



Pānui - Thursday 6th August

Kia ora e te whānau,

As we move into Term 3, I am reminded again of what makes Collingwood Area School such a special place. This edition of the newsletter contains several independent affirmations of the progress our school is making. From outstanding external reviews by both NZQA and ERO, to exceptional student achievement in sport and academics, there is much to celebrate. These successes reflect the commitment of our students, staff, Board and wider community as we continue to build an exceptional area school together.

Celebrating Outstanding National Success - What an incredible week it was for our Area Schools sports team before the holidays. Congratulations to every student who went to the tournament. Everyone on the team qualified to represent the South Island at the Area Schools Nationals in Whangārei, and an extra special congratulations to the seven students selected to represent New Zealand.

Congratulations to: Bianca – Netball, Ashley – Netball, Syria – Netball, Maryanne – Football, Logan – Volleyball & Basketball, Leroy E. – Basketball

This is a remarkable achievement and reflects months of dedication, training and fundraising. A huge thank you must go to Peter Taylor, Sam Iorns, and the rest of the team for the enormous amount of work that goes into preparing our students for this level of competition. Thank you also to all of the parents, supporters and volunteers who helped make the trip possible. We are incredibly proud of every student who represented our school, Top of the South and the South Island with such pride.

Outstanding NZQA Managing National Assessment Review - We are delighted to share the outcome of our recent NZQA Managing National Assessment (MNA) Review. This comprehensive review examines every aspect of how schools manage NCEA assessment, moderation, quality assurance and student achievement before confirming whether schools retain their consent to assess national qualifications. The review involved examining our assessment systems and documentation, interviewing staff and students, and reviewing our moderation and assessment practices. As a result of the review, Collingwood Area School has been placed on the longest possible review cycle of three to five years, reflecting NZQA's confidence in the consistency and quality of our assessment and review systems. [You can read the full report before it hits the NZQA site here.](#)

The report highlights many strengths including:

- personalised qualification pathways for students
- robust internal moderation systems
- outstanding review processes
- excellent preparation for Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisites
- innovative management of Artificial Intelligence in assessment
- strong communication with students and whānau.

My sincere thanks go to the NZQA review team for their constructive approach, and to Lloyd McPherson, our Assistant Principal responsible for Secondary, as well as to all of our secondary teachers, whose professionalism and commitment were recognised throughout the report.

Positive Mid-Cycle Feedback from ERO - We were also delighted to receive very positive feedback from the Education Review Office (ERO) following our recent online progress meeting. This meeting reviewed the progress we have made against the improvement priorities identified in our 2024 ERO Profile Report. It was particularly pleasing that ERO recognised the significant progress our school has made over the past twelve

months. Their feedback acknowledged that: “The school has recently focused on addressing the school’s ERO priorities for improvement.” and that, “The improvement priorities are clearly in the school’s annual implementation plan.”

ERO also noted that the Board is receiving regular reporting on progress towards improving student achievement, wellbeing and attendance, ensuring that governance decisions are well informed. Some of the highlights identified by ERO included:

- the development of a refreshed strategic plan following consultation with students, staff and the wider community;
- significant progress in implementing the refreshed curriculum and strengthening literacy and mathematics programmes;
- the introduction of PB4L, strengthened attendance systems and Pulse wellbeing monitoring;
- improved assessment, moderation and reporting systems across the school; and
- collaborative approaches that are supporting positive learner outcomes and successful pathways for students.

We were especially pleased that ERO acknowledged our attendance improvement, noting that 77% of students attended regularly in Term 1, with the school continuing to move towards the Government attendance target.

The feedback provides wonderful affirmation that the work of our staff, Board, students and community is making a genuine difference. While there is always more work to do, it is encouraging to see independent external agencies recognising the positive direction our school is taking.

Exceptional Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite Success - Already, around 50% of our Year 9 students have successfully achieved the Reading, Writing and Mathematics Co-requisites for NCEA Level 1, an outstanding result considering many students nationally do not attempt these until later in secondary school.

