

The Aubert Oracle



Message from our Tumuaki

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

Tena koutou katoa whānau. Nau mai, haere mai ki te Hata Meri Hōhepa - te Kura Katorika o Papamoa. It is a blessing to be serving you as Principal at the end of what has been another positive year of learning at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School. I am humbled and incredibly proud to see a learning community that has continued to grow significantly this year and personifies the Charism and compassionate spirit of Mother Aubert. In February 2026, we will celebrate our school's 5th anniversary. In 2021, our school opened with just 80 learners. We will finish this year with 209. Next year, we will continue to grow towards our capped roll of 250 as our school embeds itself as a beacon of Catholic education in the Papamoa community. I believe Meri Hōhepa would be proud to see her legacy reimagined as a flourishing Catholic Primary School in Papamoa. We are blessed to honour her name as the patron of our kura. We see the Aubert Charism as a unique and special kaupapa for living, learning and faith in action in our school community.

HIGHLIGHTS

It has been an exciting and rewarding year for us all. One that has brought many successes and celebrations. Some key personal highlights have been:

- Seeing the Catholic character of Suzanne Aubert brought to life through our prayer program, RE learning, Masses and liturgical celebrations such as the Holy Week dramatisations and recent Nativity Play.
- Building relationships and sharing in celebrations with our school parents and whānau at different occasions throughout the year including our Whanaungatanga BBQ, Grandparents' Day and termly Learning Celebrations.
- Seeing the school vision and values (the 7Cs) enacted through the words and actions of our tamariki and our school learning programmes which continue to promote collaboration, creativity and curiosity.
- The value of compassion becoming a foundational pillar in our school culture through Caritas, St Vincent de Paul and our Special Character Kaiarahi. These groups have supported our outreach and regular service projects for people in need in the community throughout the year.





- The support for Sunday morning Parish and Whanau Class Masses at school has been heartwarming. I have enjoyed seeing many of our learners grow in their faith journey through receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist throughout the year.
- Another highlight has been implementing a refreshed and evidence based national curriculum which is underpinned by the science of learning. It has been exciting to see the positive impact this has had on academic progress and achievement across the school through our structured literacy and Maths No Problem programmes.
- Watching our tamariki being courageous in the performing arts through choir performances at the Tauranga Music Festival, dancing at the Fresh Moves festival, achieving success in the Papamoa's Got Talent competition, Fuse Bucket Drumming and the many opportunities through our music education specialisation.
- The establishment of our school Kapa Haka program under the mentoring and tutoring of Matua Tumanako Farrell (Ngā Potiki). It has been positive to see our learners grow in their knowledge of Te Ao Maori and perform onstage with mana and courage.
- The Aubert athletes that have competed with grit and team spirit in local competitions including athletics, cross country, Rippa Rugby, Touch Rugby, Netball, Basketball, Flippaball, Swimming, Chess, Surfing, Gymnastics and Tennis.
- Our leadership team's professional learning study tours to Canberra, Sydney and the Gold Coast this year has provided further knowledge, insights and experience in our schoolwide approach to explicit instruction and high impact teaching practice.
- Following the construction of our multi-purpose space the Pompallier Centre has been another highlight. This project has seen the financial support of many local families and businesses who have contributed to ensure we have a state of the art facility for our community. We look forward to the blessing and opening of the centre on 12th February next year to coincide with our 5th anniversary.
- We were excited to see the completion of our Pohutukawa Learning Hub in Term 1. This project has enabled a new flexible learning environment for our senior Kopukairoa learners this year.
- Our tamariki demonstrating great collaboration and connectedness through opportunities for education outside the classroom including senior camp, beach safety, Te Puna Quarry and the Hikurangi team recently visiting our local aged care home.
- Establishing our first centralised schoolwide library under the management of our library leader Maria. This has provided a wonderful opportunity for our learners to immerse themselves in quality literature and promote a love of reading.
- And lastly, the continued dedication of our Aubert Whānau Group and their commitment in managing many successful fundraising events throughout the year including the Outdoor Movie Night, Bingo Night, Disco, Whānau Touch Tournament and of course our recent Advent Twilight Market which was such a positive community celebration.



