

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hare Krishna dear parents and caregivers,

As Term 2 draws to a close, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support and engagement with our school whānau. This year marked a significant milestone in our journey as we introduced NCEA Level 1. All Year 10 and 11 students sat their Literacy and Numeracy co-requisite exams this term. This is a compulsory component of the NCEA qualification and we await the results for these assessments. So far, over Terms 1 and 2, we celebrate 100% of Year 11 students gaining credits in their English and Mathematics Level 1 internal assessments; furthermore, most students achieved with a high number of Merit and Excellence endorsements in Geography, Science, Art and Religious Studies Level 1 internal assessments. Students and teachers can be very pleased with this outstanding success so far...



Behind the scenes, we are still awaiting formal confirmation from the Ministry of Education regarding our application for a change of class, which would allow us to officially expand our provision to include senior secondary education. In the meantime, we have begun planning our NCEA Level 2 courses for 2026 to ensure we continue to offer a coherent and high-quality pathway for our students as they progress through the senior years.

Across Years 1 to 8, our teaching teams remain focused on embedding the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum, drawing on both the Understand-Know-Do framework and our Gaudīya Vaiṣṇava values to ensure that learning is purposeful, integrated, and spiritually grounded. Highlights this term included a wide range of learning experiences, such as the after-dark excursion to the Stardome Planetarium for Years 6–8, which aligned beautifully with our science and literacy goals. We also came together joyfully to celebrate Nṛsiṃha Caturdaśī as a school community. A particular highlight was the high school's dramatic presentation of the Lord's divine pastimes, which captured both the emotion and the theological depth of this sacred narrative. Such events serve as a poignant reminder of our shared mission to cultivate both academic excellence and spiritual character.

Thank you to Monika Mataji for running our school-wide swimming programme again this term, a vital part of our Health curriculum, and an important safety skill for all tamariki.

As you receive your child's report this week, please take a moment to appreciate the individual effort behind each progress point. I am so proud of all our students for their enthusiasm, perseverance, and growth.

Wishing you a safe, restful, and spiritually uplifting term break.

Yours in service, Dharma Setu Dasa
School Principal



HARE KRISHNA SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Update

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

With the winter season upon us, we encourage you to keep your child at home and notify the school if your child is sick.

Regular school attendance is crucial for academic success. Only 69% of students regularly attended school in Term 1, which is lower than our target of more than 80%. Students are required to attend school every day if they are not sick.

The school is currently working on creating and implementing a Justified Absence Policy for Vedic Religious Observance. This policy will ensure that attendance for specific Vedic and Vaishnava religious events is recognized as a board-approved offsite activity and will not be counted as an unjustified absence from school.

As we approach the halfway point of the school year, the Board of Trustees remains committed to enhancing our school's facilities and learning resources to accommodate the growth in student population.

We commend the school management team for their continued development of the Sastra (Vaishnava) curriculum and learning resources, with Sanskrit now being taught across Years 1-8. This curriculum stands alone in NZ, offering Vaishnava education and learning not available in any other school in NZ.

Later this year, the triennial board election will take place. We are always looking for new members to join the board and encourage parents interested in participating to put themselves forward. Additionally, with the expansion of the high school, there will be an opportunity for a student representative to join the board. If you have a high school student, please discuss this opportunity with them to see if they are interested in serving as a board member.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,
The Board of Trustees



Curriculum Highlights

Junior School



Year 1

Creating Matariki Stars

Our Bal Gopal students explored their creativity through a hands-on Matariki star project. Using design, hot glue, paint, and beading, they developed both their artistic expression and fine motor skills. Along the way, they also practiced patience waiting for paint to dry before seeing their stunning stars proudly displayed in the classroom. It was a meaningful blend of art, culture, and skill-building.

Year 2

Nail String Art for Mother's Day

For Mother's Day, students created thoughtful gifts through a Nail String Art project that combined creativity, fine motor skills, and heartfelt writing. After blending paint colours and hammering nails into a heart shape, they wove string to form a vibrant design. Each child then wrote a personal letter, expressing love, gratitude, and a prayer to Lord Narasimhadeva for their mum's protection.



