



Ka whawhai tonu, ake, ake, ake!

Kia ora Parents and Whanau

Welcome to Term 2. We hope everyone had a good Easter break and made the most of the fine weather.

This term classes are already underway with their environmental based learning activities. Associated trips relating to each class focus are happening throughout the term. This week we have had Eden Hakaria WDC Environmental educator working with R7/8 and R10/11 and the Kiwi North team working with R4,5,1 around what to look for on their trips. R3/12 have needed to change the date for their visit to Kelly Tarltons – this will now be Monday 17 June.

Welcome to the new students and their families starting at school this term - Indy Ferguson, Lydia Johnston, Aaliyah Matoe and Dakota McQuinn.

STAFF CHANGES

We have two new teacher aides working in the school this term. Ms Lisa Sutherland is working in R5 to support a new child to the school and also help other students within the class.

Mrs Phillippa Simpson is working in several classrooms throughout the morning supporting students in class and individually with learning. These positions are both funded by the Board of Trustees to provide the extra support to meet student need. We are really fortunate that this is seen as a priority and the school has the resourcing to make it possible.

At the end of next week Mrs Nicole Robertson is leaving to take up another position. Thursday 9 May will be her last day. Nicole has been working in the school office since 2012 and has been a wonderful admin and front person for our school, with her sense of humour and efficiency. Her way with words has enabled us to get many charity grants to support school trips and EOTC events. Nicole has also acted as secretary to the Board of Trustees, who greatly appreciated her wonderful cooking skills! Being a part of the school community has also been an asset. She will be missed, but we wish her well in her new role with Fulton Hogan.

We are currently going through an appointment process to find another admin person.

Next week we have Ms Jewel Matheson working in R10 for 4 weeks as part of a retraining programme. Jewel taught at Maungatapere School previously before leaving teaching to work in adult education.

We also have a 2nd year student teacher Mr Matthew Spice working in R12 from Monday 13 May until 14 June.

THE CRAZY WORLD OF MAGICAL SCIENCE

On Thursday 9 May we have Richard Scholes presenting the Magical World of Science for our students. He presents an entertaining show as a scientist and a teacher to engage and interest students in many aspects of science. He will be performing for the whole school and will help engage the students in the science involved in their own learning this year.



TEACHER PAID UNION MEETINGS

Next Thursday 9 May staff will be attending meetings to discuss the latest offer from the Ministry of Education for the teaching and principals' agreements. We are still struggling to get the issues of salary, time and support addressed. The pressure on teachers with more administration and not enough support for demanding students has not been addressed and is something that we are all feeling strongly about. The meetings will not affect the school day for our students however – teachers will work together to ensure they are able to attend without any disruption to our community.

OUR ENVIRONMENT VISITS

Y3/4 classes – R1,4 and 5 will be visiting Bream Head Reserve on Tuesday 7 May. They have had visits from the Kiwi Trust at Maunu this week, sharing information about what to look for when they visit. There was great information around native trees, animals, pests, traps and other things to look for when they go.

R7/8 and R10/11 will visit Maungatapere Mountain reserve on Wednesday 8 May looking at the environmental issues effecting this reserve. They have had Mrs Eden Hakaraia from the NRC visit this week and talk about what to look for that threatens the bush – this included live examples of plant pests. They are also looking at how they can support the local QEII bush area behind the Memorial Church.

ANZAC SERVICE

Well done to our school students that did a great job of leading the ANZAC service at the Maungatapere Hall last week. The guest speaker was Magan Anderson from WGHS who spoke on what ANZAC meant to her. There were over a hundred people present which showed great community support.



SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

Beginning of the year school achievement levels indicate just over 80% of our school write at age appropriate levels or above in their writing ability; but their use of surface features – spelling, punctuation and grammar are only achieving at 71%. This is why we focus on the importance of learning spelling and using correct punctuation and grammar as students' write. Being able to use capital letters, full stops, commas, question marks etc as we write is important to be able to communicate with others. Computers do not automatically correct writing and unless we know basic spelling and rules we are not able to accurately select the proposed word that may be put forward. Basic spelling ability is important to being able to write successfully in any form.

Reading levels indicate 92% of our Y4-8 students are reading at or above their expected level. We allow our junior students time to develop good overall reading strategies and understanding so they gain confidence in their own ability without the feeling of success or failure. This may mean a slower start but with breadth in reading at earlier levels they are able to move forward at the Y3/4 level with greater confidence.

