

**Monday 4th March 2023**

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou

I do hope you are all well. It was a pleasure to see so many parents and caregivers attend the Whanau Evening. If you were unable to do so then please do feel free to make a time to catch up with your child's teacher. All staff names emails are as follows: [firstname\(DOT\)lastname@ilminster.school.nz](mailto:firstname(DOT)lastname@ilminster.school.nz)

Staff will respond to emails in general within 24 hours – between the hours of 8am and 5 pm


The Hero app is our primary form of communication. Through the community feed, we can share panui school wide and to specific groups. You will receive a notification through the app, or you will get an email. School wide panui are sent out every three weeks with a brief review of Centres, Maturanga and ECA's Students can log into their Hero app on their chrome books and read the daily student feed with updates and reminders. All students have access the activity calendar via google and class teachers will be encouraging students to log in to their chrome books and check the daily feed from 8.30 onwards.

We are excited to begin Maturanga classes this week. Students are placed in groups with students of similar learning needs and strengths and will be timetabled into 90-minute blocks of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and PE. The Connections rotations of Food, Art and Science will begin schoolwide.

To support your young person learning, you can help your child develop reading, writing and math skills by:

- Having your child read to you and/or reading to your child and talking about books and stories
- Encouraging your child to share what they think about a book (or video game, podcast, or movie), and being positive about the material they are reading, listening, or watching
- Letting your child see you enjoy books, audiobooks, podcasts, games, movies, or videos in your first language
- Encouraging your child to write, and talking with them about what they are writing Showing your child that you write for lots of reasons too, such as replying to an email, filling out a form, or writing an invitation or letter
- Involving your child in activities where you use math (for example playing games with cards or dice, grocery shopping, cooking, and DIY activities)
- Encouraging your child to share how they solve mathematics problems (they may use different mental or written strategies to the ones you were taught)
- Being positive about your child's reading, writing, and math experiences, and praising their efforts.





I would like to welcome Room 3 teacher Frank Dwyer to our Ilminster whanau - Frank has come from Oxford Area School in Canterbury and is quickly getting used to Ilminster Intermediate and Tairāwhiti. Matua Frank will be teaching PE Mātauranga as well as in the Xcel Centre. Welcome to Keren Rickard, Gana Goldsmith and Ricky Boyd who will be delivering drama and music this year. We feel very grateful to have their expertise at our kura. Tayla Swann- Harawene joins us 4 days a week from Ngāti Porou Oranga and will be supporting all of our students to attend school regularly

### Safety

A couple of notes regarding safety of our students travelling to and from school:

We do have a school crossing that is staffed before and after school- we ask that parents support us with this rather than asking their children to nip across the road to parked cars.

**Bikes:** if your child is biking to school then they must wear a helmet.

### ANNUAL LOCKDOWN PRACTICE

Tuesday 12 March 2024

As part of keeping our school safe we need to be able to respond safely and quickly to a range of emergency situations. We work alongside an independent company, Harrison Tew<sup>®</sup>, who specializes in emergency management planning for schools, whose procedures have been successfully implemented in hundreds of schools throughout New Zealand.

As part of maintaining our emergency procedures in our school, specialized training is being conducted with our senior leadership and staff by Harrison Tew<sup>®</sup> on **Tuesday 12th March @ 11.45 am.**

The students will also receive information on how to respond in an emergency directed at their respective age groups from their teacher and our advisor at Harrison Tew<sup>®</sup>. We will then be conducting a lockdown exercise under the guidance and support of Harrison Tew<sup>®</sup>

During the exercise you will receive a notification via text and through Facebook and the Community Feed, so it is important that your emergency contact details are up to date and correct. The notification will emphasize that **this is an exercise/practice** and will explain that all updated information will then be posted on the school website.

In a genuine incident, should you become aware of a lockdown or evacuation at the school, can I please ask that you do not attend the school or phone, as we will not be able to respond. Your presence or contact may make it more difficult for us or the emergency services to manage a situation and our focus is on keeping our students and staff on site safe.

Nga mihi nui,

Megan Rangiuia  
Tumuaki/Principal

## WHANAU LIAISON PANUI – *Gordon Pepere*

Tena tatou katoa.

Nga mihi kia koutou katoa.

A warm welcome to you all, as we start to get some traction in this year, 2024.

For the whanau who are new to our kura - Welcome - Nga mihi;

To the whanau who are returning, either from last year, or years gone by - Nga mihi kia koutou - Nau mai hoki mai. Welcome to you all, that are returning to the fold.