Year 3

This term, Year 3 explored the changing seasons and weather patterns. As part of their inquiry, they created simple experiments like rain gauges to collect data over time. The students enjoyed checking their gauges each day and recording the rainfall amounts. They then analysed their findings and presented them through creative artwork, combining science with visual expression. From colourful weather wheels to textured rain scenes, the final displays were both informative and eye-catching. This hands-on unit helped develop observation skills, critical thinking, and creative communication.

Year 4

For Science this term, students in Year 4 have been learning about the Earth, the moon and the stars. Students researched the different planets, their sizes, colour, distance from the Sun, and special features. Then they built their own 3D models of the Solar System in groups by using bamboo and recycled materials. This hands-on activity helped them visualise how the Solar System works and sparked great discussions about space and gravity. It was a fun and creativeway to bring their learning to life.



Curriculum Highlights

Middle & Intermediate School (Yrs 7-8)

Year 5

This term, the Year 5 students had a wonderful time learning about Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva and hearing all about his pastimes. They wrote a short story from the perspective of a character in a Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva pastime. This allowed them to think, feel, and understand different perspectives. We were super excited about our topic about Earth, Moon, Stars, and Sun. We got to explore different planets and Galaxies far away! The year 5s got to make the moon phases out of oreo cookies which was a delicious treat! but the Year 5s were mostly looking forward to their trip to the Stardome at the end of the term.



Year 6

This term, our class took part in a novel study of *The Midnight Fox* by Betsy Byars. Student engagement was consistently high, with many enjoying the suspenseful and thoughtful story of Tom, a city boy who grows to appreciate the natural world during a summer on his relatives' farm.

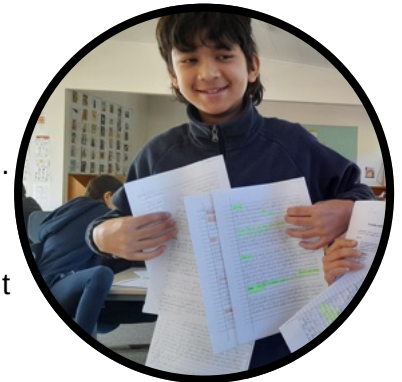
The novel explores meaningful themes such as personal growth, empathy, and the deep connection between humans and nature. These themes encouraged rich class discussions and thoughtful reflections.

As part of the unit, students worked through a reading response booklet, building comprehension strategies and learning new vocabulary along the way. Overall, it was a highly successful and enjoyable unit that supported both reading skills and personal development.



Year 7

This term, we embarked on a deeply reflective and creative writing journey through the sacred text of the Śrīmad Bhāgavatam, focusing on the powerful stories of the Seventh Canto. With sincere attention to Śrīla Prabhupāda's purports, students explored the profound themes of devotion, pride, fear, and surrender as they crafted a remarkable collection of 8 Poetic View narratives. Each student wrote from the perspective of different key characters in the līlā — including Hiranyakashipu, the demigods, Sanda and Amarka, Kayadhu, and more. They imagined the thoughts and emotions behind these roles with great empathy and bhakti, weaving in vivid detail and spiritual insight. Using varied sentence structures, strong vocabulary, and sensory language, they brought their voices to life in a way that was both heartfelt and skillful.



Year 8

This term, our students explored geometry through the lens of cultural architecture, focusing on the Hare Krishna temple. They investigated the use of 2D and 3D shapes, symmetry, tessellations, and angles found in the temple's structure and intricate designs. From domes and arches to decorative carvings, students saw how mathematical concepts come to life in sacred spaces. By sketching geometric elements and constructing scaled models, they deepened their understanding of maths and design while gaining a greater appreciation for how geometry enhances both form and beauty.