THANK YOUS

It has been another positive year of making history as the Suzanne Aubert learning community. I am grateful for the wisdom, dedication, support and generosity of all the following people:

- To our School Board: I would like to firstly thank our outgoing Board members Rodney Phillips, Ruth Dunne and Jan Glenn who stepped down this year after their long service. Thank you for your commitment, wisdom and mentorship to ensure that our school has been well positioned for the future. We acknowledge the appointment of Amanda Graham to Presiding Member and also welcome our newest Board members Jess Goodhue, Jordan Smith and Nathan Harvey to our team. Thank you to all Board members for your collaboration, vision and guidance in the governance of our school. We are blessed to have such a supportive team with a wide range of expertise to continue to govern our school in the future.
- To my Leadership Team: Thank you Kevin, Jenny, Jen and Amie-Lee for your professional growth, support, collaboration and integrity as we have navigated a year of significant national change in the education landscape. I am so proud of you as leaders and the way you have strengthened our positive learning focused culture and empowered our teaching team to grow in their capability as educators. I look forward to leading learning alongside you and further strengthening our partnership in 2026.
- To our teachers: Thank you for your creativity, flexibility and collaboration throughout 2025 which has brought so many memorable moments. You are the superheroes of the classroom and work so incredibly hard to create positive learning environments and engaging experiences for our tamariki to flourish in their education and friendships. I am so proud of you all as educators and your dedication in ensuring our Aubert kids are engaged, inspired, empowered and prepared to reach their very best in life.
- **To our support staff:** Thank you Maria in the office, Les our caretaker and all our learning assistants who provide wonderful support behind the scenes. You are the unsung heroes of Suzanne Aubert who drive the efficient operations of our school, create a safe and welcoming learning environment and promote a positive school culture.
- To Father Eamon, Father Sojon and Deacon Henk: Thank you for your ongoing prayers, faith leadership and continuing to support the special Catholic character in our school. It is special to see our connections with the All Saints by the Sea Parish being strengthened through weekly Mass and liturgical celebrations.
- To our Aubert Whānau Group: Thank you Clare and the executive and all volunteers for your commitment and investment in organising so many great fundraising events this year. We also thank you for your pastoral care and service provided to many school families in need. Your ongoing support goes a long way towards creating connection, opportunities and a sense of belonging for our school community.
- To our parents and whānau: Thank you for your unconditional support, generosity and partnership
 throughout the year in the learning of your tamariki. I am encouraged by our school families and
 your willingness to volunteer as sponsors, coaches, managers, classroom support, camp
 supervision, transport for events and helping whenever you see a need. I feel very blessed to have a
 parent community that supports the positive culture of our school.



To our Learners: Thank you all for the way you engage in learning and enact the spirit of Suzanne Aubert. It makes me incredibly proud as a Principal to see you grow in your faith, strive for excellence in your learning and demonstrate the 7Cs in your words, actions and play. We especially look forward to our Year 5 learners being empowered in your leadership roles and inspiring us as Kaiarahi next year.

To our Year 6 graduates: Congratulations on reaching the end of a memorable year of learning and writing the final chapter of your time at Suzanne Aubert. I know you will be experiencing a range of emotions: Sad to be leaving our school, nervous about beginning a new school and excited about the new friends and opportunities that await you in 2026. On behalf of the staff and school community, I would like to thank you for the way you have led with courage, compassion and collaboration as our Year 6 Kaiarahi. You have made the most of your learning opportunities at Suzanne Aubert and have been positive role models for our younger learners. We will miss you all sincerely. May God bless each one of you as you write the next chapter in your learning journey at College next year.

To close I would like to leave you with the Irish Blessing. As someone with a strong Irish heritage, I love the way this verse reminds us that no matter where we are, or what adversity we may be going through, God always brings hope, walks alongside us and blesses us abundantly:

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

And the rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

On behalf of the Suzanne Aubert team, I wish you all a very blessed Christmas, joyful new year and peaceful holiday season. We look forward to returning to our learning community next year and reconnecting with you all again for our 5th anniversary in what is going to be an exciting and memorable 2026 at Suzanne Aubert Catholic School.