This year I am commencing in a new role, here at Ilminster. I am excited to be working as Whanau Liaison. My role is to support taura/students, and their whanau. Primarily, I want to encourage all of our taura to attend school.

There are a range of factors that we understand that will impact on the reasons for taura not attending kura. Some of the reasons may have been planned, most eventuate without warning. Whatever the reason for the absence, my role is to check in with the whanau of our taura who are NOT at school each day.

We encourage whanau to make contact with the school in the first instance!!

You can:

- Phone the school** - Leave a message - Who is calling - the taura - and a brief reason as to non attendance - also how many days they may be away!!
- School App - HERO** - If you have downloaded the App - you can go to absent - click on one of three options - then type in a reason, including how many days they will be away for. (You can only use the App if you have an email address)

If one of our taura is away for 2 days, and no one has notified the school, It is likely that I will be in contact with you, just to check in: This will be as follows....

- Phone you on the contact numbers we have - If unsuccessful, I will then;
- Leave a phone message as well, outlining the purpose for my call, then;
- I will send a text, after the message explaining the above.

After the 3rd day, if I have not been able to make contact with anyone, I will call around to the address that we have, and attempt to make contact that way.

Please note! I AM NOT A POLICE OFFICER - THAT IS MY SISTER!!

My PRIORITY is to make contact - then offer my support as to how I can encourage your child to attend kura. That may also mean that I need to support the whanau. Each situation is different, and I will manage that when it eventually happens.



## Senco - Travis Lapointe

For any parents who weren't at our Whanau Night last week I wanted to introduce myself and some of the Learning Support staff and services at Ilminster.

### Travis Lapointe - Assistant Principal/SENCO

Start with me if you have any questions or concerns about learning support services available to your students or if you are working with outside agencies and want the school to be involved or informed. [travis.lapointe@ilminster.school.nz](mailto:travis.lapointe@ilminster.school.nz)

### Nikki O'Connor - Counselling services

Nikki is part of our team again this year, carrying on with the important work she did with our students last year. Parents can refer students to her directly if they feel counselling services would be beneficial, or she may be in contact with whanau if students are referred to by teachers or the Leadership Team. [nikki.o'connor@ilminster.school.nz](mailto:nikki.o'connor@ilminster.school.nz)

### Jackie Symons - Speech & Language Assessment and Therapy

Jackie works at our kura two mornings each week, assessing and providing therapy to students who have been recognized as requiring this service. She also supports students with learning challenges such as Auditory Processing Disorder. [jackie.symons@ilminster.school.nz](mailto:jackie.symons@ilminster.school.nz)


## Hauora & Wellbeing – Shane Hooks

Student wellbeing is an important factor within learning and is one of our key focus areas at Ilminster.

If students are healthy and well - they are then able to learn to the best of their ability. We use the holistic model of Te Whare Tapa Wha to help understand wellbeing. This is a culturally responsive module of wellness developed by Sir Mason Durie and commonly used across New Zealand.

To be well, the different interconnected and interdependent aspects of health outlined below, must be in balance and support one another.



- 
- Taha Tinana - Physical wellbeing, personal fitness, healthy body
  - Taha Hinengaro - Mental and emotional wellbeing
  - Taha Wairua - Values, beliefs, meaning, tikanga
  - Taha Whanau - Relationships and interpersonal skills
  - Whenua - Sense of mana, belonging, self worth

Across our kura, these aspects of Te Whare Tapa Wha are explicitly taught and implicitly referred to when we consider student, staff and community wellbeing.

As students start a new school year, it can be a stressful / anxious time for some. Below is a strategy that students can use both at school and at home to help them maintain a healthy Taha Hinengaro (mental and emotional wellbeing).

When we feel big emotions, we need strategies to help us address them, and deal with them in a positive and healthy manner. One strategy we can use to calm down is called Box Breathing

[BOX BREATHING - AN INTRODUCTION](#)

[BOX BREATHING - HAVE A TURN](#)

We would also like to hear from you regarding what you feel is important in this space. Below is the link to our Hauora Whanau Survey. It has three questions and takes a few minutes to complete. If you have not done so already, please take the time to fill out the google form - your voice counts!

[Hauora Whanau Survey](#)



## Extra-Curricular Activities - *Shane Hooks*

One of the key kaupapa of an Intermediate School, is providing a wide range of opportunities for students to learn, grow and thrive. These opportunities come from across the curriculum and cover experiences such as sport, the arts, science and technology, special interest classes, service opportunities and more.

