

# Term 3 Week 9

VOL. 14, 2025



Hamilton  
Seventh-day Adventist School  
*Educating For Eternity*

Friday, 12th September  
*Rāmere, 12 Hepetema*

## Spring is in the air



### Karakia

*Over the next two weeks we will be praying for the following families*

Prayer	Term 3	Term 4
	Week 10	Week 1
Rāhina	Onedin	Shaw
Rātū	Roa	Shinu
Rāapa	Roche	Sinapati
Rāpare	Roche	Soto Romero
Rāmere	Roil	Susan Binu

It's that time of year again—the days are getting longer, the air is getting warmer, and the world outside is bursting back to life. Spring has arrived, bringing with it a perfect opportunity for your family to step away from screens and reconnect with nature.

So, how can you and your family make the most of this vibrant season during the school holidays?

### Simple Ways to Embrace Spring

- **Explore Local Trails:** Look up a nearby walking trail or reserve you've never visited before. You don't need to be a serious hiker; a simple, flat path can be just as rewarding.
- **Start a Garden:** Even a small pot on a balcony can be a great family project. Watching a seed sprout and grow is a magical experience for children and a wonderful lesson in patience and responsibility.
- **Have a Picnic:** Pack some sandwiches and fruit, find a sunny spot in a park, and simply enjoy a meal together in the fresh air. It's a simple change of scenery that feels special.
- **Go on a "Nature Hunt":** Turn a walk into a game by looking for specific things like a particular flower, a bird's nest, or a unique leaf.

By making a conscious effort to get outside, you're not just enjoying the weather—you're building lifelong memories and fostering a deeper connection with your children and the world around you. Let's make this spring the season we all unplug and step outside.

### In a world defined by screens, are our kids truly safe?

The digital landscape is a place of wonder, connection, and incredible opportunity. But it's also a place of hidden dangers—from cyberbullying and predatory behavior to the subtle, powerful influence of algorithms and misinformation.

The upcoming "Informed & Empowered" program isn't about fear. It's about knowledge. It's a comprehensive, practical toolkit for parents, designed to equip a generation to navigate the online world with confidence, resilience, and a clear understanding of the risks.

**When:** Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September @ 6.30 pm

**Where:** Room 4, Hamilton SDA School

**Who:** Parents and Caregivers

**Shaun Hurlow**

[principal@hamsda.school.nz](mailto:principal@hamsda.school.nz)

## Our Deep Hope

*Our students will encounter the heart of God, as they walk in a growing relationship with Him and with others, that inspires them to make a positive impact for His Kingdom*

[WWW.HAMSDA.SCHOOL.NZ](http://WWW.HAMSDA.SCHOOL.NZ)

## School Board Representatives

After the recent BOT nominations, we are pleased to announce the successful candidates for the Parent Representative positions on our School Board for the new cycle. As the number of nominations received was equal to or fewer than the number of positions available, no election was required. However, 2 positions remain outstanding to be filled as casual vacancies.

Congratulations to: **Peter Mills, Matthew Ockleston, and Maritha O'Halloran**

In accordance with the rules, their appointments took effect seven days after nominations closed, on Wednesday 13 August 2025, and will continue for the duration of the Board's current electoral cycle.

The teacher representative for the cycle (one nomination received) will be **Mrs. Ellie Oliveti**.

We would like to sincerely thank our school community for the nominations received and for your ongoing support. A special thank you also goes to our outgoing Parent Representatives for their time, commitment, and service to our school during their term.

Katie Hurlow - Returning Officer

## Introducing our new Board Team

Over the next few Newsletters, I will continue to introduce our newly elected School Board members and ask them a series of questions. This week, I would like to introduce you to **Peter Mills**, one of our newly appointed Parent Reps.

### 1. What inspired you to run for a position on the school board?

My wife informed me about the open positions on the School Board. I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to give back to the school for all the support and contributions it has provided to my children and our family.

### 2. What is something you love about our school community?

What I love most about our school community is that it is deeply rooted in faith. It warms my heart to see my children, even when playing quietly by themselves, singing Christian songs. They are surrounded by other kids who are focused on their faith during these formative years, which is truly special.