Ngā mihi nui

Anthony Mills (Principal-Tumuaki)



FINAL CELEBRATION HUI - PRIZE GIVING AND GRADUATION

Our Final Celebration Hui, Prize Giving and Graduation was held on Monday 15th December at Golden Sands Baptist Church, and it was a truly special evening of celebration for our school community. The night provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise and honour the individual achievements of our learners across the year. It was heart-warming to see students celebrated for their success in learning and the values they live out each day within our school.

We were treated to some outstanding performances, including debut performances by the Suzanne Aubert Kapa Haka Roopu and the Aubert Beats School Band. These were complemented by another awesome performance from the Fuse Drummers, along with an impressive dance performance by Lauren Hutchinson who recently competed at Papamoa's Got Talent.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of our Vision Awards, which were awarded in each year level. These awards recognise learners who consistently live out our school values and fall under four categories:

- Christ-like Award Faith Leadership: For the learners that demonstrate special Catholic Character through faith leadership
- **Engage Award Learning Attitude & Progress:** For learners that demonstrate progress, agency, growth mindset and a positive attitude towards learning
- **Inspire Award Learning Achievement:** For the learners that demonstrate excellence and achievement in their learning
- **Empower Award Service & Compassion:** For the learners that demonstrate compassion and servant leadership in the spirit of Suzanne Aubert

We also had the opportunity to farewell our year 6 graduates with a blessing by Deacon Henk and to witness them pass the candles of leadership on to our year 5 learners who will become our senior Kaiarahi in 2026. We are incredibly proud of all our students and the growth they have shown this year. Thank you to our staff, families, and wider school community for your ongoing support in making this special celebration such a memorable evening.

Award Recipients 2025				
Year Level	Christ-Like	Engage	Inspire	Empower
0	Noé Shen	Leon Jimenez	Jagger Burch	Levi Francis
1	Alessandra Sierra- Williams	Manrose Kaur	Orlando Mills	Isabel Andrew
2	Ellie Jarvis	Riley Du Preez	Isaac Tai	Jacob Nalder
3	Havana Mills	William Lewis	Alyssa Choi	Brixton Dickey
4	Esme Jarvis	Wyatt Kedian	Ezra Badenhorst	Amariah Tappin
5	Kingston Glenn	Maddy Kedian	Benji Egan	Elijah Lewis
6	Elizabeth Clarke	Cheyenne Higgs	Jayden Liang Joseph Cartwright	Brooke Murray



Final Celebration Hui - Prize Giving and Graduation















AUBERT KID AWARDS

At Suzanne Aubert we promote our school values (the 7C's). Our learners aim to demonstrate these principles in their learning and their relationships with others by being: (1) Christlike, (2) Compassionate, (3) Curious, (4) Collaborative, (5) Creative, (6) Connected and (7) Courageous. Congratulations to the students below who all received awards at our latest Celebration Hui.



Cian, Clint, Blake



Albie, Javi, Carter



Jacob, Atli, Zoey



Manrose, Chloe, Sophie



Luna, Luhan, Jordie



Monroe, Beau, Elijah

HIKURANGI RETIREMENT VILLAGE VISIT

Our Year 0–1 Hikurangi students had a truly special visit to the local Retirement Village, spreading Christmas cheer throughout the community. The children delighted residents by singing festive songs, sharing Christmas stories, and spending time reading together. They also proudly delivered handmade Christmas cards and colourful Christmas banners to the Aged Care Facility, bringing smiles and warmth to everyone they met. This meaningful visit was a beautiful example of connection, compassion, and the joy of giving, reminding us all of the true spirit of Christmas.





Special Catholic Character

A Message from our Director of Religious Studies



Heartfelt Thanks for Our Giving Tree!

A massive thank you to our incredible school community for the overwhelming generosity shown towards our annual Advent Giving Tree this year. The tree, filled with gifts and non-perishable food items, was truly a reflection of your wonderfully compassionate spirit.

