

# PANUI NEWSLETTER

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS TERM...

- 19 February - Meet the Parents Night
- 25 February - School Photo Day
- 27 February - Y7&8 Swimming Sports

**Attendance rate 85.4%**

## Welcome - 2026!

Kia ora koutou katoa. Nau mai ki te tau 2026! Welcome everyone into 2026! A special welcome to all our new whanau who have joined us this year. We also welcome some new staff members to the college and over the next few weeks we will introduce them to you via the panui. Your first chance to meet them face to face is on the 19<sup>th</sup> February at the town pools so keep that night free.

I trust that your summer holiday was spent well with whanau and friends. Can you believe we are already done with summer holidays, January AND week 1, ! Yes it was a short week, but who does not like a long weekend (apart from the traffic). We are fully staffed and fully ready to make a positive impact on your child through the joys of education. We need your help to make this possible by sending your charges to school with the right uniform, the right equipment and a positive attitude. Read on for some important messages and information. Until next week enjoy the sun!

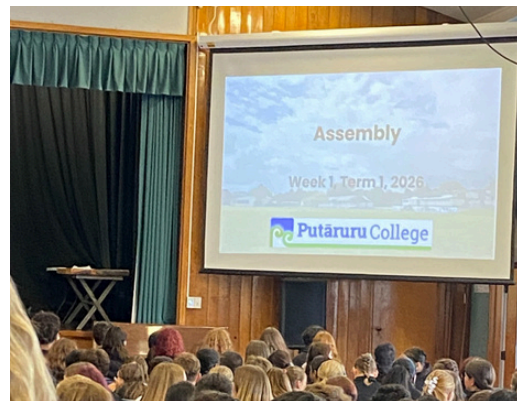
# Ready, Set, Learn! School Starts 2026

**We were delighted to welcome the 2026 school year with a strong sense of connection and pride.** On Monday, we officially welcomed our new students along with our Year 9 and Year 13 students through a pōwhiri, a special moment that set the tone for the year ahead and acknowledged the importance of belonging within our kura. It was wonderful to see students, staff and whānau coming together to begin the year in such a meaningful way.

The week prior to school commencing was a busy one, with new enrolments being processed, school uniforms and stationery organised, and our senior students popping in to complete their subject selections. It was great to see the school already buzzing with activity ahead of the new year.

On Tuesday, all students returned and the week kicked off with a whole-school assembly. Students were introduced to our new school vision and the concept of What's your WAI?, encouraging everyone to reflect on the values and actions they bring to our community. Our weekly WoW Awards were launched and will be nominated by teachers to recognise students who demonstrate our values in action. We also proudly presented our Head Students and Prefects with their name badges, acknowledging their leadership roles for the year.

We are also pleased to welcome new staff members to our kura: Vikhasni Prasad (Deputy Principal), Sinitalea (Lela) Tupou (Social Studies, Tourism & Global Studies), and Lizzy Glynn (English). **We look forward to the contributions they will bring to our school community.**



We ask for your support in ensuring students arrive at school on time each day. Morning whānau time is mandatory and an important start to the school day.

Being on time, in correct uniform, and ready to learn is key to student success.

Thank you for working with us to support strong routines and positive outcomes for our young people.

# Introducing Some of Our New Team Members



## **Vikashni Prasad – Deputy Principal – Data, Achievement & Day to Day**

We are delighted to welcome Vikashni Prasad as our newly appointed Deputy Principal. Vikashni brings a strong background in educational leadership, literacy development, and curriculum design, along with a deep commitment to improving student achievement and wellbeing.

Vikashni has extensive experience leading professional learning, supporting teachers to use data to inform teaching and learning, and building inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments. Her area of expertise also includes junior and senior literacy, collaborative teaching and planning, and leading English.

Vikashni has worked as a middle-level leader and Kaihautū at Rototuna High School and Huntly College. She is also an academic with Open Polytechnic, contributing to the Bachelor of Education and Graduate Diploma in Teaching programmes.

Vikashni is excited to work collaboratively with staff, students, and whānau to support every learner to succeed. We look forward to the leadership and insight she will bring to our kura.



