



NEWSLETTER

principal@southmak.school.nz | 06 327 6617 | www.southmak.school.nz

Kia ora whānau,

Thank you to all the parents who have supported our request to supervise siblings who remain at school while sports practices are taking place. Your support is greatly appreciated by our staff, as it allows them to focus on coaching and other responsibilities without needing to worry about students unsupervised in and around classrooms and school grounds.

Last week, I attended the Rural Principals' Conference in Auckland alongside Miss Lagah and Mrs O'Neill. This was a valuable opportunity for our leadership team to engage in discussions and learning about the future direction of education in rural schools. It was reassuring to see that South Mākirikiri School continues to provide outstanding facilities, opportunities, and teaching programmes that cater to our unique rural environment.

It is evident that the ongoing changes within the education sector will have implications for many rural schools, particularly those with multi year level classrooms. Hearing from schools of similar size and demographics was refreshing, as it confirmed that many of the decisions we are making align closely with those of other successful rural schools. It is always valuable to gain a national perspective and reflect on how our kura continues to navigate the constant changes occurring within education.

At school, we are continuing to work with our tamariki on respecting our environment, facilities, and property. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of speaking up and letting an adult know when something is not right. We celebrate students who have the confidence to say they are uncomfortable with the way someone is behaving or using school equipment.

Unfortunately, we continue to see some issues with sports equipment not being used appropriately or not being returned after use. We also have a small number of students who are not showing the level of respect we expect towards our playgrounds, gardens, classroom spaces, and toilet areas. This is disappointing, as it detracts from the positive efforts of the many students who consistently make good choices and take pride in our school.

We are fortunate to have an amazing rubbish and recycling team who take responsibility each day for emptying bins, sorting recycling, and helping to keep our environment looking its best. One thing that has become increasingly noticeable is the amount of plastic food packaging ending up in our rubbish. As a school, we have always encouraged a low-waste approach. If tamariki bring food to school in plastic wrappers, these should be taken home in their lunchboxes rather than being placed in our bins.

For the first time in seven years, South Mākirikiri School will be hosting an onsite visit from the Education Review Office (ERO). This formal review will take place during the first week of next term. We look forward to showcasing the learning, achievement, and opportunities that make our school special, as well as receiving recommendations that will help us continue to improve outcomes for all our tamariki. While there have been several attempts to schedule an onsite review over recent years, COVID-19 disruptions and changes to the ERO review process have meant that a physical visit has not been possible until now.

This weekend, our school grounds will be full of campers and motorhomes as we welcome a branch of a Lower North Island caravan club. They will arrive from Friday afternoon and stay through until Sunday. We love being able to share our facilities with the wider community and look forward to hosting them at South Mākirikiri School.

Ngā mihi,

Greg Allan, Principal

SCHOOL BOARD

The Board met last night for our second Term 2 hui.

Agenda items included:

Education Review Office visit

Student wellbeing survey data

Greg's representation of us at Tawhirihoē (Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa's signing of Ti Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations)

Roll confirmation for 2027 and early planning of classrooms for next year

Whole staff PLD on Structured Literacy

School house maintenance and upgrades nearly complete

Rural Principals conference

Student assessment tools for this year and 2027

Reporting to parents with new MOE descriptors alongside our current descriptors Governance training

Receipt of the 2025 Audit Report and recommendations

We look forward to welcoming the ERO team onsite in Week 1 of Term 3.

Regards

Libby Rayner

School Board Chair

SPORT PHOTOS

If you ever have some photos from sports please send them through to office@southmak.school.nz. we love to showcase our teams



OUR SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

If you are around and available to help we would love your support in doing a working bee here at school.

SOUTH MAKIRIKIRI SCHOOL

WORKING BEE

SATURDAY 20TH OF JUNE

WE NEED YOU!
We would love as much help during the day as possible.

WE NEED SUPPORT WITH:

- MAKING REPAIRS TO THE SANDPITS
- TRIMMING TREES AND MULCHING
- PAINTING PARTS OF THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- A SPRUCE UP OF THE GARDENS

MANY HANDS WILL MAKE IT LIGHT WORK.

We know winter sports are on Saturday so appreciate people being able to give up time before or after sports taking place.

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP OUR SCHOOL A BEAUTIFUL PLACE FOR OUR TAMARIKI TO LEARN AND GROW.

School Hours

Just a reminder that students can be at school no earlier than 8am and no later than 3pm. We appreciate parents have work to get to but our school is not open until 8:00am. Outside of these hours we can not ensure student safety.

School Calendar

- Friday 5th June
Quad Sports – rugby
- Wednesday 10th June
School photos
- Friday 12th June
Learning celebration
- Wednesday 17th June
Schools orienteering day –seniors
- Thursday 25th June
Market Day at school
- Friday 26th June
Quad Sports – soccer
- Thursday 2nd July
Last day of term 2
- Friday 3rd July
Teacher only day – no school
- Monday 20th July
First day of term 3
- Friday 24th July
Learning Celebration
- Thursday 6th August
Halcombe Sports Exchange
- Friday 7th August
Learning celebration
- Friday 14th August
Book Character day

CLASSES AND TEACHERS FOR 2026



Mrs Menges is teaching in the Kōtare space. She has year 0-1 students. Her email is gmenges@southmak.school.nz



Mrs O'Neill is teaching in the Tūi space. She has year 2-3 students and her email is boneill@southmak.school.nz



Miss Coleman is teaching in the Pīwakawaka space. She has year 0-1 students and her email is rcoleman@southmak.school.nz



Mrs Maas is teaching in the Kea space. She has year 4-5 students and her email is amaas@southmak.school.nz



Miss Richards is teaching in the Kererū space. She has year 2-3 students and her email is lrichards@southmak.school.nz



Mrs Minnell is teaching in the Weka space. She has year 5-6 students and her email is kminnell@southmak.school.nz



Miss Lagah is teaching in the Kākāpō space. She has year 7-8 students and her email is nlagah@southmak.school.nz

Year: 0/1
Teacher: Glenda Menges
Space: Kotare

Cloak Bay/Toilets- Whare paku

Year: 0/1
Teacher: Rowena Coleman
Space: Piwakawaka

Space: Kiwi
Mrs Ryder
Intervention/
Extension

Year: 2/3
Teacher: Lucy Richards
Space: Kererū

Year: 2/3
Teacher: Brenna O'Neill
Space: Tui

Year: 5/6
Teacher: Kellie Minell
Space: Weka

Year: 7/8
Teacher: Nat Lagah
Space: Kākāpō

Space: Ruru
Library

Year: 4/5
Teacher: Anna-Louise Maas
Space: Kea

Office
Space: Whio