### 3. What is a book you enjoyed reading in Primary school that you think every child should read?

As for books, two favourites come to mind from my primary school days. Both Afrikaans books, the first translates as "If Cats Could Fly," which tells the charming story of cats building flying machines to catch birds. They would think of innovative ways to get in the air but would still struggle to catch the birds. The second book is about a snake who admired the beautiful colours of other animals and decided to eat them to take their colours. Eventually, the snake realized that true happiness didn't come from his appearance but from the joy he brought to others. When he shed his skin, the animals ate it and regained their colours, leaving him content and grey, knowing he had made everyone else happy.



*"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, through the Spirit."*

*2 Corinthians 3:18*





## PTA Quiz Night

Dear school family, the PTA would like to extend our deepest thanks to everyone who attended, supported and volunteered their time at our quiz night.

We are overwhelmed with the huge turnout. What a fun night it was and wonderful to see so many people taking part in the quiz, dressing up and supporting our event. We are delighted to announce that we made just over \$3200 in profit! That's about twice as much in previous years. This all goes directly to our orchard project, with the next phase of companion planting soon to start!

A special thanks to the following businesses who generously supported us, we are very grateful.

Ethos cafe [www.ethos.org.nz](http://www.ethos.org.nz)

Flex Podiatry [www.flexpodiatry.co.nz](http://www.flexpodiatry.co.nz)

Front Paddock [www.facebook.com/frontpaddocknz](https://www.facebook.com/frontpaddocknz)

Katie Hurlow Photography [www.katiehurlow.com](http://www.katiehurlow.com)

Kernow Trees & Edible Gardens \_

<https://kernowtreesandedibles.co.nz/>

Metropolitan Motors [www.metropolitanmotors.co.nz](http://www.metropolitanmotors.co.nz)

Nalu Wellness [www.naluwellness.co.nz](http://www.naluwellness.co.nz)

Revive Cafe [www.revive.co.nz](http://www.revive.co.nz)

Blessings,  
HamSDA School PTA team

**Thanks for a fun night,  
everyone!**

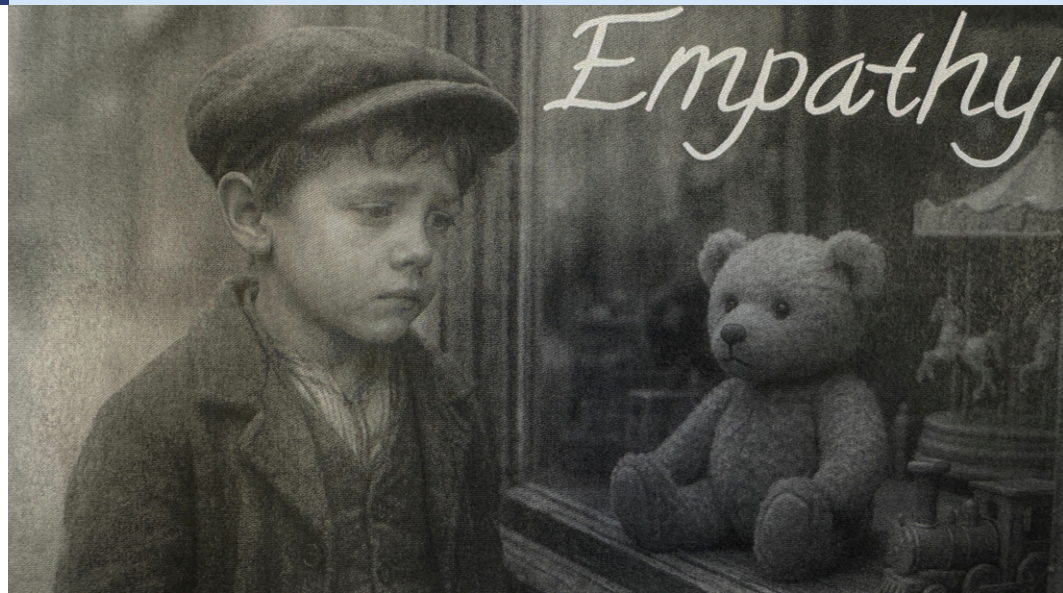


*"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, through the Spirit.  
2 Corinthians 3:18"*





**Students in Room 4 have been exploring different themes in their writing. Over the last few weeks, the students have been developing stories that express empathy, feeling, and emotion.**



Six-year-old James, sad, anxious, lonely, looked through the glass window. Flashbacks of his mother appeared like lightning in a storm. He couldn't help but cry. He had never known his father, and now, after his mother passed away last week on Christmas Eve, he was all alone. James had no mother or father. "What could be a worse Christmas present?" He thought, alone in the cold, icy snow, with no warm clothes and no mum to comfort him.