Even more impressively, 96% of our Year 11–13 students have now met all three co-requisite requirements. Current national figures are closer to 83%, making this another example of our students and staff demonstrating that we are a small school really punching well above our weight.

Preparing for 2027 - A sincere thank you to the families of our Year 11–13 students who supported our recent Secondary Planning Day by supervising learning at home while our teaching team spent the day planning for the future. During the day, staff explored the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum, reviewed Ministry implementation timelines, examined exemplar programmes, discussed curriculum changes, began planning our 2027 Year 11 programme, and aligned Years 9–10 timetables with new Ministry expectations. The day also identified curriculum development priorities for the remainder of the year to ensure we are well prepared for implementation.

The professionalism, enthusiasm and thoughtful discussion throughout the day were outstanding. We are excited about the learning opportunities available to our students over the coming years.

A Wonderful Matariki Celebration - Thank you to Rosie Challis and her team for creating such a beautiful Matariki celebration. It was wonderful to see our community coming together to share waiata, enjoy kai, admire the beautiful student lanterns and celebrate together. One of the highlights of the evening was the walk through our beautifully illuminated Pā Harakeke, which created a truly magical atmosphere. A special thank you also to Kaye and Craig, whose work transformed the space into something very special for our community to enjoy.

Senior Cross Country - Congratulations to everyone who participated in our Senior Cross Country. A huge thank you to Peter Taylor and his team for organising another successful event. Special congratulations go to our record-breaker, Logan Ricketts, who broke his own course record to set the fastest time ever on our track and to Claude Gaddes, who broke Logan’s previous Middle School record and matched last years Senior Record. Outstanding performances from both students. The full results will be in the next newsletter.

Parent Interviews - Thank you to all the families who attended our recent Parent Interviews. With more than 100 appointments held (and a handful still to occur following staff rescheduling), it was fantastic to see so many parents and caregivers engaging in conversations about learning. Strong partnerships between home and school make an enormous difference to student success, and we hope the meetings provided useful information about your child's progress and the next steps you can support from home.

Staffing News - At the end of this year, we will farewell Glenda Allinson, who has made an enormous contribution to Collingwood Area School through her Food Technology programme and the care she has shown for generations of students. Glenda's enthusiasm, warmth and commitment have made a lasting impact on our school community. While we still have the remainder of the year to enjoy working alongside her, I know our community will join me in thanking Glenda for her outstanding service and wishing her every happiness in her retirement.

We will also farewell Esther Kristel, who has accepted a full-time teaching position elsewhere. Although Esther will remain part of our wider community, she will be greatly missed in the classroom when she leaves at the end of this term. We thank her for everything she has contributed to Collingwood Area School and wish her every success in this exciting next chapter of her teaching career.

Donations Scheme Consultation - It is once again time for our Board of Trustees to decide whether to remain part of the Ministry of Education's Donations Scheme. The scheme provides additional government funding to schools that agree not to request curriculum-related school donations from families. Remaining in the scheme means families are not asked to pay annual school donations, helping ensure education remains accessible for everyone. Before the Board makes its annual decision, we would like to hear from our community. If you believe the school should opt out of the Donations Scheme, please let the School Office know. If we do not receive significant feedback requesting a change, the Board intends to continue participating in the scheme so that our families can continue to benefit from government funding in place of school donations.

Board of Trustees Community Report - Please take the opportunity to read the Board of Trustees Community Report later in this newsletter from our new Presiding Member, Sheridan Gray. We thank Sheridan for taking on this important leadership role and look forward to working together to continue strengthening our school.

Parenting Course - Mohua Social Services is offering a new 10-week Parent SHIFT – Parent Effectiveness Training programme locally. The course focuses on navigating big emotions, healthy boundaries, understanding parenting styles, play and trauma-informed parenting. If this sounds like something that may benefit your family, please see the enrolment details later in this newsletter.