A number of these opportunities have already been established this term, and more are being added every week. We thank all the teachers and adults who are putting in their time, effort and expertise to provide these experiences for our students.

These opportunities are 'advertised' to all students via their 'student feed' in the HERO program. Students have access to this every morning and can see information on upcoming experiences and how to sign up. Some of the opportunities are primarily school based, some lead to regional representation, and some to national representation. An example of this is within our sports program where certain sports may compete locally, regionally (BOP/PB championships) and nationally (The AIMS games).

When deciding to be part of an extracurricular program it is important that students consider the commitment required and how this impacts on other areas of their schooling. We encourage this conversation to be had at home so that whanau are aware, and students don't over commit - which can lead to a busy and sometimes stressful outcome.

Some of the extra-curricular opportunities are tutored / coached / run by our staff. Some we need adult volunteers to make them happen. If we have lots of adult support, we can then offer lots of opportunities. If you feel you could provide assistance in this area, please connect with us.





## Curriculum - *Mona Ferris*

**LEARNING** is an ACTIVE PROCESS that takes place throughout our lives from the time we are born - and is not confined to a classroom or university. It happens wherever we are.

We have kicked off the year with a big focus on what matters in life - those KEY COMPETENCIES: **Managing Self, Participating and Contributing, Relating to Others, Using Language, Symbols and Texts, and last but not least, Thinking.**

Last Friday morning staff and students had a great time with our first House Competition for 2024.

Thank you to those parents who managed to get along and join in and or watch the fun. Needless to say, in the two blocks of time there were many opportunities for students to apply and demonstrate their competence in all the above.

These are the skills that we want our learners to be competent in as it is this that will drive and serve them well as scientists, mathematicians, leaders, parents, writers, caregivers, technicians and whatever opportunities are out there.

How many competencies can you see being applied in the House Competition pictures below? Have a great weekend and thanks for your participation and contribution to your young person's learning.

Thinking about strategies



Make time to think



Work as a team



Be proud of what you achieve



Leading by example





## SciTech Centre – Ms Williams

Our first three weeks have given our Centre time to make connections with each other by re-establishing old friendships, building new friendships and settling into 2024 at our kura. We are certainly enjoying the diverse range of students we have, who have already demonstrated a variety of knowledge, skills, and personalities!

We are lucky this year to have the luxury of having a place where our Centre can meet, learn and celebrate. We have named our place **Te Whare Huihuinga**. We have been meeting there as a Centre every morning to set up our day with a key focus, whether it be related to our PB4L values, Centre expectations, general systems information or daily reminders.

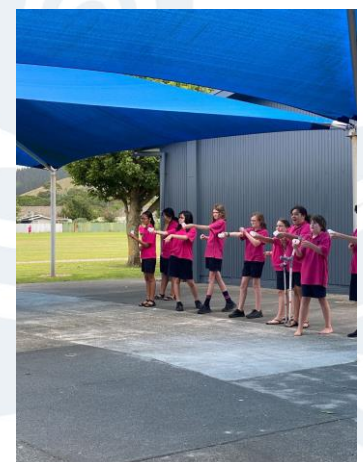
In SciTech we have been focusing on the Key Competencies (capabilities for living and lifelong learning) relating to Others - communicating, connecting, recognising different points of view, negotiating, sharing, being inclusive and accepting.

In Week 2 we had our first Centre Celebration which focused on relating to others and being Inclusive and accepting. These students exemplified these values and were rewarded with a certificate and a juicy. Ka mau te wehi!

We have also kicked off our SciTech rotations where all students rotate through all teachers. Rotations have focused on Science and Technology and relating to others. As teachers, it has given us many opportunities to get-to-know all our students in our Centre in a range of contexts.

Looking ahead to the rest of the term, like the rest of our kura, we are focusing on Hauora and Diversity, with our Centre key understanding being 'science and culture are both interconnected and diverse'. We will begin to unpack and learn about the logo on our uniform (Pourangahua) then move into flight which is strongly connected to this story.

Lastly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the teacher-aides who are working in our Centre this term - Connie Ahuriri, Karen Bourke and Donu Lewis. They are an essential part of the SciTech Centre team and we 100% appreciate the important job that they do!





## Expressive Centre - Mrs Ewe and Mrs Pohatu

Kia ora Whanau and welcome to Expressive Centre's first Panui.

Three weeks have gone by since we started at Ilminster School 2024, and it is great to see all our students fully engaged in the activities going on both in the playground and inside classrooms.