This week, all donated items were collected by St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies). They will now lovingly package everything to create beautiful hampers for families in need within our local community, ensuring they have something special this Christmas. Your kindness will make a tangible difference and bring joy to many this festive season. Thank you for opening your hearts and supporting those who need it most!



Advent candles:

The Candle of Hope

Hope is our starting point. It's about remembering that God always keeps His promises. Even when the world feels dark or confusing, even when we mess up, we hold onto the hope that God is coming to make things right. It's what the prophets kept telling people: Don't give up, help is on the way!

For us, hope means believing in a better tomorrow. It means having the courage to try again after we fail. As we light this candle, we commit to keeping our eyes fixed on what is good, trusting that God is working in all of us.

The Candle of Peace

We often think of peace as quiet—no conflict. But true peace, the peace Jesus brings, is about harmony. It's about feeling settled in your soul. It reminds us of Bethlehem, the quiet, humble town where true peace began.

In our school life, peace happens when we choose kindness. It's when we forgive someone who upset us or work hard to make someone feel included. Over the holidays, let's actively spread that peace—at home, with our siblings, and with our friends.

The Candle of Joy

You'll notice it's a bright, beautiful rose colour because we're almost there! This is the candle of excited anticipation—like the shepherds who rushed out of the fields, overwhelmed with good news.

Joy is deeper than just being happy on a fun day. Joy is that deep, grateful feeling that comes from knowing you are totally loved by God. We celebrate that joy this week as we finish the school year - celebrating the gifts God gives us and how we have used them. Let's keep that joyful spirit alive.

The Candle of Love

This is the whole reason we celebrate. Love is what Advent is about. It's God's total, amazing and unconditional love for us, wrapped up in a tiny baby in a manger. It's the greatest gift there is. Our call now is to act on that love. It means being generous with our time, our attention, and our kindness, especially to those who might be struggling this time of year. Love means serving others the way Jesus did.

This week the Advent wreath will be fully lit and the darkness has disappeared. This is what Jesus does: He brings light to our world and to our lives.

As you all enter the holidays, please take these four gifts with you. May you be filled with Hope for the future, may you share Peace in your homes, may you experience deep Joy in your hearts, and may you always know God's incredible Love. Wishing you a blessed and safe Christmas season.

Your DRS Mrs Mills

BOARD SHORTS



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUZANNE AUBERT BOARD

As we come to the end of another school year, the Board would like to extend our thanks, acknowledge key achievements, and celebrate the progress our school community has made together. It has been an exciting and rewarding year, with many significant milestones.

2025 Highlights

- The opening of the new Pōhutukawa Learning Hub and the launch of our library
- Completion of our first ERO review
- Introduction of the new maths curriculum
- Board elections and the appointment of new members
- Continued development of the Pompallier Centre, our new multi-purpose facility
- Roll growth to just over 200 students

These achievements reflect a shared commitment to creating a vibrant and supportive learning environment for all our learners.

Acknowledgements

Leadership Team

We acknowledge our principal, leadership team, and Maria for your dedication, vision, and determination. Your collective effort plays a key role in creating the positive and supportive culture that our school is known for. A special mention must be made of our principal, whose exceptional commitment goes above and beyond. He regularly dedicates time outside of standard hours to ensure our learners, staff, and wider community are well supported. We are deeply appreciative of the insight, dedication, and leadership he brings to this role, especially while balancing the responsibilities of family life.

Fundraising and Community Support

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped fund the fit-out of the Pompallier Centre:

- Anthony and Maria for securing \$85,000 in grants from TECT and TCC
- The Aubert Whānau Group for ongoing and dedicated fundraising
- School families and local businesses who generously donated funds and resources

Your combined efforts have been instrumental in equipping the Pompallier Centre with the furnishings, resources, and technology it needs to be a highly functional, flexible, and welcoming space for learning, gatherings, and community events. Your generosity has made a lasting impact on our school.

Teachers and Support Staff

To our teachers and support staff — thank you.