PTA – Everyone Welcome - We're excited to be establishing a new Parent Teacher Association. If you would like to support our school community, please see the advertisement later in this newsletter. We'd love to see as many parents and caregivers as possible attend our inaugural meeting on August 14th at 1 pm in the school's Board Room.

Looking Ahead - This Friday, a group of our students will be participating in Spaceward Bound New Zealand, an exciting STEM education programme that brings together scientists, educators and students through hands-on experiences inspired by the challenges of space exploration. We wish all of our participants an inspiring and memorable experience. We also wish our senior students travelling to Wellington in Week 4 for their city camp a fantastic trip. We hope you enjoy every opportunity to learn, explore and create lasting memories together.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of Collingwood Area School. Together, we continue to build a school community where our young people are encouraged to connect with others, their environment and their future.

Kate Staniford - Tumuaki | Principal

Celebrating Matariki Together

Ngā Mihi Nui!

A massive thank you to everyone who joined us for our school Matariki celebration two weeks ago. It was a magical evening, and our school community truly brought the spirit of Matariki to life!

Highlights included:

Our Lantern Walk and Pā Harakeke: Students loved wandering down to the stunning pā harakeke carrying their handmade lanterns.

The Bonfire & Feast: Everyone enjoyed the delicious food, gathered around the fire, and stayed warm together.

Epic Singing: Fantastic performances and singing from all our tamariki!

A huge thank you to:

Our Volunteers: Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help make the event run so smoothly.

Our Local Fire Brigade: A huge shoutout for supporting our bonfire—including getting stuck in the mud right along with us to keep everyone safe!

Drone Footage & Video: Special thanks to Jonny and Louis for capturing awesome aerial footage. Keep an eye out for Jonny's final video edit coming soon!

Thank you for making Matariki 2026 so memorable for our students and whānau!





EPro8

Last week we ran the EPro8 engineering challenge after two weeks of learning how to adapt the gear to meet our needs. EPro8 is an NZ based engineering programme that allows young engineers to build understandings of structures, mechanisms, and physics principles using specially designed kits. Students in Y6-8 across Aotearoa learn and compete at school, and have the opportunity to compete with other schools in regional events.

The Year 8 challenge required each group to build a sophisticated machine. The options were a floor painting device, a chain driven carousel ride, or a hand-cranked pedestal fan with a three stage speed increasing gearbox.

Teams had exactly 120 minutes to progress as far through the challenge as possible, which includes solving maths computations to work out distance travelled, wind speed, and gearbox ratios.

Points are allocated according when teams reach milestones in the challenge.

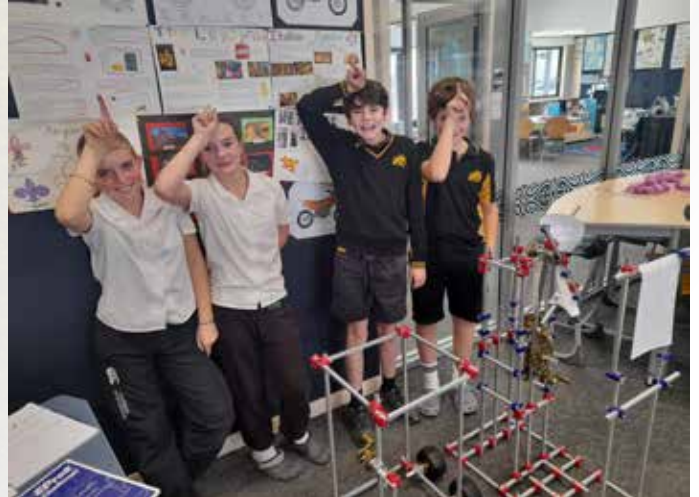
The results were:

3rd= : Santa's Helpers and Mayhem - 120 points

2nd: 2x2 - 170 points

1st: Pink Fluffy Unicorns - 235 points

The Pink Fluffy Unicorns (Lydia, Marley, Isla & Robert) will travel to Nelson on September 9th to represent CAS at the Nelson Region EPro8 Challenge. The winning team at this event will be invited to the NZ EPro8 final...