For the first two weeks our school has focused on Key Competences. Expressive zoned in on 'Relating to Others' –

Students learned to communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and build positive relationships, and 'Thinking' - where we encouraged students to think critically, creatively, and reflectively. Activities were introduced where our students reinforced their learning.

Our Expressive Centre is thrilled to share some exciting news with you!

We have a brand-new space: our Celebration Room! This room is dedicated to honoring the successes and achievements of our students, fostering a sense of community, and showcasing their outstanding work.

We celebrate academic achievements, personal milestones, or acts of kindness. We believe every success deserves recognition, singing waiata, sharing in the joy and friendship that music brings.

Students can dance away their accomplishments, letting loose and having fun. As we move forward, we will delve into the rich tapestry of our school's past and the stories that shape our community.

We will discover the history and connections woven into our school's whakapapa making an enlightening journey through our local heritage.





## Xcel Centre – Matua Nik

Xcel students are settling in well and we are proud of them for reigniting old connections as well as forming new and positive ones across the centre.

We get together regularly to get active through sports and other activities. Pictured above is our Pictionary Relay. Thanks to Kōkā Annie for jumping in to assist!

Drop on through our classes and you will see the result of some hard art mahi, our 'Ko Wai Au' posters. This work was driven by a focus on the key competency using language, symbols and text.

Mr Simmons has been taking our classes for P.E. sessions driven by the key competency participating and contributing, while developing skills for cricket and poi toa. Nga mihi nui e Matua Pete!

Rooms 3 through 6 have also been exploring Te Ao Maori and our local curriculum.

Students are learning about or building on knowledge of our school pepeha, the Maori creation story Rangi and Papa and Nga Manu Nui a Ruakapanga - the story behind our school crest.

Visits to Waikereru Ecosanctuary got underway this month. We're very fortunate to have forged a relationship with Anne-Marie of Wild Lab Tiaki Taiao and look forward to visiting again later in the year.

This workshop's focus on navigation and team building serves us well as we set out on the journey of 2024.





## Challenge Centre - *Matua Tom*

Challenge is off to a flying start in 2024! We have spent the first three weeks developing a positive culture within our Centre.

Students have had the opportunities to get to know their new classmates, develop bonds and learning habits both in and out of the classroom.

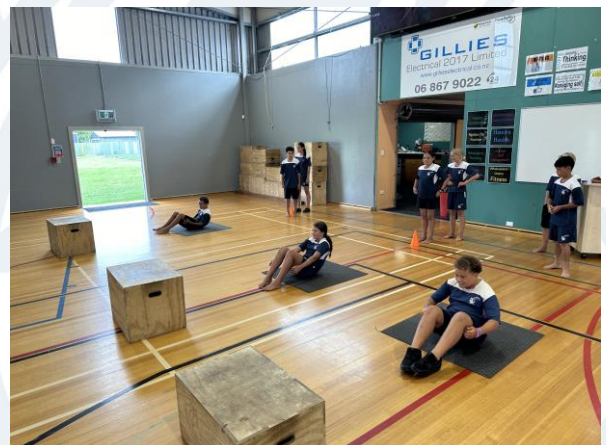
With our Key Competencies as a driver for everything we do, we have set the expectations high and will continue to strive for excellence this year.

We are currently exploring Ko Wai Au, and this will be our first presentation for the year as students continue to look for connections amongst themselves and with our teachers.

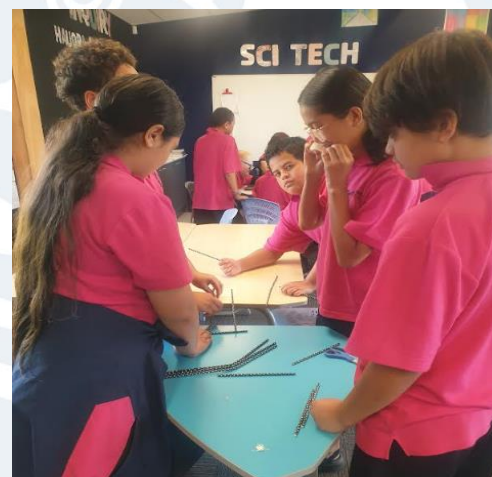
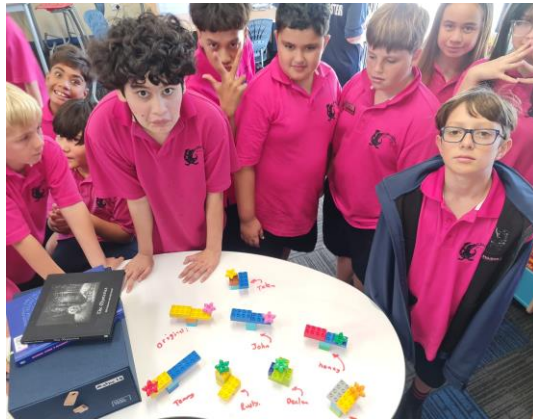
We started our fitness program off with our assessment, the beep test and the all popular three lap run.