Curriculum Highlights

High School Subjects



English

In Y9 English we have been studying the novel *Holes* by Louis Sachar and engaging in writing assignments connected with the novel. Students have responded to themes in the novel such as appearance vs reality, racism and power and control. They wrote and designed attractive tourist brochures to promote the novel's setting, and created an awesome word wall display in the high school library. In their postcard narratives related to the novel's characters, events and ideas, students effectively applied their new vocabulary and sentence types to engage their readers. It has been a fantastic term of learning and year 9s have shown a great effort to develop their reading and writing skills.

In Y10 English students sat their NCEA literacy exam in week 4. NZQA will release the results soon. Students felt confident and worked hard to prepare for the exams. They have also engaged in the study of the crime novel *The Fat Man* by acclaimed New Zealand author Maurice Gee. Students responded to themes such as the effects of bullying, coming of age and life in the Great Depression, the novel's context. Students applied their developing language and sentence writing skills to promote the novel's setting in their beautifully designed vintage tourist brochures. They are now working on their response essays. Well done year 10 for tremendous effort in English this term!

In Y11 English students sat their NCEA literacy exam in week 4. NZQA will release the results soon. They have been studying the novel *Life of Pi*, responding to themes such as the will to live, the importance of storytelling, madness and the nature of religion. In preparation for the external exam at the end of the year, students are writing a literature essay to demonstrate their understanding of the novel. Year 11s have worked very hard this term to prepare for the literacy co-requisite exams, read their novel and work on their essay writing skills.



Maths

This term in Maths, students from Years 9 to 11 engaged in a variety of learning experiences that combined practical skills with real-world applications.

Year 9 students explored Transformation Geometry by creating frieze patterns, developed their understanding of angles through naming and measuring activities, and used bearings to locate places on maps.

Year 10 built on these foundations while also preparing for the NCEA Level 1 Numeracy co-requisite exams. They applied maths to everyday problem-solving and designed frieze patterns that incorporated both their own cultural shapes and Māori motifs as part of four Matariki learning.

Year 11 students also worked towards the Numeracy exams, focusing on interpreting and analysing real-life data from the STAR Project in the United States. They examined how variables such as gender, ethnicity, teacher experience, and class size can influence academic achievement, gaining valuable insight into the power of statistics and their relevance to the world around them.



Curriculum Highlights

Senior School Subjects



Art and Technology

During Terms One and Two, Class 11 focused on developing their artbooks for NCEA, showcasing a wide range of creative expression. Their concepts spanned from delicate, detailed watercolours to bold, graffiti-inspired pieces, reflecting each student's individual style and voice. More recently, they've begun an exciting new project—designing incense burners. This unit integrates traditional claywork with modern techniques, including CAD modelling and 3D printing, allowing students to rapidly prototype and refine their ideas.

Meanwhile, our Year 9 and 10 students explored CAD software to design functional boxes and then progressed to more complex creations featuring moving parts. This hands-on learning fostered both technical and creative skills. In addition to their digital work, they also had the opportunity to try their hand at ceramics using the potter's wheel. These projects have helped students grow in confidence while building a foundation in both traditional and contemporary design practices.



Sastra

This term, students engaged deeply with the themes of relationships, self-awareness, and respect—both for ourselves and for the world around us. Through class discussions and activities, we explored ways to strengthen friendships, build empathy, and develop more thoughtful connections with others and the environment. A special highlight was the visit from Gau Ranga Darshan Prabhu, who shared valuable insights on these topics, inspiring students to reflect more deeply on their personal growth.

We also spent time reading and reflecting on two thought-provoking books, *Open-eyed Meditations* and *The Magic of Friendship*. These texts offered practical wisdom and guidance for our students.



Science

This term Years 9-10 explored the fascinating world of plants and animals, with a strong focus on hands-on learning. In our botany unit, they investigated the life cycle of plants, observed the stages of germination firsthand, and even grew their own plants in class. Students also experimented with hydroponics to understand alternative growing systems and the conditions needed for plant growth. Through practical activities and close observation, students developed a deeper understanding of how living things grow, adapt, and survive in different environments.