The snow continued to fall softly, whispering a gentle reminder of the warmth he wished he had, but didn't. As he huddled in his thin ice blue jacket, the icy flakes settled on his dark brown hair, and he pressed his hands together, wishing for the comfort of his mother. The world around him sparkled with joy, while his heart was frozen, filled only with sorrow.

Only a week ago, he and his mother were planning to go ice skating on the frozen lake on the other side of town, and then go shopping to get his dream bear. But now that the last person who loved him was gone, that plan had disappeared. Instead, he was sitting on the sidewalk wishing, but not doing. In that moment, James felt like a forgotten Christmas tree ornament. No one loved him, no one cared about him, and he was no one.

As hours passed, the night sky appeared, and the loud sounds of laughter and joy slowly faded. James sat there, shivering from the cold. "Will I make it?" James whispered to himself, "Will I?" He then lay down and fell asleep. Five hours later, at eleven thirty, James woke up shivering like never before, and his hands were swollen and pale. That night, he died of Hypothermia, not even seeing one more sunrise. He died knowing deep down that this Christmas would forever remain a haunting reminder of the warmth he would never know again.

*"Poipoia te kakano Kia puawai"*

*Nurture the seed and it will blossom*





## Praying for Families

Every morning, our staff team pray for a family in our school community. We invite you to join us in praying for families listed on the front of the newsletter.

If it is your families turn for prayer and you have a specific prayer request, please email your request to the school office and we pray specifically for it.



## Friday Tuck Shop

Every Friday, the PTA runs a small tuck shop to raise money for a number of initiatives that support the school.

Cost: \$2 each.

## Hope Books Pop-up Stall

**When:** Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September

**Where:** In front of Room 1

**Time:** 2.50 pm - 3.30 pm

**Special Offer** - 10% Off

**Eftpos is Available**

These beautifully designed, educational books cover **physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health**, with titles available for all ages - **from preschoolers and primary school children through to teenagers & adults**. They make wonderful additions to a home library and/or thoughtful gifts for Christmas and beyond.



Parenting in an Online World 101

## Informed and Empowered

**When:** Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September

**Where:** Hamilton SDA School

**Time:** 6.30 pm start

The world our kids are growing up in is very different from what it was like for us as parents, and we need to ensure that we understand the reality facing our kids so that we can equip them to navigate the online world, recognize the dangers, and put safeguards in place.



## Wacky Hair Day

**When:** Friday, 19th September

**Theme:** Creation

This term, our Worship theme has been centered on God's creative transformation. We invite students to transform their hair into something that connects with "Creation" in our 'Wacky Hair Day' to celebrate this term's theme.

*"Poipoia te kakano Kia puawai"*

*Nurture the seed and it will blossom*





# Displaying Our Values



**RESPECT. RESPONSIBILITY. RESILIENCE.**

## Important Dates

### Coming up in Term 3

<b>Mon, 15<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>School Board Meeting</b> - 6.30 pm in Room 1 ( <i>First meeting for the new School Board</i> )
<b>Wed, 17<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Within School Speech Competition</b> - More information to come
<b>Thurs, 18<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Informed &amp; Empowered</b> - Our Kids Online - Room 4 @ 6.30 pm
<b>Fri, 19<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Reports to go Home</b>

### Early in Term 4

<b>Mon, 20<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>School Board Meeting</b> - 6.30 pm in Room 1
<b>Wed, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	<b>SDA Basketball Tournament</b> in Auckland
<b>Fri, 31st Oct</b>	<b>Chess &amp; Speech Competition</b>
<b>Tues - Fri 18-21 Sept</b>	<b>Room 4 Northland Trip</b>

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