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Movin' March has arrived

Independent Herald, Wellington - Northern Suburbs

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Tamariki throughout the Wellington region are currently taking part in the 17th annual Māhe Manawa Ora Movin' March.

Movin' March is a month-long initiative encouraging tamariki in Years 0 to 8 to walk, wheel or bus to and from school throughout this month.

Run by Greater Wellington, Movin' March helps tamariki build healthy travel habits while learning how everyday choices, like how we get to school, can support wellbeing and reduce emissions.

Last year, more than 35,541 students from 134 schools took part in the programme, turning the school run into a fun, social and active part of the day.

Greater Wellington Councillor Yadana Saw says while students are the stars of Movin' March, teachers are its unsung heroes.

"Movin' March is supported by Greater Wellington, but it's teachers and school staff who really make it happen," Cr Saw says.

"They're out early welcoming tamariki and helping them build skills that set them up for healthy, confident and independent travel.

"It's also a great way for kids to build confidence in their neighbourhoods and how they get around."

Greater Wellington Travel Choice team leader Hilleke Townsend says the programme's challenges and classroom activities are designed to spark curiosity and conversation.

"Kura Kete learning resources highlight key benefits of active travel, and use tools like Te Haerenga o Ngā Tamariki (located at <https://tamariki.gw.govt.nz>) to anonymously record travel data and show why active travel is a positive choice.



A young tamariki taking part in Movin' March. Photo: Greater Wellington.

"This year, trips to school can be recorded on a classroom wall chart so the class can work together to win prizes like Micro scooters and MyRide bike gear, or class trips to Zealandia or Staglands."

Registered schools receive posters in English, Māori and Pasifika languages, classroom activities and jam-packed prize packs filled with colouring pencils, notebooks, pens and socks.

To learn more, visit <https://schooltravel.gw.govt.nz/walk-or-wheel-programmes/movinmarch/>.