

PONGAKAWA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Website: www.pongakawa.school.nz
www.facebook.com/PongakawaSchoolOfficial

ENTER TO LEARN - GO FORTH TO SERVE
Kuhu mai ki te ako - haere ki te awhi

PRINCIPAL: Craig Haggo
B.O.T. CHAIR: Lachlan McKenzie
E: boardchair@pongakawa.school.nz

TERM DATES FOR 2025

TERM 1: 03/02/25 - 11/04/25
TERM 3: 14/07/25 - 19/09/25

TERM 2: 28/04/25 - 27/06/25
TERM 4: 06/10/25 - 16/12/25

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Week 6 Term 1
10th March 2025

Website
www.pongakawa.school.nz
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PongakawaSchoolOfficial>

School Office: Phone 533 3731
Mobile 027 5333731
Email address: office@pongakawa.school.nz



Schoolwide Attendance Week 5: 92%

Dear Parents and Caregivers

It was great to see many of you last Monday at our teacher's afternoon. We will have formal parent/teacher interview at the end of this term so please use the usual online booking portal details in this newsletter to make a booking. We can book one for you if you need assistance with this.

At this time of the term we have a number of school events which naturally you are all invited to.

We place notifications for these in the newsletter and in our various online social media pages. Today we have the middles and senior swimming sports with others to follow in the coming days. Top School this weekend and our triathlon in week eight. The students love it when they have whanau there it makes the event extra special.

We have had notification from Jill Weldon, the head of our Te Puke Bus Group that Go Bus will be trialing a new initiative on one of the bus runs. This will involve the introduction of a security camera which records image but not sound. This has been approved by Jill and she has asked me to ensure all families know. The bus concerned is Bus 18 which covers our Rotoehu run. The other thing Go Bus now has on all buses is GPS tracking so the company knows exactly where every bus is and at what time. One last thing around buses. It is important that if as a parent you have a concern with another child on a bus that you do not under any circumstances approach that child either on the bus or off it. We have strong procedures around this and the best way to raise a concern is to deal directly with the school. Talking directly to the child or the child's parents are bound to make things bigger than they need to be. Let us deal with it. Most of you are aware how strongly we deal with disciplinary matters so you can rest assured it will be sorted.

We have been told by Fulton Hogan they are on the closing stretch in regard to finishing the road outside the school. Things should return to normal pretty much by the end of the week. There will now be additional parking across the road from the school which should be of assistance especially on those big event days. As the speed limit is still a horrendous 100 kmh please do not have your children cross the road by themselves.

Have an awesome week

Yours in teaching

Craig Haggo

Principal

Pongakawa School Board

Casual vacancy for a parent representative

A casual vacancy has occurred on the school board for an elected parent representative.

The board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be sent to:

Lachlan McKenzie

Pongakawa School Board

956 Old Coach Road

RD6

Te Puke 3186

By 30th March 2025

PTA AGM & First PTA Meeting for 2025

Today Monday 10th March at 7pm at the school staffroom.

Everyone is welcome to come along to discuss the date and what the theme should be for this year. Please share any thoughts and ideas for how we can make this year's quiz night even more amazing.

'Everyone together' makes for an amazing PTA team.

Parent/Caregiver - Teacher Interviews

Monday 7th & 8th April 2025

From 3.00 pm to 6.15 pm

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Password: c8uqj (lowercase)

Please go online now to make your booking or if you wish us to book for you phone the school as we are happy to make bookings for you. It is expected that all students teachers have an interview with their Parents/Caregivers.

BOT Seeking a Grant Applicator

The school is seeking a family member to help with grant applications. Whilst the school already applies for a range of grants, there are other grants available that we may be able to leverage and could really help to fund some of the school's projects. Grant applications can be time consuming and success is not always guaranteed. We are therefore looking for someone within our community, that has experience with grant applications and can spare time to work with school management to understand what grants are already being received, research other available grants and complete grant applications on the school's behalf. If this sounds like something you can support the school with then please get in touch with the office via the school email: office@pongakawa.school.nz

Head Lice

Head lice has been identified in several classrooms. Please check your child/ren's hair and treat accordingly if found. All students are to bring their own hats everyday.

Important Community Information

Our local pharmacies in Te Puke can now help your children with free treatments for head lice (kutus), scabies, boils, infected bites and school sores thanks to funding from the Bay of Plenty District Health Board. The Pharmacy Kiri Ora project is a FREE service with no appointment necessary. Just walk into your pharmacy and consult with the pharmacist to see if they can help you with a free skin assessment, treatment advice and the medicine you need.

If your child has scabies or head lice, pharmacists may also be able provide free treatment and advice to affected household members to help eliminate these conditions. It is important to take care of our skin to keep us healthy.

> My Pharmacy Te Puke, 96 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke

> Life Pharmacy Te Puke, 61 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke

Also free throat swabs for strep throat to eligible 4-year-old to 19-year olds.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is for anyone who needs it regardless of the reason for the need.

Monday to Friday 2025 8.00am to 8.30am in the Action Centre foyer.

If any parent/caregiver is able to assist for just 45 minutes on a Monday Please call Lucy Edkins 0273318374

Our school bank account details for any payments are: Pongakawa School Board ASB 12-3407-0007320-00

Lost Property

Let's Reunite the Children with their clothing!

