

Kia ora Parents and Whanau,

Our teachers and students have been busy with midyear assessment and report writing in preparation for our report portfolios to go home at the end of this term. It is a busy time for everyone and I would like to acknowledge the many hours teachers spend writing reports so they reflect the particular student, their progress and next learning steps. For those new to our school we send home a report portfolio at the end of term that has a full report against all areas of our curriculum document and the key competencies, along with some samples of work or assessment tasks students have undertaken during the first half of the year.

Parent conferences will be organised for early next term so you are able to talk with teachers and your children about their progress and goals for the second half of the year.

Welcome to our new pupil and family: Aiden Cliff

TEACHERS MEETING THURSDAY 21 JUNE

A reminder to all families to let us know about end of day arrangements to enable our teachers to attend an NZEI meeting on Thursday afternoon. Buses are running at 12.30pm when school will finish for the day. There will be some supervision available for regular ASC students until 3pm when they will go to ASC. Please use the School App or form sent home (emailed and hardcopy) to let us know the arrangements for your children.

The meeting is in regard to the Teachers Agreement the Ministry of Education have offered and the claims we are making for a pay jolt and extra resourcing for education. Ultimately if we do not lift the profile of the teaching profession and make it attractive as a future career choice, we will not have enough teachers to meet future demand. We will also not have enough resources to meet the needs of the increasing number of students. This could well result in higher class sizes, classes being doubled up or even staying home if there are not enough teachers to meet the demand. Young teachers are leaving the profession because of workload stress and pay. Unfortunately, as with the nurses, initial offers will do nothing to attract people into the profession.

If we want quality teachers for our children across all education sectors in the future, it is important that the government are aware of our concerns. As parents you can do this by signing a petition calling for the government to increase funding for education so we can attract and retain great teachers, reduce class sizes, provide funding for all schools to have a trained special education needs coordinator and employ and pay highly skilled teacher aides. The petition is at the school office.

SPORTS EVENTS

Y4-6 Winter sports: This went ahead last week despite doubtful weather and was enjoyed by all that attended. It is always a hard call for organisers on days like this but often postponement means some schools and sometimes organisers cannot attend and a huge amount of extra work is involved. As schools we like to support these events and the organisers (teachers who do this in their own time) to ensure the success of the day. By pulling out you let down the other schools who are attending, as they have no teams to play in the organised draw. When I visited Kensington Park our teams were all involved, had their opposition turn up and enjoyed the games they played – hockey, soccer, turbo touch, netball and gymnastics.

Thank you to all the parents and teachers that helped manage the teams and supervised students on the day also.

MAGIC SHOW



It's Showtime, a magic and illusion show, briefly visited the school on Monday morning and entertained the children with a wonderful mix of magic and tricks. Their full show is on at Forum North on Saturday 23 June for those interested in seeing more magical entertainment.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

At the beginning, middle and end of the year we look at our overall student achievement and how we are going as part of the process of teachers assessing their individual students.

Our Y3-8 students participate in Progress and Achievement Tests (PATs) in listening comprehension, reading and maths. These results allow us to see how our students are tracking against national norms as well as how well they are doing individually.

Our students are tracking above expected levels in reading with 30% above the average compared to 23% nationally and 18% below compared with 23% nationally. At the junior level our reading programme allows for students to consolidate their knowledge, rather than being pushed through levels to reach standards. We generally find that at Y3/4 they have a really good grounding and their reading takes off, with our Y8 students leaving us all reading at or above their expected age level. This helps ensure their success at high school.

In maths our achievement levels very much reflect the national norms – 23% above, 57% average and 19% below (slightly less than 23% nationally).

Our listening comprehension results are very similar to our reading results with 11% below and 33% above.

Listening is, as expected, answering questions from an oral presentation and often gives us an indication of potential to achieve ie they understand and can respond to what they are hearing well.

These are only one aspect of the information we gather to determine where our students are at, as tests and assessment tasks are providing information at that moment in time. Results can often be influenced by how we are feeling and responding on a particular day. As teachers we use all the information we have including how students work in their classroom to determine the programmes we provide.

NMSSA

The National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement visits randomly selected schools each year to get a broad picture of student achievement in New Zealand - by assessing a nationally representative sample of NZ school students at Year 4 and Year 8. They look for trends, influences and provide information over time at a national level. Over the last 2 years they have worked with groups of our Y8 students and this year will be working with a group of our Y4 students. Parents of those involved will have received information via email asking for permission and providing further information. You do not have to do anything if you are happy for your children to take part. The assessments are not high stress, can be group and individual and are taken by specially trained teachers who will visit next term. This year the focus is on mathematics and statistics and social studies.

CHANGES TO NCEA

The MOE is looking at ways to strengthen NCEA that will benefit all our young people, rangatahi and other learners. Over the next few months, the MOE aims to talk with lots of New Zealanders to discuss their experiences with NCEA - the challenges, the successes and what we can do better in the future.