This year has brought additional challenges with the rollout of the new maths curriculum and the upcoming transition to new national assessment tools. Managing change while resources are still emerging is no small task, yet you have continued to adapt, collaborate, and place learners at the centre of everything you do. Your professionalism, flexibility, and commitment to high-quality teaching have not gone unnoticed. The Board remains committed to supporting you through the next phase of implementation in 2026.

BOARD SHORTS



Board Members

Thank you to our ongoing board members — Deearn, Jay, Quintin, and Clare — for your continued dedication and service. We also warmly welcome our newest members: Nathan, Jess, and Jordan. A special acknowledgement goes to Kevin, our Deputy Principal, who was formally seconded to the Board at our December meeting. Kevin provides valuable analysis of student achievement and progress data across reading, writing, and maths. This information helps guide our planning and ensures every learner continues to progress, no matter where they are on their learning journey. Thank you, Kevin, for the expertise and commitment you bring. We would also like to thank our outgoing board members, Rodney, Jan and Ruth. Their contribution and expertise to the Board and our school over the past 3 - 4 years has been invaluable.

Our Learners

To our students — you are the reason we are here. This year you have demonstrated creativity, resilience, kindness, and an eagerness to learn. Whether you are returning next year or moving on to intermediate, we are incredibly proud of all you have achieved.

Looking Ahead

The Board is excited about the opportunities ahead and remains committed to supporting high-quality teaching and fostering a strong sense of belonging for every student. As both a board member and a parent, I am constantly reminded of the curiosity and creativity nurtured within our school. At home, a box is never just a box — it becomes a house, a plane, a rocket, or whatever the imagination inspires. This spark is a testament to the learning environment our teachers create: one that encourages exploration, creativity, and wonder.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone — teachers, whānau, students, and our wider community — for your support, trust, and contribution throughout the year. We wish you all a safe, joyful summer break and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Ngā mihi nui Amanda Graham (Presiding Member)





AUBERT WHĀNAU GROUP - 2025 WRAP UP

The Aubert Whānau would like to thank our wonderful school community for supporting our 2025 events and fundraisers – together we have raised nearly \$30,000 for our school! Our fundraising plan for the year was focused on a mix of short, medium and longer term goals:

- **Short term** a loose parts shed for outdoor play equipment and a basketball hoop for the new Pompallier centre. Both items have now been purchased.
- **Medium term** a sandscape for outdoor play. We are well on the way to achieving this goal, the sandscape is planned for development in 2026.
- Longer term shade systems for playgrounds, sandscape and eating areas. This was a unanimous priority across the community (via the 2025 survey), the Aubert Whānau group and the Board. As a high cost item we are seeking grant funding to help deliver this project. The shade systems will be grouped together with the final stage of the Senior Playground (for which we have funds set aside from the 2024 fundraising efforts). The plan is to complete this project in 2026.

Looking ahead to 2026

As a group we have started planning for 2026, aiming for 1 community event per term, a few sales-based activities across the year and ongoing support with Friday lunches and school events. At the beginning of each term the Aubert Whānau Group will send a notice out via Hero with a reminder of key dates and activities for the term.

Our first event for 2026 is the return of the Colour Run! (Term 1, week 7).

Legacy Project

Imagine a path at our school woven with the names and memories of our incredible community. In 2026 we will launch our Buy-A-Brick Fundraising Legacy Project. This will be an ongoing initiative where families will have the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick. These personalised bricks will form a beautiful, enduring pathway for generations to come, creating a daily reminder of the support that built our school's success. If this is your last year at Suzanne Aubert, and you would like to be kept informed about this project, please email us at: aubertwhanau@suzanneaubert.school.nz

Join us!

We are always looking for fresh faces to join our group! We will hold an information evening in week 2, term 1 (details to follow). Please come along if you would like to help us help our school.

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year,

The Aubert Whānau Group



ADVENT TWILIGHT MARKET

What a beautiful, sunny Papamoa evening we shared at our Advent Twilight Market! Our school grounds were buzzing with activity as tamariki and whānau enjoyed a wide range of fun and festive activities.