There were some amazing times set and our students were very keen to set goals and look for ways to improve their scores, understanding that fitness and endurance are key factors in all sports.

We are very excited to see what the rest of the year will bring.









## House Competitions - *Matua Tom/Matua Rikki*

House competitions have kicked off again with our annual House Day that was held on February 23rd.

The four Houses are Tawhirimatea (Red), Tane Mahuta (Green), Tangaroa (Blue) & Ruaumoko (Yellow). Our students set the standard high to begin our House competition.

It was awesome to see most of our students dressing up in their house colors and representing their house with pride.

Three competitions were run on this day.

**Competition 1: Best Dressed House - 1st place Tawhirimatea**

**Competition 2: Best PB4L House - 1st place Tane Mahuta.**

**Competition 3: Activity Winner - 1st place Tawhirimatea.**

So... the overall standings as of today are...

**1st = Tawhirimatea 9 points**

**2nd = Tane Mahuta & Tangaroa 8 points**

**4th = Ruaumoko 7 points**

Watch this space for more competitions in the upcoming weeks!

**Tawhirimatea**



**Tangaroa**



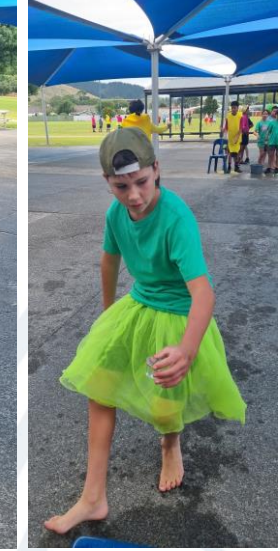
**Tane Mahuta**



**Ruaumoko**









**HERO** - As most of you will all know now, we are communicating with our families through the HERO app. This can be downloaded from your Apple App Store/Google Play.

### Accessing HERO

You can access this by entering your **email address** that was provided to our school when your young person was enrolled. If you're still unable to sign in - Please don't hesitate to call Koka T or pop into the school office

### Absentees

Absentees can be lodged through the HERO app by pressing the "Report an Absence" and filling out the form or leaving and absentee on our Office phone – 06 867 6233.

### Late Students/Signing In

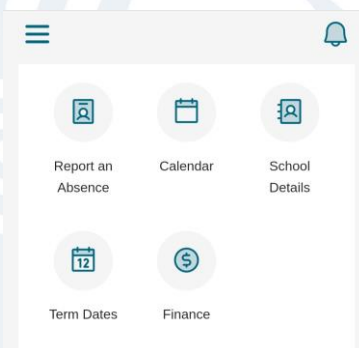
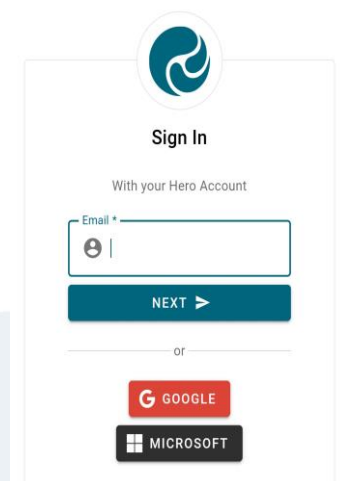
If your young person is late for any reason, they must pop into the Office to sign themselves in on our Vista Tab.

### Early Pick up/Signing out

At times, you may need to collect your child early out of class. Please phone us ahead of arriving so we can ensure your young person is in the office for you to collect and sign out. We do ask that you don't collect your child from their classroom during school time, a staff member will be more than happy to collect your young person to lessen any distractions

### Messages for students

If you need a message to be passed on to your child, please ensure you call ahead of time, so we have a chance to let your young person know.





## Our Kids Online

### **Cyber Safety Meeting with Rob Cope March 12th at 7pm Ilminster Hall**

We have organised Filmmaker, Author and Speaker Rob Cope, producer of the documentary "Our Kids Online" to come and give what promises to be a humorous and eye-opening evening talk.

