

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026



Photo: Students at Ngā Taiātea
Wharekura access Google Classroom



E hāpai ana i te tīpu o ngā tamariki
Supporting the well-being of children

Older students haven't had the benefit of the recent investment in structured literacy and numeracy

As Year 11 students nationwide prepare for the NCEA Literacy and Numeracy Common Assessment Activities (CAAs), attention must also be given to the broader contextual factors influencing student success, particularly students who struggle. These assessments are conducted online during regular school hours, with schools typically providing digital devices for each student. Many secondary schools have reported that students who undertake additional preparation outside the classroom are more likely to achieve success on their first attempt, and a range of online study resources are made available to support this process. Consequently, schools often encourage caregivers

to assist with home-based revision by engaging with study materials alongside their children.

While this expectation may appear straightforward, recent evidence suggests that such support cannot be assumed to be equally accessible across all households. [RNZ](#) reported that Aotearoa/New Zealand has experienced a significant decline in international adult literacy and numeracy rankings. According to the [OECD](#), although many countries recorded lower scores compared with the previous assessment cycle, Aotearoa/New Zealand's declines were among the most substantial. This is particularly concerning, as students requiring the greatest

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Cecilia Tarrant
Piki Knap
Give-A-Little and anonymous



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academic support are often those whose caregivers may themselves experience difficulties with reading, writing, comprehension, and mathematical proficiency.

In addition, many schools rely on digital platforms such as [Google Classroom](#) to distribute learning materials. Although these systems are efficient for many families, they may present considerable barriers for caregivers with literacy, numeracy, or digital capability challenges. As a result, inequities in access to effective support may widen, further entrenching disparities in achievement outcomes.

It is also important to recognise that many of the students currently in secondary school did not benefit from the widespread implementation of structured literacy and evidence-informed literacy approaches in their earlier years of schooling, and therefore may have entered high school already behind their peers. Despite these challenges, many continue to persevere with determination. We extend our best wishes to all students undertaking their NCEA CAAs.

Committed to supporting struggling tamariki

Tui Trust continues to support children experiencing literacy difficulties in our community including those in Raglan

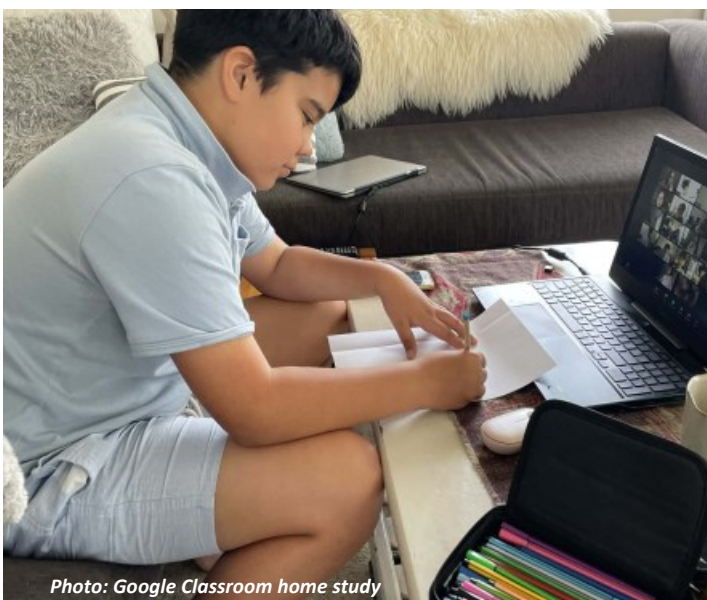


Photo: Google Classroom home study

Whāingaroa through its ongoing collaboration with Laura at [Growing Literacy](#), while also advocating for the critical importance of writing instruction.

Wright Right Symposium May 2026

In 2024, [The Great New Zealand Handwriting Challenge](#), led by Helen Walls and Christine Braid, was established to promote the value of handwriting within education, and Tui Trust was pleased to contribute to its inaugural launch. Building on this momentum, Helen Walls [The Writing Teacher](#) will host the [Write Right Symposium](#), Aotearoa/New Zealand's **first dedicated writing symposium**, in Wellington from 14–16 May 2026. The symposium will feature presentations from internationally and nationally recognised researchers, providing attendees with the knowledge and confidence to implement high-quality writing programmes in their own contexts. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with evidence-based approaches shown to improve student achievement, hear directly from global leaders in writing instruction, and explore successful practices already occurring within Aotearoa/New Zealand schools. The event will also provide practical strategies for immediate classroom implementation, opportunities to connect with educators, leaders, and writing specialists from across the country and in-depth workshops tailored to both junior and senior levels of schooling. Tickets are [limited](#).

Importance of Professional Development

Learning Matters is hosting its 10 Year Symposium: [Learning is Learning](#) in Christchurch on June 30, 2026 and Auckland on July 2, 2026. Professional learning and development remains a critical component in strengthening the knowledge and capability of teachers, educational leaders, and whānau. Access to high-quality professional development opportunities is essential for building evidence-informed practice and improving outcomes for learners. To support equitable access to these events, **Tui Trust will provide two tickets to the Auckland symposium** for individuals who may otherwise be unable to afford attendance, but who demonstrate a strong commitment to learning and professional growth. Keep an eye out on our [Facebook](#) page for our ticket giveaway.

Supporting National Youth Week

Te Tangi o Te Pīpīwharauora – Youth Week Event

In support of National Youth Week, *Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa*

Continued ...

Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa

in support of **Youth Week** presents

A FREE YOUTH EVENT
with
**FUN ACTIVITIES - BARBERSHOP
LASHES - SPORTS
PRIZES - CHILL OUT SPACE
FREE KAI**

**TE TANGI
O TE
PĪPĪWHARAUROA**

**FRIDAY 22ND MAY
12pm - 4.30pm
WESTERN COMMUNITY CENTER
46 HYDE AVE, NAWTON**

will be hosting a taiohi-led event celebrating their voices, ideas and leadership across the community. The event is on Friday May 22, 2026 at the Western Community Centre. Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa is a whānau first organisation grounded in tikanga and a wellbeing approach and their mahi supports young people to be heard, to share their whakaaro, and to step forward in their leadership.

Inspired by this year's national Youth Week theme, *Our voices matter, we deserve to be heard*, *Te Tangi o Te Pīpīwharaurora* reflects the natural space in the world that taiohi step into, offering kōrero and whakaaro to shape their future. In Te Ao Māori, the pīpīwharaurora is known for its distinctive call that carries messages or signals a change in season. *Ka tangi te wharaurora, ko ngā karere a Mahuru. When the shining cuckoo cries, it is the messenger of spring. Te Tangi o Te Pīpīwharaurora* is an opportunity for taiohi to come together, connect with one another, take part in activities that uplift hauora, and share kōrero about the kaupapa that matter most to them. It is also a chance for taiohi to step into their rangatiratanga and speak about the change they want to see.

If you would like to join us and support this event there are a variety of sponsorship opportunities available. Further information [here](#).

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THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY. YOUR SUPPORT MEANS EVERYTHING.