## **Sinitalea (Lela) Tupou - Social Studies, Tourism & Global Studies**

Lela is excited to be beginning her teaching journey at Putaruru College this year. She is teaching junior Social Studies, senior Tourism, and Level 2 Global Studies. Lela is a proud New Zealand-born Tongan who was raised in Hamilton. Before entering the teaching profession, she worked closely with Pasifika high school students as an education coach and mentor, developing a strong passion for supporting young people.

She believes every student has potential and is committed to helping learners discover their strengths, build confidence in the classroom, and develop skills that will support success beyond school.

Outside of school, Lela enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and exploring new places. As Putaruru is new to her, she is looking forward to getting to know the town and enjoying the local scenery.

# Introducing Endine Harris Dixon

Kia ora koutou katoa.

As you may be aware we underwent an ERO audit earlier last year. In that review it highlighted some issues around leadership, attendance, achievement and staffing issues.

As part of the recommendations, Ministry support in the form of a Limited Statutory Manager (LSM) was offered and accepted by the Board of trustees.

In essence, the LSM is a direct agent of change, with the explicit aim to work with us to improve on what is being delivered to your child at school day to day, thereby improving student outcomes over the long term.

Endine has just started with us so we look forward to her helping us improve on what we do for your child's education in 2026.



**Endine Dixon-Harris**

## Ask me anything continues...

*For a while now we have been working at increasing engagement with our community so you can tell us what you want from us. If you have any burning questions (like what will the LSM do? What are you going to replace the playground with?) or any other questions you want to ask about school; come on in on a Thursday afternoon for the next few weeks to talk to me about your ideas, questions or observations. 330pm til 530pm in the Library for face to face; or email me a time that suits you better! I would love to see you and hear your thoughts.*

*Rob.rogers@putarurucollege.school.nz*

## Opportunities abound...

Look mum, no playground!!  
Health and safety claims another victim BUT we now have an opportunity!!  
What could go here? Come and see me, email me your ideas, get thinking.



# Important Message from the Mobile Dental Team

*Hello from the Mobile Dental Team,*

The dental team will be at Putaruru College to see the Year 7 & 8's from the 9th February. We will not be pre booking appointment times for the children to attend from class unless you would like to attend with your child, in this case please call us on 021 684 334 and we will make an appointment. Otherwise if your child is well and at school, we will go ahead and get them from class for their check-ups according to your consent we hold on our system. They will then be issued with further consent forms and information. Please check their bags for any forms that need to be signed and returned.

Please contact us for an appointment if you have any preschool age (we enrol from birth and encourage check-ups from age 1 onwards) children for their dental exam.



**We are looking forward to seeing you,**  
Alien Homan Dental Therapist  
Jenaya Winterburn Oral Health Therapist  
Jess Warner Dental Assistant  
Sarah Bedford Dental Assistant



## Spotlight on Sound: Our School's Music Stars

At Putaruru College our team of music teachers strive to 'adorn' our students with many feathers of opportunity to discover and explore their musical identity, build self-confidence, and learn healthy ways of self-expression through connection to the music they love

Tuition is available for a variety of musical instruments via our Itinerant music teachers who come here to teach free of charge. There are many opportunities for performing such as Achievers Assemblies and Prizegivings. Students can also join the Putaruru School of Music for a small charge. These are lessons that take place after school

### **Tereiha specialises in:**

Percussion, drums, guitar, bass, piano and band.

### **Duncan specialises in:**

All facets of the Vocal instrument, vocal group work including choral, jazz, contemporary, pop, opera and musical theatre.

### **Fleur specialises in:**

Woodwind instruments: Sax, flute, clarinet

Brass instruments: Trumpet, Trombone, Beginner Piano



# SENIOR VOLLEY BALL TEAM



## Years 11-13

Join by either emailing [jayden.duskemiles@putarurucollege.school.nz](mailto:jayden.duskemiles@putarurucollege.school.nz) or by signing up in the library on Monday 9th February during lunch

Trainings are run every Tuesday and/or Thursday after school. Members will get the opportunity to represent the school at several tournaments throughout the year!

### CONTACT US

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