We aim to ensure students move to high school with the ability to read to be confident, connected learners who strive to fly high.

88% of students are at or above their expected levels in maths knowledge also, with the majority able to use this knowledge when solving maths problems. Knowledge of times tables and basic facts is essential for students to progress in maths so they are easily able to problem solve independently. It is therefore important that students learn these as required for homework.

PTA NIT CHECK

The school will be having a whole school headlice check on Friday 17 May. This is done by volunteer parents, usually from the PTA, and discretion is maintained throughout the process. Parents can opt their children out of the check if they choose, a notice with more information will be going home shortly.

BOT ELECTIONS

The Board of Trustees Triennial Elections are being held next month, with election day Friday 7 June. Information on the role of School Trustees will be emailed out next week. Nomination forms will be posted out shortly, with nominations closing on 24 May to allow time for election forms to be sent out to all eligible voters.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School council is holding a Twin Day on Wednesday 15 May. There will be a gold coin donation for those participating with funds going toward the tyre replacement and fitness trail upgrade. There will be a parade and prizes for those entering.

REMINDERS

Please Name Clothing – At this time of year students often start off with jerseys/sweatshirts etc and then take them off at lunchtime to be left out on the field! Unfortunately, they don't seem to recognise them again but if they were named we could easily return them. It is also important that Y7/8 name their polar fleeces so they can claim them easily.

Start of School Time – The school day starts at 8.50am with students generally arriving from 8.15am on. Please do not drop children at school before 8am as there is no guarantee that there will be someone available in an emergency. While there is generally some staff present from 8am there is no formal supervision. Students need to go to the school office or to their teacher if they require assistance in any way.

Parking for After School Sports Practices – due to the limited space in our staff carpark we ask that parents park either in the bus bay or school carpark when bringing or collecting students from after school sports practices. Coaches carrying equipment may use the staff carpark if there is a space.

Carpark Safety – A reminder to not park on the grass verge between the entry and exits of the school carpark. This is to enable clear visibility for cars exiting the carpark on the corner.

Netball – The netball season starts for the Junior Y1/2 4-aside teams tonight at Kensington at 5.30pm, all other teams start this weekend. Thank you to those families that have paid registration fees, there are still a few fees to come in however. Players have been given their uniforms and coaches/managers bags are ready to be collected.

BOT Meeting - The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 May at 7pm.

SCHOOL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Brooke Turner R10 - For a great attitude towards her learning. Keep it up.

Rylan Crompton R11 - For his super effort to practise and improve his reading.

James McDonald R7 - For challenging himself at swimming time.

Ashley Ruddell R11 - For always showing a positive 'can do' attitude towards her learning.

Imogen Bennett R9 - For always being prepared and ready to learn.

Keira Ripley R7 - For putting lots of effort into her learning.

**ROOM 12
STORY WRITING**



- Rosa
- I luv to go
- to ^{grans} ganshs ^{and} ^{popa's} x9t Popa
- well done Rosa.



By Rosa Dunham



- Cairra
- I luv to go
- to ^{my} MaNa ANd
- Yfandads  wonderful work Cairra.

By Cairra Tonner

KEY DATES/COMING EVENTS - TERM 2

Tues 7 May	-	Y3/4 Bream Head visit - @ school 8.15am
Wed 8	-	R10/11/7/8 Maungatapere Mountain visit
Fri 17	-	Whole school head lice check
Wed 22	-	WPSSA Y7/8 Winter Sports
Fri 24	-	BOT Election nominations close
Thur 30	-	R9 & R6 Y5's Tiritiri Matangi visit
Fri 31 May	-	R2 & R6 Y6's Tiritiri Matangi visit
Wed 5 June	-	WPSSA Y4-6 Winter Sports
Fri 7	-	BOT Election Day
Mon 17 June	-	R3/12 Kelly Tarlton's Visit

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Nursery Work School Hours - Lynwood Avocado Nursery is looking to employ a person for grafting and general nursery work at their Avocado nursery in Maunu. We are happy to have people working around school hours or doing more hours depending on your circumstances. Grafting requires people with good eyesight and good hands/nimble fingers. People that do handcrafts, tend to be very good at grafting. All training is given and we pay above the minimum wage. Contact 4346-664, 022 6579695.

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