This term, Year 11 students engaged in an in-depth study of Predator Free 2050, exploring ecological challenges and solutions aimed at protecting New Zealand's native wildlife. As part of their learning, they conducted scientific investigations at the Hare Krishna Farm, applying different investigative approaches to real-world environmental contexts. In Chemistry, students explored foundational concepts by carrying out experiments that demonstrated different laws, such as the Law of Conservation of Mass and constructing molecular models to better understand atomic structure and bonding.



Curriculum Highlights

Other learning areas



Outdoor Classroom

This term, students in our Outdoor Classroom have been thriving through hands-on experiences with nature. They've been busy planting a variety of flowers and vegetables, gaining a deeper appreciation for the growing process and the satisfaction of harvesting their own food. A particular highlight has been the rhubarb, celery, and mint—especially when enjoyed fresh with a drizzle of local honey!

In addition to gardening, students have had the opportunity to explore traditional crafts. Many tried their hand at carving, carefully shaping wooden spoons and knives. Some classes also had the exciting opportunity to learn fire-making skills, using flint and steel to understand the ancient art of creating fire safely and respectfully.

Sanskrit

We are happy to report that students are enjoying their Sanskrit lessons. Sanskrit was newly introduced for Year 8 this year, and students have responded with great enthusiasm. Students in Year 1 are learning colours and numbers in Sanskrit through games. From as early as Year 2, students are learning to frame simple sentences and even domain mathematics in Sanskrit! From Year 4 onwards, all students have been practising writing in Devanagari script, with our Year 6 students now confidently writing compound letters and more complex words. It's a joy to see this beautiful language come alive in our classrooms.



Physical Education

Despite the wild winter weather, our PE programme has continued with great enthusiasm across all year levels this term. From fine motor coordination to full team game play, students have embraced a variety of physical challenges in fun.

In the primary years, students focused on building core ball-handling skills—throwing, catching, bouncing, and dribbling—all foundational techniques for many sports. Gymnastics was another highlight, with remarkable development in balance, flexibility, and strength through creative movement.

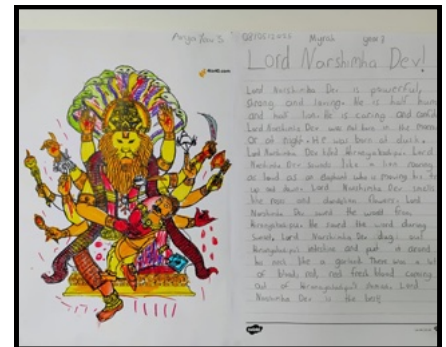
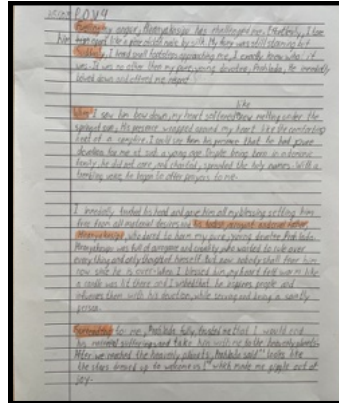
Our high school students took their learning further by participating in offsite sessions for basketball and netball. These sessions provided access to full courts and facilities, allowing students to play in more realistic settings and refine their tactical understanding. In addition, they were introduced to hockey, learning the basics of stick handling, passing, and movement across the field.

Narsimha Caturdasi at HKS

Although Nṛsiṁha Caturdasi fell on the weekend this year, we were still blessed to celebrate this powerful appearance day during our school assembly the following week. In the days leading up to the assembly, classrooms were filled with the mood of remembrance and reverence for Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva, whose fierce love and protection for his devotee Prahlaḍa Mahārāja served as both inspiration and reflection.

Beautifully aligned with Anti-Bullying Week, our focus on Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva reminded us of the deep values we wish to uphold in our school community: protection, care, and standing up for what is right. Just as the Lord stood by Prahlaḍa in the face of injustice, we too must learn to look out for one another, speak up for those who need help, and create an environment where everyone feels safe and respected.

Thank you to our high school students who took the lead in directing and performing a dramatic retelling of the pastime of Lord Nṛsiṁhadeva as a rap song. Their presentation effectively conveyed the story of Prahlaḍa and Nṛsiṁhadeva and was well received by the audience as a meaningful part of our assembly.