Year 4 - 8 Tackle 7's Rugby Tournament

On Tuesday, July 28th, Fern and I accompanied our students from Year 4–8 to the Motueka Sports Park to compete in a Tackle 7s Rugby tournament. We were represented by two Year 7/8 teams and two Year 4/6 teams.

The day featured a series of challenging matches. Our Year 7/8 teams went up against some bigger schools with more experienced players. Even though the competition was tough, our students really stuck at it. They didn't walk away with a win, but they played impressively and have picked up some great rugby skills along the way.

The Year 4–6 teams participated in a non-competitive grade, where they played exceptionally well, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and camaraderie throughout the day.

All tamariki who participated should be very proud of the effort and dedication they displayed.

We would like to extend our thanks to Jonny for organizing the trip, and to Shaun Begg, Steven Strange, Clay Paton, Will Curnow, and Pete Taylor for their assistance with training and for teaching the children how to tackle safely. Finally, we are incredibly grateful to the parents who provided transport and attended to support our tamariki.

Holly Rillstone - Waikato Kaiako



Kindo - New start date!

School payments are moving to Kindo, a fast, secure, and super easy online platform designed to make paying for school events, trips and fundraisers completely hassle-free.

Starting **August 18th**, Kindo will be our primary payment system. Whether you're paying on your phone during breakfast or from your computer at work, you'll be able to manage all school payments in one place, 24/7.

Why Get Ready Now?

By setting up your account before our launch on August 11th, you'll avoid any last-minute stress when payments open for upcoming school activities. Getting set up takes less than two minutes!

With Kindo, you'll be able to easily pay for:

- School Trips & Camps 🏕️
- Fundraisers & Sausage Sizzles 🍰
- Sports Teams & Fees 🏀
- School Events, Activity Fees & More 📅

How to Register (In 2 Quick Steps)

1. Click the link below to go to our school's Kindo registration page.
2. Follow the prompts to set up your account.

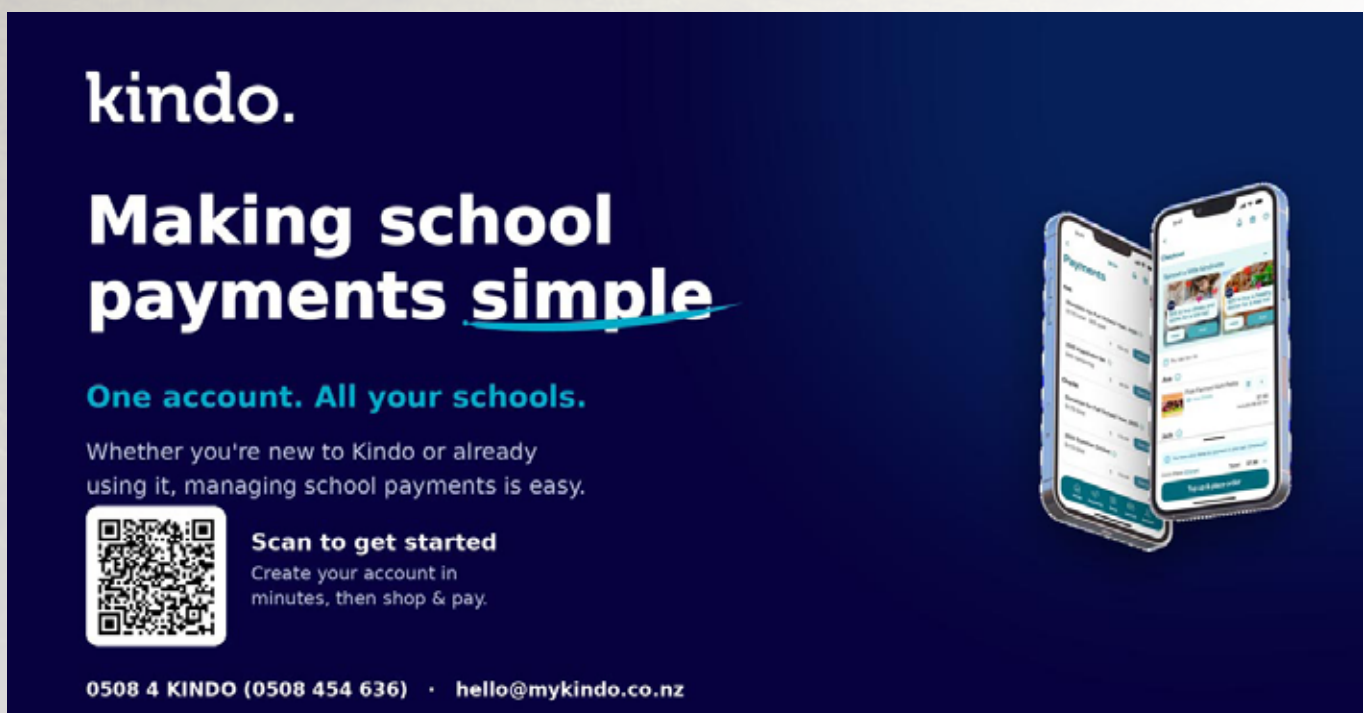
⚠️**IMPORTANT:** You must register using the exact email address that Collingwood Area School has on file for your family. This ensures your Kindo account automatically links to your children's profiles!

