

# PRINCIPAL'S PĀNUI

1 April 2026

## OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO PRIVACY

As we come to the end of the term, having welcomed new whānau into our kura, we wanted to revisit our commitment to promoting and safeguarding the health and safety of our ākonga. A key part of this responsibility is ensuring a safe and respectful learning environment—both in the ways you see every day, and in the systems and processes that operate in the background.

One of the key areas underpinning this is privacy. This includes how we collect, use, and share personal information. These practices are guided by the Privacy Act 2020, which sets clear expectations for how information is managed in schools, alongside our ongoing commitment to acting with care, professionalism, and respect.

You would have encountered our privacy statement during the enrolment process, where whānau provide consent for the collection and use of student information. This includes sharing student learning through displays, newsletters, and other school communications to celebrate achievement. It also includes the information we are required to provide to educational agencies, such as the Ministry of Education, for purposes like attendance and achievement reporting. **What this means in practice is that we are careful and deliberate about who we share information with, and how it is used.** Any information, including updates about progress and wellbeing, is shared only with those recorded in our system as a parent, caregiver, or guardian; and only with agencies who help to support the education and wellbeing of ākonga, when necessary. When you wish for extended whānau to receive this information, they must be formally noted in our records. This ensures we meet our legal obligations while protecting the privacy of each student.

**This same care also applies to photographs and videos.** These are considered personal information under the Privacy Act. While we understand the importance of capturing special moments, particularly during school events, **we ask that images including other children are not shared on social media or public platforms without the clear consent of their whānau.** Not all students have permission for their image to be shared, and this is something we are required to uphold. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and privacy-aware environment.

In the event that you wish to revisit your position on anything raised in the above, including consent details, or if you would like any clarification, please get in touch with the school.

## WELCOMING OUR INAUGURAL “STUDENT LEADERS”

Alongside the systems and structures that support our kura, we also place a strong emphasis on growing leadership within our ākonga. Developing student leadership is an important part of building a connected, respectful, and future-focused school community.

This year, our Student Leadership Team has been formed through a considered process of observation across the year. Ākonga were identified and put forward by their kaiako based on the leadership they demonstrate in their everyday actions—how they contribute, support others, and uphold the values of our kura. Our student leaders work within two groups, each with a distinct focus and purpose:

- **House Captains** lead the culture and spirit of our kura. They are visible role models who support participation, foster a sense of belonging within their houses, and help coordinate events, activities, and our house points system. Their role is about connection, energy, and creating opportunities for students to be involved.
- **Student Council** focuses on voice and service. This group works more behind the scenes, representing student perspectives and contributing to school-wide initiatives and development. They engage with students, staff, and the wider community to gather ideas and provide thoughtful input into decisions that shape our kura .

Together, these groups provide meaningful opportunities for students to lead in different ways—whether through action, service, or representation. Importantly, they do so within clear structures that ensure their work is supported, purposeful, and aligned with our school values. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of our student leaders across the year.

## SPECIAL CHARACTER DONATIONS

As part of continuing to grow and strengthen the special character of our kura, we offer whānau the opportunity to contribute through our Special Character Donation.

This is an optional contribution that allows us to prioritise and extend initiatives that sit beyond the core curriculum—particularly those that enrich our special character, support staff professional learning, and enhance opportunities and experiences for our ākonga.

These contributions make a meaningful difference, enabling us to invest in areas that deepen the values and identity of our kura in ways that would not otherwise be possible.

We also acknowledge that any donation made is eligible for a donations tax credit, which can be claimed back through Inland Revenue. We appreciate your ongoing support in helping us continue to grow and strengthen the unique character of our kura.