Parent-Teacher Conferences – Term 3, Week 2

Dear Parents and caregivers,

We will be holding our Parent-Teacher Conferences in Week 2 of Term 3. These 15-minute meetings are an important opportunity to discuss your child's academic progress and learning journey.

Please book your time slot at your earliest convenience to ensure you can secure a time that best suits your schedule.

You can book your slot using this QR code or by going to <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/ugkbk>



We look forward to meeting with you and continuing to work together to support your child's learning.

In service,
Hare Krishna School



Out - o f - T h i s - W o r l d L e a



Shown here: A quiz before the trip to the planetarium that night

Our recent visit to Stardome provided an engaging and enriching learning experience that supported our current inquiry in to planetary systems. Students explored the Solar System through a dynamic, interactive show that reinforced key astronomical concepts. The Stardome presenter noted how impressed they were by the students' prior knowledge and thoughtful questions.

To build excitement and activate prior learning, students took part in a Solar System quiz and a school wide picnic before the trip. These activities encouraged collaboration, curiosity, and discussion around the key ideas of our inquiry.



Years 6–8 attended the trip earlier in the term, and due to the positive feedback and strong links to the curriculum, students in Years 4–5 were also given the opportunity to visit later in the term. The visit served as a valuable learning experience and a meaningful extension of classroom exploration in to planetary systems.

Special Visit to use of the room

Early this term, the Hare Krishna School was blessed with the association of two very exalted preachers, Gauranga Darshan Das and His Holiness Subhag Swami. Gauranga Darshan Das, a renowned ISKCON monk, teacher, and author, was the first to visit. He spoke to our Years 5–8 students about the qualities of a wise person, using powerful examples from nature. Like the crane that waits patiently and chooses only the big fish, a wise person listens to meaningful discussions and avoids gossip. Like the hen that searches through rubbish for good grains, we should seek the good in all situations. And just as salt quietly enhances food without being seen, a wise devotee serves humbly, without seeking recognition. His messages encouraged students to be patient, humble, and always look for the good in others.

Later in the week, we had the great honour of welcoming His Holiness Subhag Swami, a senior disciple of Srila Prabhupada who continues to travel the world sharing Krishna consciousness, even in his 80s. Maharaj visited the Years 3–6 classes, where he warmly answered the students' questions, enriching his responses with charming pastimes from Krishna's lila. His visit was a treasured opportunity to hear spiritual wisdom from a deeply realised Vaishnava.

We are very thankful to both guests for visiting our school and sharing their wisdom and inspiration. Hare Krishna!



GAURANGA DARSHAN PRABHU WITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



H H SUBHAG SWAMI WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL

William Pike Award: Giving from the Heart



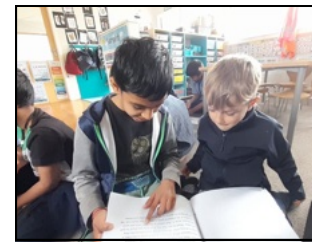
As part of the William Pike Challenge Award (WPCA), our Year 7 students have been working towards completing one of the programme's three inspiring pillars: Outdoor Activities, Passion Projects, and Community Service. This term, the focus has been on aroha (compassion) and manaakitanga (kindness) through a beautiful Passion and Charity initiative.



Our Year 7 students showed great aroha and whanaungatanga by creating personalised picture books for their Year 1 buddies, reading with them daily and featuring them as the heroes of their stories. The books were beautifully written and illustrated, and the younger students were so touched they made heartfelt thank-you cards in return.



The students also supported the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) by running a kohinga kākahu tawhito (preloved clothing collection) and delivering the donations in person. Their compassion was recognised in the SPCA's official newsletter – ka rawe!