If you look in your children's drawers and find there is less than there was before, come and check here at school, our lost property is more accruing again in the Action Centre foyer.

IT ALL BELONGS TO SOMEONE.

It came to school on a back or feet. To get it to do the return trip would be really neat.

If you are at school for any reason during the coming weeks, please check out the lost property in the back of the library or the basket at the back of the office.

Don't forget to name your child's clothing, footwear and drink bottles to enable the return of items to your child as soon as it is found.

AWOL Team - Worm Juice

The AWOL students would like to request if anyone has any large plastic bottles of 1.5 Litres up to 5 Litres that can be donated so that they can continue to sell their worm juice.

1.5 Litres \$2.00 / 2 Litres \$3.00 / 3 Litres \$5.00

Reminder — Swimming Togs & Towel

Students swim every day as their class physical education in term 1 so please ensure that they have togs and a towel with them every day regardless of the weather



The school day starts at 8.45 am NOT 9.00 am

It is important that all students are in class at this time. School finishes at 2.55pm with a clean up bell at 2.45pm. We have very full schedule for all students each day so please ensure that they are on time for school.

Reminder - School Hats are Compulsory Every Day

Too many students are arriving at school without their broad brimmed hats which are compulsory every day in terms 1 & 4. A legionnaires hat is also acceptable. Please ensure your child has one every day when they leave for school regardless of the weather. Students without one will be required to spend play times sitting on the steps of the middles block in the shade. Please ensure your child has a hat every day. Please name your child's hat so if it is lost it can be returned to them.

Middles Camp Parent Meeting

If you are one of the parents who will be attending the 2025 middles camp please make note of the meeting as you will be required to attend.

Tuesday 25th March

Middles Block

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Ngā mihi, Kirsten Cracknell, Team Leader - Year 5 & 6

Reminder Year 7/8 Students Tech Fees

Year 7 & 8 Tech Fee of \$50.00 is a compulsory fee for all Senior students. This is the Parent/Caregiver portion of the cost for materials for projects made during tech classes and needs to be paid now please. Projects cannot go home until it is paid. Please pay online into the bank account or at the school office.

Upcoming Events Calendar

10/03/25 PTA AGM & Quiz Night Meeting 7pm Staffroom
14/03/25 Swimming Demonstration
Juniors 1.30pm / Jiddles 11.00am
16/03/25 Top School at Paengaroa School notices have gone home
18/03/25 Cluster Swimming Sports Years 5/6
19/03/25 HPV Vaccination First Dose Year 8 9.00am
21/03/25 Bomb and Manu Competition
25/03/25 Triathlon Whole School Years 0-8 Afternoon
25/03/25 Middles camp Parent Meeting 4.30-5.30pm
01/04/25 Cultural Day - Hangi
06/04/25 Daylight savings ends
07/04/25 & 08/04/25 Parent / Teacher Interviews from 3pm
08/04/25 WBOP Swimming Champs Year 7/8
09/04/25 WBOP Swimming Champs Year 5/6
11/04/25 Last day of term 1
28/04/25 First day of term 2
25/04/25 Anzac Day

Splash and Dash Results from Tuesday 4th March 2025

Year 8 Boys

1st Judah Steel
2nd Cooper Cumming
3rd Bodhi Taft-Robertson

Year 8 Girls

1st Imogen Morris
2nd Olivia McGirr
3rd Ava Harston

Year 7 Boys

1st Brodie Ripa
2nd Archer Grajam
3rd Van Wilkie

Year 7 Girls

1st Rose Foster
2nd Chloe Whyte
3rd equal Lily McDowell
and Jade Easton

Year 6 Boys

1st Darell Morris
2nd Jacob Craig
3rd Gus Ferguson

Year 6 Girls

1st Bella Abraham
2nd Monroe Taiapa
3rd Wairua Hodges

Year 5 Boys

1st Equal Beau Graham
and Jasper Hodgson
2nd Lincoln Layne
3rd Xavier Tata

Year 5 Girls

1st Lily Berghan
2nd Ella Whyte
3rd Willow Langford

Year 4 Boys

1st Will Fahey
2nd Blake Jensen
3rd Connor King

Year 4 Girls

1st Indie Wilkie
2nd Bryar Marsden
3rd Grace Diack

Year 3 Boys

1st Boston McDowell
2nd Ezra Steel
3rd William Taylor

Year 3 Girls

1st Stella Mans
2nd Cleo Langford
3rd Grace Whyte

Community Notices

Kiwi Kids Bake Off 13th April 25 Toi Ohomai Campus in Tauranga Bake cupcakes or a cake within the theme "my edible story" to enter. Submit a photo and get your friends to vote. Ages 7-12 Free entry. Registration deadline 5th April. For full details www.bakewithme.co.nz/kiwikidsbakeoff

Pottery Workshop @ Pongakawa School Hall Fun and social, make your own clay creation. 26 March 6-8pm
Email: sam@potterystudio.co.nz 021 616 900
<http://potterystudio.co.nz> \$55 per adult. \$40 per child

Golden Labradoodle Puppies for adoption

The puppies were born on February 9th and will be ready for their new homes on April 8th. All the puppies are in excellent health and growing beautifully. They make fantastic family pets and therapy dogs. They are 50% purebred Golden Retriever and 50% Doodle, and they're absolutely stunning! Each puppy is \$1,850.00





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