Your Kindo account will also integrate seamlessly with SchoolBridge.

Get Ahead of the Game!

Don't wait for August 11th; get registered today, so you're ready to go!

👉 Register Your [Kindo Account Here | Collingwood Area School](#) or scan the QR code on the poster:



kindo.

Making school payments simple

One account. All your schools.

Whether you're new to Kindo or already using it, managing school payments is easy.



Scan to get started
Create your account in minutes, then shop & pay.



0508 4 KINDO (0508 454 636) • hello@mykindo.co.nz

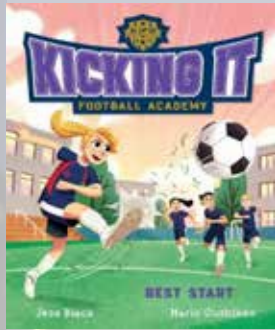
If you need to check which email address we have on file for you, please contact the school office. More information is also available here: [Kindo | SchoolBridge Resources](#)

Library News

Your Next Read: Go-to junior fiction books for kids.

Your Kid's Next Read has partnered with Affirm Press/Simon & Schuster Australia to develop a new junior fiction series which aims to encourage the joy of reading.

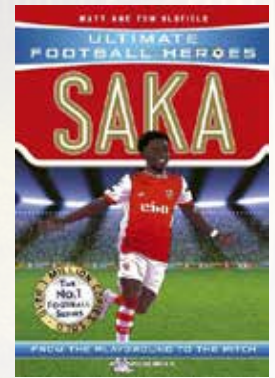
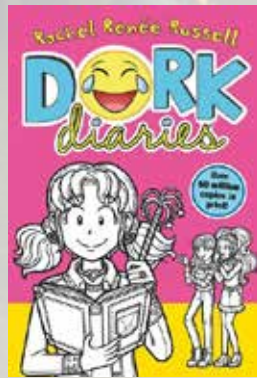
Your Next Read is specifically designed to fill the need for chapter books that strike a balance between child satisfaction and parental approval and to supplement the science-based approach to reading education.



Your Next Read aims to make choosing 'the next book' as easy as possible, which is key to keeping kids reading – and loving it – for life!

This library has 3 of these new books - they are great for 6 - 8 year olds to build confidence in reading.