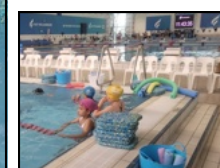
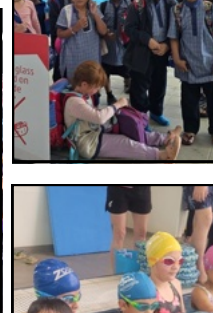
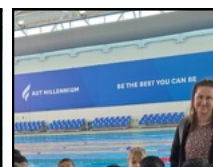
Swimming classes

This term, we successfully completed three sets of swimming classes for students across Years 1 to 8 as part of our school-wide swimming programme.

Swimming is not only a vital component of our Health and Physical Education curriculum, but also an essential life skill—especially in Aotearoa, where water activities are such a big part of our culture and lifestyle.

A heartfelt thank you to Monika Mataji for once again leading the programme with dedication and care. Her guidance has helped our tamariki grow in water confidence, improve their swimming technique, and understand important water safety principles.

We look forward to running another three sets of swimming classes in Term 4 to continue supporting our students' development in this essential area.



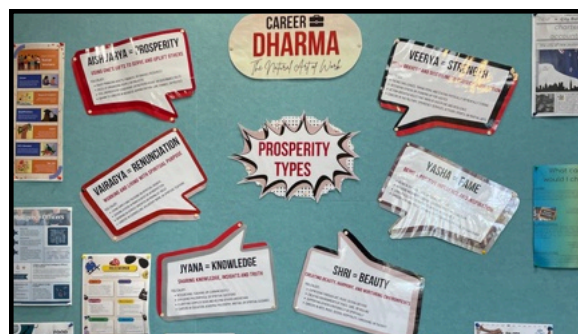
Careers Expo

On Tuesday, the 17th of June, the high school students consisting of years 9, 10 and 11, visited the Tahatu career expo at Auckland Showgrounds in Epsom. This career expo provided us with a chance to talk to professionals in multiple career fields such as defence forces, Airways Training and accounting or finance. This expo also provided us with chances to explore what universities are available and what we need to get in to our desired university. We had chances to talk with professionals from universities such as MedView Education, Vision College and Media Design School. This expo provided us with crucial knowledge regarding subjects we need to take to get in to our preferred university or job field. We were also able to gain a better understanding of what a university experience may contain, such as what courses are available and how long they take.

To prepare for this career expo we were taught about career dharma through the teaching of Umi Edith Best and Ruchira S. Datta's book *Career Dharma: The Natural Art of Work*. We were taught about the prosperity types of janya (knowledge), veerya (strength), shri (beauty), yasha (fame), and vairagya (renunciation) and what jobs go under these prosperity jobs. This helped us determine where our strengths lie and what jobs would be suited to our nature and abilities. To further prepare, we all did career quizzes and looked at jobs on the Tahatu website. This helped us gain even further knowledge about what fields we are inclined towards and to see actual jobs offered in New Zealand that we may be interested in.

Overall, this career expo helped us discover what jobs or fields we are inclined towards. It allowed us to talk with professionals to understand the requirements of jobs or universities so that we can make a long term plan to help us get the job we want and develop the abilities needed to carry it out properly.

~A recount from La lita (Year 11)



This Term, our Junior School had the exciting opportunity to welcome the Kumeu Volunteer Fire Brigade to school. The highlight of the visit? Seeing the big red fire truck pull up outside the Hare Krishna School! The children were thrilled to explore all the fascinating tools and equipment stored in the truck—hoses, axes, breathing gear, and more. The sight alone sparked endless curiosity and excitement.

The visit was more than just fun—it was filled with valuable learning. The tamariki learned about the important role firefighters play in keeping our communities safe. They listened carefully as the volunteers shared essential fire safety tips, including how to recognise the sound of a smoke alarm and what to do in case of an emergency.

The children also got to practise a real-life fire drill, crawling low under imaginary smoke while calling out "FRE! FRE! FRE!" They learned how to move quickly to a safe meeting place—like the letterbox at home or the bottom field at school.

This hands-on experience not only brought fire safety learning to life, but also helped build confidence and understanding in a fun and memorable way. We are so grateful to the Kumeu Fire Brigade for their time, kindness, and teamingful connection they made with our students.



