

Board Update October 2025

Tēnā Koe

As we head into the final stretch of the year, October has brought a vibrant mix of learning, creativity, and community spirit to our kura. It's been wonderful to see our tamariki engaging in opportunities that showcase their talents and build confidence both inside and outside the classroom.

Community Survey

Each year, Northland School and its Board of Trustees review and refresh the school's strategy to ensure we are meeting our long-term goal: to reach great heights by creating a community of confident, kind, curious, active, and creative learners. Your feedback is a vital part of this process.

This year's survey focuses on our three Pou (pillars): Ako (Learning), Whanaungatanga (Relationships), and Oranga (Wellbeing). We are seeking your views to help us understand what's working well and where we can improve. Your responses will inform our planning and help us continue to support all learners at Northland School.

The survey will be open for two weeks, starting Monday November 3rd closing on Monday November 17th. The survey link will be sent out through a Hero message on Monday November 3rd.

Attendance

The national goal for attendance is every student in all schools to attend at least 90% of the time. In April 2024, the Government announced a regular attendance target of 80 percent of students to be present for more than 90% of the term by 2030. All school boards must set, publish and report against attendance goals from the beginning of 2026.

Our attendance in term 3 was: 63% of our students attended school 90% of the time. We can celebrate that 96% of our students were on time to school and thank you for helping your child to be ready in the morning.

While we were hit hard by student and staff illness in term 3, the other reason for non attendance at Northland is holidays during term time. If you have to go on holiday during term time, please email Andrea and the office to notify that your child will be absent during term time. These absences will be noted and non attendance is recorded as explained, but unjustified according to the Ministry of Education.

Regular attendance is extremely important. Let's work together and aim for 80% or above.

The table below shows how much school learning time might be lost if your child's attendance is regularly disrupted.

Attendance percentage	Days missed per year	Days missed over 6 years	Equivalent missed school terms/years
90% (regular attendance)	20	120	2.5 terms (over half a year)
85%	30	180	3.6 terms (nearly a whole year)
80%	40	240	4.8 terms (a year and a quarter)
75%	50	300	6 terms (a year and a half)

Fundraising Update – Pies and Quiz Night

Our annual pies fundraiser has been a great success, with 387 pies sold and over \$1300 raised! Apple was the surprise favourite this year, closely followed by mince and cheese, with steak and cheese rounding out the top three. The funds will go toward purchasing new whiteboards, whiteboard markers, and some beautiful flower-themed blackboards for our tamariki to enjoy outdoors.

Unfortunately, due to severe weather and a civil defence warning on October 23rd, we made the decision to postpone the quiz night. While disappointing, the safety of our community comes first. We're looking forward to rescheduling soon and will share the new date once confirmed.

Lord of the Rings Production – A Community Highlight

On October 11th & 12th, 90 of Northland School's talented students took part in the Greater Northland Amateur Theatre's production of The Lord of the Rings, a truly memorable event for our school and wider community. The energy, confidence, and creativity on display were outstanding, with staff supporting students behind the scenes through script learning and costume preparation.

A number of staff attended the performance and were thoroughly impressed — especially by the imaginative choreography and the Orc costumes, which featured a delightful splash of pink! It was a fantastic celebration of the arts and a proud moment for all involved.

Whānau meeting

Unfortunately, due to severe weather and a civil defence warning, the decision was made to postpone our whānau hui last week. The next hui will take place on the 11th of November.

Thank you to our whānau, staff, and wider community for your continued support and involvement. We look forward to the exciting events ahead as we move toward the end of the school year, celebrating all that our learners have achieved.

Ngā mihi nui

Katie and Andrea on behalf of the Board