyond the halfway point of their season, and our teams have represented the school with pride and determination. Weekly results and draws are available on our school app and Facebook page. Our students thrive when supported by the wider community—so we warmly encourage you to come along and cheer them on.

A major highlight of the term was our school production of Into the Woods JR. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their talents in performance, production, and teamwork. I was incredibly proud of the students, staff, and community members involved. The final product was outstanding, and it was heartening to see the theatre nearly full for every performance.

At Te Paepae o Aotea, the school values—Aotea, Taupaenui, and Paepae—form the foundation of a vibrant and inclusive learning environment. **Aotea** represents a caring and safe space where students, staff, whānau, and the wider community are encouraged to explore identity and celebrate individual mana. It fosters authentic relationships and a deep sense of belonging. **Taupaenui** speaks to the pursuit of human potential, knowledge, and excellence, promoting a culture of inclusivity, personal growth, and a resilient mindset. **Paepae** embodies courage, adventure, and strength, encouraging learners to be visionary, face challenges with confidence, and support one another in building resilience. Together, these values reflect our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are empowered to reach their full potential—kia eke atu ki Taupaenui o te tangata.

To reinforce these values, Te Paepae o Aotea uses the MyMahi app to recognise and reward students who consistently demonstrate them in their daily school life. When students show kindness, strive for excellence, or display courage, they are awarded MyMahi points by staff. These points can be redeemed at our on-site MyMahi shop, where students can choose from a range of rewards such as drink bottles, school uniform items, electronics, and vouchers. This system not only encourages positive behaviour and engagement but also reinforces the importance of our values in a tangible and motivating way. Furthermore, these values underpin our honours and prizegiving systems, guiding how students are acknowledged and celebrated at the end of the year.

Recently, we hosted the Senior Ball—a memorable occasion for our senior students to come together and celebrate their journey through school. As always, the vehicle entrance was a highlight, and we hope you enjoy the photos from this special evening.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Ngā mihi nui
Rachel Williams
Tumuaki

KURA KAI WITH FONTERRA



Kura Kai is an initiative providing donated meals for families in need in our local community stored in freezers at Te Paepae o Aotea. Our staff and students regularly cook start up meals for the Kura Kai 'freezer,' supplemented by butter chicken meals supplied by Town Takeaways.

National Volunteer Week, 16-19 July, brought Fonterra staff to Te Paepae o Aotea to support our local Kura Kai. Laden with dairy products kindly donated by Fonterra, their staff enjoyed a fun, interactive afternoon working with students to 'fill the freezers.'



Te Paepae o Aotea welcomes new Board members:

Photo back left: Rachel Williams, Will Edwards, Shaun Kalin (Presiding Member) and Taiharuru Ratima (Student Representative). Front row: Hilary Meyer, Sarah Neyens (Vice Deputy) and Julia Ord. Absent: Tinui Willing (Staff Representative)

TE PAEPAE O AOTEA ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS 2025

19 June 2025 marked the end of the tenure of our Establishment Board, who have served Te Paepae o Aotea with unwavering dedication since December 2021. We extend our sincere thanks to Ross Dunlop, Hauraki Erb, Will Edwards, Dinah King, Te Kiri King, Cheryl Luke-Maraki, Diana Reid and Neryda Sullivan for their outstanding service to our school and community. The Establishment Board undertook the significant task of establishing the foundation of our school, successfully delivering on all objectives set by the Ministry of Education. Their commitment, vision and leadership have laid a strong platform for the future. Our newly elected School Board took office on 20 June 2025 and we look forward to their guidance and leadership as they build on this legacy and steer Te Paepae o Aotea into its next chapter.

KIWI ENTREPRENEURSHIP MARKET DAY

Market Day is a hands-on learning event where our ākonga design, create, and run their own small businesses. It is part of our school's Kiwi Entrepreneurship module, giving ākonga the opportunity to experience what it's like to be an entrepreneur. They come up with product or service ideas, plan their stalls, set prices, market their products, and sell them to real customers.

Through this experience, ākonga develop a wide range of valuable business and life skills, including:

Entrepreneurship: Turning ideas into real products.

Financial literacy: Budgeting, pricing, handling money, and calculating profit.

Marketing and promotion: Creating posters to promote their products and attract customers.

Communication and customer service: Interacting with customers and working in teams.

Planning and organization: Managing time, resources, and responsibilities effectively.

We are incredibly proud of our ākonga for their awesome mahi on Market Day. Their creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial spirit were on full display as they planned, organised, and ran their market stalls.



YEAR 7-8 TARANAKI RIPPA RUGBY TOURNAMENT



On Tuesday, 17 June 2025, two Year 7-8 Te Paepae o Aotea Rippa Rugby teams qualified for the Taranaki Rippa Rugby Tournament finals day. Both teams showcased outstanding performance, with TPOA Green securing 3rd place and TPOA Red placing 5th. Congratulations to all the students involved, and a big thank you to our coaches and supporters.



PUANGA AT TE PAEPAE O AOTEA

Tauira from Kaupapa and our Te Reo classes celebrated Puanga on Thursday 18 June at Wharepuni Marae. Students from each class led and delivered parts of the ceremony, entertaining guests with waiata and haka followed by a hakari. Ngā mihi nui mo te tau hau.