It was wonderful to see so many school families and members of our wider community coming together, soaking up the sunshine and sharing dinner from the fantastic variety of food trucks on site. The sense of connection and community was truly special.

We also had a wide range of attractions for all ages. From the Longest Golf Shot and horse riding, to face painting, hair braiding, the book stall and bake stall, there was something for everyone. Our learners' stalls were a real highlight, with fun games, nail painting and plenty of yummy treats to enjoy.

A highlight of the evening was The Nativity Play put on by our Mangatawa learners, telling the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem for the birth of Baby Jesus. Our year 2-3 children along with the Mangatawa teachers had put in a lot of effort to recreate this sacred story.

A big thank you to the Aubert Whānau Group for their incredible organisation, to our staff and children for their enthusiasm and creativity in running the market day stalls, to Matt Baird from The Breeze for MC'ing the event, and to all of our families, whānau and community who came along to support. We are so grateful for such a generous and engaged school community.











ADVENT TWILIGHT MARKET



















SPORTS UPDATE

As we come to the end of another school year, we celebrate what has been a fantastic year of sport at our school. It has been wonderful to see so many of our tamariki getting involved, challenging themselves, and proudly representing our school with enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Throughout the year, our students have represented Suzanne Aubert in a wide range of team sports, including Rippa Rugby, Touch Rugby, Basketball, Netball, and Flippaball. We even had three of our year 6 students - James, Brooke and Imogen - combine with St Mary's to enter a team into the Intermediate Water Polo competition and represent Tauranga in the U12 Water Polo tournaments. Across all codes, our teams have showed great commitment and demonstrated positive attitudes both on and off the court and field.

We were also well represented at Athletics and Cross Country cluster events and at Top Schools where students challenged themselves, showed perseverance, and gave their best efforts while competing alongside other schools in our community. These events highlighted not only physical ability, but also resilience, determination, and encouragement of others.

A huge thank you to our coaches, managers, and whānau who gave their time and energy to make school sport possible—your support makes such a difference. Also a big thank you to our awesome Sports Coordinator, Mr Moolman for all of his organisation of the school events which ran so smoothly. Most importantly, congratulations to all of our students for giving it a go, showing courage, and embracing the joy of sport.

We are incredibly proud of our sporting achievements this year and look forward to even more opportunities to learn, grow, and play together in the year ahead. If your child would like to play Rippa Rugby or Flippa Ball in Term one, please complete the <u>expressions of interest form</u>.









KEY DATES

Suzanne Aubert Catholic School Engage - Inspire - Empower Through Christ

TERM 1 2026

DATES	EVENTS		
Monday 2 February	Whanaungatanga Day		
Tuesday 3 February	First Day of learning		
Thursday 12 February	5 Year Anniversary and Official Blessing of the Pompallier Centre		
Wednesday 25 February	Whanaungatanga Picnic and BBQ 4.30 - 6.30pm		
Friday 6 March	School Swimming Sports		
Sunday 8 March	Top Schools (Year 5-6)		
Friday 13 March	School Photos		
Wednesday 25 March	Papamoa Swimming Clusters		
Wednesday 1 April	WBoP Swimming Clusters		
Thursday 2 April	Last Day of Term One		

TERM DATES 2026

Term 1: Tues 3 February - Thurs 2 April

Term 2: Mon 20 April - Fri 3 July

Term 3: Mon 20 July - Fri 25 September

Term 4: Mon 12 October - Wed 16 December

Final Enrolment for 2026 Sacramental Programme

A final enrolment evening for the 2026 Sacramental program will be held on Tuesday 3rd February at 7pm in the church centre

All Saints by the Sea Parish

17 Gloucester Road Mount Maunganui.

Public Holidays 2026

TERM ONE

Friday 6 February - Waitangi Day (week 1)
Friday 3 April - Good Friday

TERM TWO

Monday 27 April - Anzac Day (week 2)

Monday 1 June - King's Birthday (week 7)

Friday 10 July - Matariki (During School Holidays)

TERM THREE

Nil

TERM 4

Monday 26 October - Labour Day (week 3)

Teacher Only Days to be Advised



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