

Kia ora whānau

We are finding that more and more children are happy to take a "one and done" approach to learning, or are "bored" and want to move on and have lost a lot of curiosity about the world around them. Here at Ashley Rakahuri School we want to develop a Growth Mindset and encourage children to be curious. Please read the below information as to why and how you can help...

Growing Great Learners: The Power of a Growth Mindset

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is not simply the ability to read, write or solve maths problems, but the belief that they can learn, improve and overcome challenges. This is known as having a growth mindset.

A child with a growth mindset understands that intelligence, skills and talents are not fixed—they grow through effort, practice, perseverance and learning from mistakes. Rather than saying, "I'm just not good at maths," they begin to think, "I'm not good at maths yet, but I can improve if I keep trying."

Developing this mindset helps children become more resilient. They learn that making mistakes isn't something to fear—it's an important part of learning. Every time children tackle something difficult, their brains build new connections, making learning stronger and more permanent.

A growth mindset also encourages curiosity. Curious children ask questions, wonder how things work, explore new ideas and are willing to take safe risks in their learning. They don't always look for the quickest answer; instead, they enjoy discovering it for themselves.

As parents and caregivers, there are many simple ways you can help develop a growth mindset at home:

- Praise effort rather than ability. Instead of saying, "You're so clever," try saying, "I can see how hard you worked on that."
- Celebrate mistakes as learning opportunities. Ask, "What did you learn from that?" or "What might you try differently next time?"
- Use the word "yet". If your child says, "I can't do this," simply add, "...yet."
- Encourage curiosity. When your child asks a question, resist jumping straight to the answer. Instead, ask, "What do you think?" or "How could we find out together?"
- Model resilience. Let your children see you trying new things, making mistakes, and persevering when something is challenging.

At Ashley Rakahuri School, this links closely with our REACH values. We show Courage when we attempt something that feels difficult. We strive for Excellence by continually improving rather than expecting perfection. We demonstrate Honesty by recognising where we need to grow, Respect by encouraging others in their learning journey, and Aroha by supporting one another through both successes and setbacks.

As adults, it can be tempting to step in and solve problems for our children. While this often comes from a place of care, allowing children to experience manageable challenges and work through them independently is one of the best ways to build resilience. When children discover that they can overcome obstacles, they develop confidence that extends far beyond the classroom. Together, by encouraging resilience, curiosity and a belief that learning is a lifelong journey, we are helping our children become confident, capable learners who are ready to embrace whatever challenges the future brings.

After all, success isn't about always getting it right—it's about having the courage to keep learning.



Excitement is building and entries are starting to come in for the first talent quest in many years. We have such a variety of ideas coming in for what children will be doing.

This is intended as a fun event with all practices happening in break times, free time or at home. Thank you for your support with this.

PTA NEWS

Our PTA Bake Sale, Crafts & Produce Market is fast approaching, and we would love your support to help make this fundraiser a fantastic success.

Date: Friday 14th August

Time: 2:30 pm

All funds raised will go towards funding additional teacher aide hours, directly benefiting our students.

We would greatly appreciate donations of:

- * Homemade baking (cakes, slices, muffins, biscuits, cupcakes, etc.)
- * Fresh fruit and vegetables from your garden
- * Preserves, jams or chutneys
- * Handmade crafts
- * Any other homegrown or homemade goodies

We would also love to include allergy-friendly baking, such as gluten-free, dairy-free, egg-free or nut-free treats, so everyone has the opportunity to enjoy something. If donating allergy-friendly items, please clearly label the ingredients used.

Donations can be dropped off:

Thursday by 3:00 pm, or
Friday morning of the market.

Please bring all donations to the School Hall.

The market will be cash only, so don't forget to send your children along with some cash to enjoy the delicious treats, fresh produce and handmade crafts on offer.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support. Together we can make this fundraiser a wonderful success for our school community.

Kind regards,

Ashley Rakahuri School PTA



Calendar of Events

- 14th August - PTA Bake Sale
- 20th August - School Photos (Note change of day)
- 26th August - Junior Poetry Finals
- 3rd September - Talent Quest Finals
- 4th September Whole School Disco
- 7th - 11th September Scholastic Book Fair and READATHON
- 10th September - Dress up Book Character Day (change of day)
- 11th September - Ruataniwha Kapa Haka Festival
- 14th September - Learning Conferences
- 21st September - Learning Conferences
- 23rd September Quad School Speech Finals
- 25th September - Raffle drawn for Ford Ranger
- 25th September - 11th October - Term 3 School Holidays
- 26th October SCHOOL CLOSED - Labour Day
- 6th November - Gumboot Friday
- 13th November Canterbury Show Day Holiday
- 25th November Tūhono Kapa Haka Competition
- 9th December Year 8 Leavers Dinner
- 11th December - Hotdogs/Non Uniform Day - Christmas
- 14th December - Whole School Prizegiving
- 16th December - Last Day of Term 4 (note change of day)