SENIOR BALL

PSYCHOLOGY TRIP, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND



An early 5am start didn't dampen student excitement as they set off for Auckland, arriving ready for a full day of learning. Students attended two insightful lectures: the first by Dr Tania Cargo, speaking about child and adolescent mental health with a focus on culturally responsive parenting therapies, followed by Associate Professor, Gwenda Willis, exploring strengths-based approaches to addressing offending behaviour, drawn from her work in forensic psychology.

Over at the AMRF Medical Sciences Learning Centre – Whakaaro Pai, students were fascinated by preserved human organs and the opportunity to participate in hands-on experiments, including activities showing how the brain can be tricked by mixed body signals.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 Taranaki Cricket Awards

Emma Wasley - Tops Runs Scorer with 169 runs, 2nd Most Wickets Taken & Top Fielder with most run outs for Taranaki Year 9-10 Girls Cricket Team

2025 New Zealand NoGi Nationals

Emma May Bublitiz - Gold Medal - Juvenile Womens Orange Belt Division

Brayden Hughes - Silver Medal

Blake Bublitiz - Bronze Medal in Boys Yellow Belt Division

Dartagnan Harrison-Maraki - Bronze Medal 11-14 age group

Aotearoa Youth Declaration

Lauren Kalin - Media & Communications Committee

Ngā Whakataetae Mō Ngā Manu Kōrero o Whanganui/Taranaki

Tiama-Deziah Hill - 2nd Place - Prepared Speech & 3rd Place Overall

Indyka-Azaria Hill - 3rd Place Impromptu Speech

Manaia Golf Team Win Handicap Pennants

Ollie Symes - Team Member

Kevin Barnard - Team Member

Central Area Artistic Roller Skating Champs

Elizabeth Cudby - 1st Place Junior Free; 1st Place - Junior Figures; 2nd Place - Matanga Loops

Ayla Bond - 1st Place Matanga Loops; 2nd Place - Junior Figures

Jayda Weherua - 1st Place - Cadet Figures;

2nd Place Cadet Gree; 2nd Place Kaiaka Loops

Nelly Rongonui - 1st Place Espoir Figures; 1st Place Kaiaka Loops;

2nd Place Prelim Free

SADD National Kaitiaki o Ara Conference in Cambridge

Bethany Gyde, Anastazja Kowal, Lauren Kalin, Taiharuru Ratima and Erina Frearson

2025 TSSSA Cross Country

Tayla Sturgeon - 1st Place Year 9 Girls

Lucy Crowley - 3rd Place Year 9 Girls

Maddison Sturgeon - 4th Place Senior Girls

Ryan Finey - 4th Place U16 Boys

Lachlan Wills - 7th Place U16 Boys

Taranaki U19 Volleyball Team

Kristan Isaac & Jaxon McDonald

TET Taranaki Athletics 2025 Sports Awards

Tayla Sturgeon - 12-14 Year Gold Girls

Daniel Mandengu - Most Promising Junior Boy

Jason Cressingham - Coach of the Year



2025 SENIOR PRODUCTION



INTO THE WOODS JR

By Lauren Kalin

Imagine a melting pot of all the classic fairytales; Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella; all intertwined in one big story. That, was Te Paepae o Aotea's Into The Woods JR.

Te Paepae o Aotea's Into the Woods JR brought all of your favourite fairytale characters to life in a dazzling stage musical, fit with hilarious antics and fun visual effects.

The energy and enthusiasm was evident throughout the whole show. As a member of the cast, I can confidently say that it was such a pleasure to be a part of. Nothing is more rewarding than hearing the audience laugh or clap, knowing that the audience enjoyed watching our performance as much as we enjoy putting it together.

Playing Jack's Mother was a privilege. It was a challenge playing such a grounded character in this crazy tale. I had to keep Jack in check while dealing with all the crazy stuff happening, like giant beanstalks and Princes running through the forest. Despite being a minor character, I came to understand all characters are a valuable part of the show, because every character was interconnected and essential to the plot, eventually tying all together.

Te Paepae o Aotea's Into the Woods JR was like stepping into a whole new world where every fairytale you knew got mixed up and turned upside down. The story jumped between characters you thought you knew, but with twists that kept things fresh and exciting. The stage came alive with clever effects; giant shadows looming, sudden bursts of colour, and quick scene changes that made it feel like magic was happening right in front of your eyes.

The mix of humour, suspense, and familiar stories made the show feel unpredictable and fun, keeping the audience hooked from start to finish. It wasn't just a mash-up of fairy tales; it was a full-on adventure that showed how these classic stories could connect in surprising ways.



NGĀ WHAKATAETAETAE MŌ NGĀ MANU KŌRERO

On Wednesday, 14 May 2025 four Te Paepae o Aotea students, Rheelin Luke and Jireh Tautuku (Juniors), Tiama-Deziah Hill and Indyka-Azaria Hill (Seniors) competed at the 2025 Ngā Manu Kōrero o Whanganui/Taranaki regional competition.

Our students spoke very well, making whānau, kura and Iwi proud. Te Paepae o Aotea congratulates our two senior students who placed in the competition - Tiama-Deziah Hill - 2nd Place Prepared Speech; 3rd Place - Overall; Indyka-Azaria Hill - 3rd Place Impromptu Speech.