His talk will cover:

- **Cyberbullying**
- **Social media**
- **Gaming and the developing brain**
- **Naked Selfies**
- **Online predators**
- **Online porn vs healthy sexuality**

Solutions:

- **Filters - Which filters are best and how to install them**
- **Smartphones - How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone**
- **Boundaries - How to put good boundaries in place around device use**
- **3 golden rules - The 3 golden rules that will keep your kids safe**
- **Talking to your kids - How to have difficult conversations with your kids**
- **Challenging our own phone and device usage - Reconnecting as a family.**

Here is a promotional video for you to watch: [Our Kids Online Parent Evening](#).

The talk will be held in the Ilminster Hall on March 12th starting at 7pm.

**All parents who attend will receive a coupon for 12 months of free access to 'The Big Reconnect' family program worth \$99.**

We strongly recommend that every family have an adult attend please

There will be a **prize for all students** who have a parent attend





# 2024 Ilminster Staff

<p><b>Leadership</b>  Megan Rangiuia -Principal  Mona Ferris - Deputy Principal  Shane Hooks- Assistant Principal  Travis Lapointe -Assistant Principal/Senco</p>	<p><b>Administration</b>  Student Services/Office - Te Ani Aperahama  Executive Officer/Finance- Joelle Martin  Library/Resources- Kylie Taylor  Caretaker- Kenneth Keefe</p>
<p><b>Challenge Centre</b>  Room 1- Tom Tindale  Room 2 -Rikki Terekia</p>	<p><b>Expressive Centre</b>  Room 7- Tanya Ewe  Room 8- Dinah Pohatu</p>
<p><b>Xcel Centre</b>  Room 3 - Frank Dwyer  Room 4 -Rachel Harvey  Room 5- Rose Simmons  Room 6- Nik Mastrovich</p>	<p><b>SciTech Centre</b>  Room 12 - Andrew Bull  Room 13 - Marlene Williams  Room 14 - Teresa Phillips</p>
<p><b>Connections Staff</b>  Andrea Ferris- Science  Elle Jarratt -Art  Marney Gaskin - Food  Gana Goldsmith and Ricky Boyd - Music</p>	<p><b>Drama</b> - Keren Rickard  <b>Literacy Support</b>- Denny Newburn  <b>School Counsellor</b>- Nikki O'Connor  <b>Speech Language Therapist</b>- Jackie Symons  <b>Sports Coordinator</b> -Pete Simmons</p>
<p><b>In Class Support Staff</b>  Connie Ahuriri  Karen Bourke  Ani Tiko  Donu Lewis  Anneserina Tuilautala</p>	



# Calendar of Events for Term 1, 2024

<b>Week 1:</b> 7-9 February	<b>Week 2:</b> 12 – 16 February	<b>Week 3:</b> 19 - 23 February	<b>Week 4:</b> 26 February – 1 March
<b>Wed 7 Feb</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 7's only</li> </ul>		<b>Wed 21 Feb</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whanau Night</li> </ul>	<b>Wed 28 Feb</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xcel Wild Lab Trip</li> </ul>
<b>Thur 8 Feb</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 8's only</li> </ul>			<b>Thur 29 Feb</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Xcel Wild Lab Trip</li> </ul>
<b>Fri 9 Feb</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole school</li> <li>Powhiri</li> </ul>			

<b>Week 5:</b> 4 March – 8 March	<b>Week 6:</b> 11 March - 15 March	<b>Week 7:</b> 18 March– 22 March	<b>Week 8:</b> 25 March – 29 March
<b>Tues 5 Mar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matauranga Begins</li> </ul>	<b>Mon 11 Mar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Netball Trials</li> </ul>	<b>Mon 18 Mar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Netball Trials</li> </ul>	<b>Fri 29 Mar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easter (No school)</li> </ul>
<b>Thur 7 – Fri 8 Mar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Surfing Trip (Tauranga)</li> </ul>	<b>Tues 12 Mar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Lockdown Practice</li> <li>Informed and Empowered Digital Safety Program</li> <li>(7pm – 9pm)</li> </ul>		

<b>Week 9:</b> 1 April - 5 April	<b>Week 10:</b> 7 April – 12 April
<b>Mon 1 - 2 Apr</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easter (No school)</li> </ul>	<b>Sun 7 - 9 April</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northcross Student Leaders</li> <li>Taradale exchange</li> </ul>
<b>Thur 4 – Fri 5 Apr</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Touch Rugby (Rotorua)</li> </ul>	