One of our new books out on display is this book - Treasure beyond measure, a collective noun safari. Collective nouns are magical, they name rather than measure:



they add richness to our language. Some terms may already be familiar, like “bands”, “packs” and “herds” but in this book you'll learn some other words. In here you'll meet - A parliament of owls, a murder of black crows and a squabble of seagulls. What about a shiver of sharks, a smack of jellyfish or a battery of barracuda? Some of our other new books are shown above. As usual we have a wide and eclectic range of titles for all the busy, enquiring minds we have here at school. They are ready for you to reserve to read. New out every Monday.

August has TWO great children's book and library weeks coming up.

10 - 14 August is Aotearoa NZ School Library week

15 - 21 August is NZ Children's book week.

<https://www.read-nz.org/what-we-do/nz-children-s-book-week>

The Takaka Library has arranged great activities for Children's book week.

Just a wee reminder about children bringing books back to school. If your child has different homes and spends weekends or weeks between them, can you please arrange or remind them to always take their library books back with them in their bags. We have several reserved books that students can't read because the books are elsewhere. I would appreciate that immensely.

Enjoy your reading on these crisp sparkling days. ~ Diane & Donna (Librarians)



Mid year BOT report to whānau 2026

The first half of 2026 has been a time of embedding for our BoT. We welcomed two new members to our BoT – Miriam Curnow (staff rep) and Tim de Jong (student rep) - as well as our new secretary, Gill Phillips. Early this year, we farewelled Anne Harvey as our Manawhenua ki Mohua representative.

A Board of Trustees' key objective is to ensure that all students are able to attain their highest possible standard in educational achievement. We meet twice a term, and at each meeting we receive several reports and review our school's policies. Through these governance processes, we can raise questions, provide support, make important decisions, and ensure assurance and shared responsibility for our ongoing development as a kura. As a team, we represent our community and take our responsibility to hold the needs of our community as a whole very seriously; there is no place for personal agendas.

In February, we ratified our new Strategic Plan. The plan's goals include: Strengthening Curriculum and Achievement, Enhancing Engagement and Attendance, and Using Data and Communication to Drive Improvement. These goals have specific focus areas that are reported on each BoT meeting by Kate. As a Board, we can see the thorough approach the trajectory forms from goal setting to action in each of these areas.

A new initiative in our BoT meetings has been the introduction of faculty reporting. So far, we've received reports from Mike Wilson (English), Diane Street (Library), Sam Gaddes (Science), Mel Dixon (Special Education and Gifted and Talented), and Mieke van Lammeren (Primary syndicate, Years 0-3 and Years 4-6). From these reports, we get an overview of staff and student experiences, as well as an analysis of achievement by school leaders. It's been a great learning experience for us all and a pleasure to learn more about the day-to-day work of staff in their specific subject areas.

We recently received our Managing National Assessment Report, which found that our senior students are assessed appropriately and that the moderation practices were satisfactory. It was a very good report, showing that the staff in the senior school take a rigorous approach to assessment, and commended CAS for providing individualised learning programmes to meet senior students' needs.

Managing the budget (big picture) is a significant part of our work. Our finance committee (Brendan Richards, Kate Staniford, Kaye Stark and Sheridan Grey) meets before each BoT meeting to review our monthly financial reports – a task that includes consideration of salaries, property, improvements, resources and school houses. We recently completed our annual audit and were pleased to find that our financial processes were robust. There were only a few recommendations, and we have already implemented them.

Property is an ongoing part of our work here in the BoT. We are fortunate to have a beautiful new school, and we need to ensure that everything is maintained and functions properly for its intended purpose. We have a five-year property maintenance plan, and our current priorities are the tech block, gym and swimming pool.

Part of our role is to ensure we are a good employer for all staff at CAS. We are keenly aware of the pressure on our teaching staff this year as they face significant changes to curriculum, assessment, and reporting. We also receive regular reports on attendance and engagement during our meetings, and we're heartened by the improvement in attendance over the past year.