Science Expo

This term, our school-wide curriculum theme was Planetary Systems—a broad and engaging topic that inspired curiosity and creativity across all year levels. Classes explored the theme in diverse ways, drawing from both Vedic and Western perspectives to deepen their understanding of the universe and our place within it.

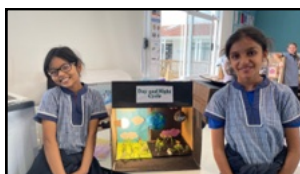
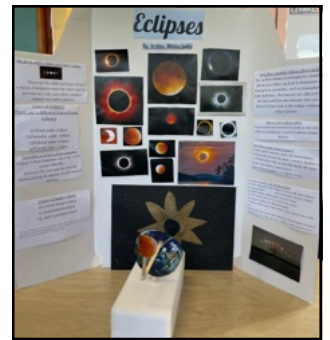
For our youngest learners in Years 1–2, the focus was on seasons and weather. Through hands-on activities and observation, students explored how the Earth's movements affect the changing seasons and daily weather patterns.

Years 4–8 turned their attention skyward, delving into the Earth, Moon, and stars. They investigated lunar phases, solar patterns, constellations, and the cycles of celestial bodies, drawing connections between astronomical phenomena and both scientific and cultural interpretations.

Some classes studied the Navagraha (the nine Vedic planets) and their symbolic meanings, while others engaged with the Western model of the solar system, learning about planetary characteristics, orbits, and the science of space.

Across the board, students also reflected on the environment and our interconnectedness with nature, inspired by the rhythm of the Earth and cosmos.

The term concluded with a vibrant Science Expo, where students proudly presented their inquiry projects. From interactive models to beautifully crafted posters, their work showed deep thinking, creativity, and excitement for learning. It marked the culmination of a term spent reaching for the stars and reflecting on the world around us.



Term 3, 2025 Events

Term Dates: Mon 14th July - Fri 19th September
 Teachers only day (No School) - 29th August

Exam dates:

NCEA Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite exams for Yrs 10-11.
 (second opportunity)
 1st - 12th September
 Year 11 mock exams Mon 15th - Fri 19th September

Vaishnava Festivals

There are Vaishnava festivals happening in the weekends which you are welcome to attend with your family. You can find info on the Hare Krishna Auckland facebook page.
 We will be celebrating Sri Krishna Jannastami as a whole school in Term 3. More info to follow ...

DONATIONS

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your kind donations towards the school prasadam program and their endeavours. Every contribution is appreciated!

If anyone would like to donate to our school, you can send funds to Hare Krishna School
 12-3085-0342272-00 and put your child's name reference.
 Thank you for your kind service!

HARE KRISHNA SCHOOL Uniform

You are now able to buy both Hare Krishna school junior and the new senior school uniform from Prestidges (formerly Elizabeth Michael Uniforms) at 65 New North Rd, Eden Terrace or order online 24/7!

To shop online 24/7. Simply visit

www.prestidges.co.nz and register for Hare Krishna School by entering the school code **HK195**. We can courier to you or you can select pick up from the Prestidges, 65 New North Rd. We are open:

Mon - Thurs 9.00am - 5.00pm

Fri 9.00am - 4.00pm

Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm

UNIFORM DETAILS

Junior Uniform - years 1-8 - boys and girls

Senior Uniform - years 9-13 - boys and girls

Plus there are some all of school items listed under Accessories

A new Sports uniform has been introduced and this can be worn by both junior and senior students. Categorised under SPORTS you will find:

General Sports uniform - Navy PE top and matching navy PE shorts

House Tees - these are available in all house colours: red, green, blue and white

PRESTIDGES
SCHOOLWEAR
FORMERLY ELIZABETH MICHAEL UNIFORMS

65 New North Road, Eden Terrace, Auckland 1021
 P: 09 358 1680 • uniforms@prestidges.co.nz • www.prestidges.co.nz

Food Safety Grade

We are pleased to announce that our kitchen has again been awarded a Grade A certification for its standards! This achievement reflects our commitment to providing high-quality meals for our students. Should you wish to partake in lunch prasadam, please contact the school office.



Rishab - HKS Cook