Head along to the workshop at Whangarei Girls High School on 25 June at 5.30-8.30pm to explore the big opportunities for NCEA and have your say on the future of our national secondary schooling qualification.

To get further information or find out other ways to have your say go to conversation.education.govt.nz.

AGRICULTURE DAY INFORMATION SESSION

The Agriculture Day information session will be held in the school hall on Wednesday 4 July at 9.00am. This is the last Wednesday of the term. Information about this day will go home to all parents and we encourage new parents to come along. The focus is on how to care for an Ag Day animal – lamb, calf or goat and train it for showing on our Agriculture Day. This is a valued part of our rural school culture and a wonderful opportunity for our students that they will take with them through life. Animals for Ag Day must be born after July 1st (excluding those in the Pet Section).

REMINDERS

BOT Meeting: The next Board Of Trustees meeting will be Wednesday 20 June at 7pm in the school staff room.

School Council Wacky Hair/Wig Wednesday: Next Wednesday, 20 June, the Council is fundraising for Child Cancer. Bring along a gold coin donation and wear a wig or wacky hair!

Headlice: There has been an increase in the number of cases of head lice at school recently. Please check your children regularly and treat if necessary.

CONGRATULATIONS

* To Diara Sketchley for competing well in the latest Whangarei Academy of Gymnastics meet.

We do like to hear about past and present student successes and adventures so please keep us informed.



SCHOOL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Kieran Froggatt R7 - For being proactive with his science fair.

Alexa Vollenhoven R11 - For always using fantastic manners and trying her best in her learning.

Cleo Fox-Jerry R5 - For consistently striving to be the best that she can be.

Brooke Turner R11- For showing lots of enthusiasm during jump jam.

Jonathon R2 - Fantastic effort during Te Reo lessons, what an example!

Isak Thompson R6 - For striving to do his best and being a great role model.

Room 12 Writing

In the weekend I went to the movies with Dad and Lilly and Sam. I went in the truck and we went there to watch Duck, Duck, Goose. The goose was snoring funny and the duck pulled his eyes. At the movies I got a lemonade drink, popcorn and Skittles. My favourite part was when he was snoring.

By Lexie Jameson

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On Sunday I went to my cousins, Aunty and Uncle's place. We went in a car. I went there because my mum and dad were painting at my new home. When we were there, there was lightning and I face- planted when I was doing my homework.

By Devon Neumann

### KEY DATES / COMING EVENTS - TERM 2 2018

|              |                                                        |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 20 June  | - School Council Wig Wednesday                         |
| Thur 21      | - <b>EARLY CLOSING 12.30pm</b> - Teacher Union Meeting |
| Thur 28 June | - Dance/Disco Y5-8                                     |
| Wed 4 July   | - Ag Day Info Talk 9am                                 |
| Fri 6        | - Portfolios home & End of Term 2                      |
| Tues 17      | - Chickens due for collection                          |
| Mon 23 July  | - Term 3 Starts                                        |

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Opportunity for Budding Young Writers** - NZ Author, Des Hunt will be at the Whangarei Central Library on Wed 27 June 4.15pm-5.15pm for a presentation about his writing using science demonstrations and images to tell background stories about some of his books. He will also pass on ideas of how to structure writing to retain the interest of readers and will talk about the importance of review and editing.

**Quiz Night Alzheimer's Nthld Fundraiser** - Saturday 7 July, 7pm at the ASB Lounge. Teams of 6, \$150 per team, raffles, cash bar, light refreshments. To register a team contact Gary Bell 022-654-8188, [gary.bell@alzheimers.org.nz](mailto:gary.bell@alzheimers.org.nz).

**The Owl & The Pussycat Award Winning Show** - For one wee wintery weekend of love, music and oodles of joy, get ready to be swept away in a pea-green boat with the pussycat, the owl, the mad turkey shaking his wiblet and the lonely piggy-wig singing to the moon. This is a tale of delight and wonder set to the dusky hues of a late night jazz club and a small guitar. With new original music and some old favourites, come and join in the fun at 116 Bank Street. This is truly a show that appeals to all ages. Coffee and treats by Luna Espresso will be available. Company of Giants theatre company are performing at 116 Bank Street on 7 July & 8 July. For bookings email [bookings@companyofgiants.co.nz](mailto:bookings@companyofgiants.co.nz).

**ASB** - Teach your kids to be cash clever, with their free online resources - [asb.co.nz/getwise](http://asb.co.nz/getwise).



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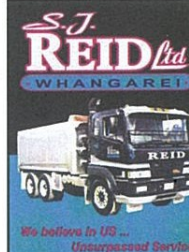
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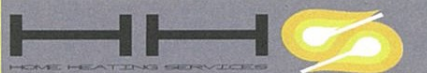
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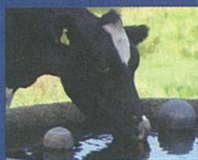
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