We have been undergoing training as a board and continue to improve our understanding of school governance. This has included: School Board Association training for new representatives, Governance training with Karen Smith (The Education Group NZ) and PB4L School-Wide training with staff.

This year, Brendan Richards stepped down as our presiding member. Brendan's capacity as a leader and parent representative has been a huge support to our kura through times of great transition, particularly

the building of the new school and the appointment of a new principal. Dan Jessep – as his vice PM – put in many hours supporting these changes too. We are grateful for their steady, thorough work over these years in making Collingwood Area School the vibrant place it is now.

Being on a BoT is a wonderful opportunity to support our school community at a governance level. If you're interested in being part of our Board and would like to know more, feel free to contact any of our parent representatives: Briar Hayton, Brendan Richards, Carrol Roberts, Dan Jessep or myself (Sheridan Gray).

Sheridan Gray
Presiding Member, CAS BoT

Calendar

Wednesday 5th - Friday 7th August

Friday 7th August

Monday 10th - Friday 14th August

Wednesday 19th - Friday 21st August

Wednesday 19th August

Thursday 20th August

Wednesday 26th August

Monday 31st August - Thursday 3rd September

Monday 7th September

Wednesday 9th September

Friday 11th September

Monday 14th - Friday 18th September

Tuesday 15th September

Wednesday 16th September

Thursday 17th September

Thursday 24th September

Friday 25th September

OED Scuba Trip

Spaceward Bound Learning

Year 11 - 13 Wellington Trip

Year 9 - 13 Ski Trip

Year 3 & 4 Speech Competition

Year 5 & 6 Speech Competition

Get2Go

SISS Netball

BOT Meeting

IS EPro 8

IS Football

Derived Grade Exam Week

Reading CAA

TSS Pickleball & Numeracy CAA

Writing CAA

Year 9 & 13 Sea Kayak

End Term Three

Term Four

Monday 12th October - Thursday 10th December

How much training do you get to do the most important job there is, being a Parent? Talk to me if cost would prevent you to come.



PARENT SHIFT

Parent Effectiveness Training

I am seeking a group of parents to trial a weekly, term long, training, incorporating "SEEN the film" Parenting Course.

In this supportive environment, you will learn to navigate big feelings, set healthy boundaries, identify your parenting style, begin to heal childhood wounds, learn the magic of play and understand trauma. And much more....!!

Length of course: 10 weeks

Cost: \$150 pp or \$300 per family. Plus \$80 if you want access to the parenting course material for the next 2 years.

Venue: Mohua Social Services, 88 Commercial St.

Renee Alleyne MNZAP, AANZPA, BA Psych www.ReneeAlleyne.co

Ph or txt me at 027 734 5290 or email reneealleyne123@gmail.com

- SchoolDocs -

All of our school policies can be found on the SchoolDocs Website.

Sign in to SchoolDocs

Username



collingwood-area

Password



collingwood-area



Show

Afternoon Storytime

Tuesday 18 August
3.30pm - 4.30pm

Join us for a special afternoon Storytime & craft with special guest reader Linda Jane Keegan






Livvy Buys at the Tākaka Library

Friday 21 August
10.00am - 11.00am

Join us for a reading and some craft. Suitable for preschool children and their whānau




WORD FEST

We're celebrating "New Zealand Children's Book Week"




Collingwood Area School

Connecting to others, our environment, and the future

Te whanaungatanga ki te tangata, te taiao, te anamata hoki

Help Launch Our NEW PTA!

PARENTS & TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDING MEETING



FRIDAY
14 AUGUST



1:00 PM



SCHOOL
BOARD ROOM
(Please sign in at the
School Office)

All parents, caregivers
and teachers are
warmly welcome!



This is the first meeting to establish a new
Parents & Teachers Association at Collingwood Area School.

Whether you have lots of ideas or simply want to find out more,
we'd love to see you there. Together we can build a PTA that
supports our students, staff and wider school community.

Stronger together.
Brighter futures.

