

Kia ora Parents and Whanau

It is with sadness we have learned of the passing of a past pupil, Jeffrey Barnett, last weekend. Jeffrey started at Maungatapere School as a 5-year-old and left us at the end of year 8. Many parents will remember Jeffrey as the gentle blind boy we had at school: he was sighted when he started school but his vision deteriorated to full blindness. The yellow indicator markings we have around our school were put in place to assist him. Jeffrey suffered from an incurable childhood disease which has taken his life so early – 15 yrs. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

It has been a busy two weeks with sporting, parent interviews and EOTC events starting. This week has treated the Y7/8 EOTC activities well, which has been wonderful for the many outdoor activities. The next few weeks will continue to be busy for our senior students so please continue to check for notices and reminders.

Welcome to the following new pupils and their families: Bella Butel, Lucy Sparks, Mikaylah Hamm, Kayne Taylor and Leah Hall.



#### PARENT CONFERENCES

Thank you to the large percentage of parents who made appointments to talk with their children's teachers last week. We had an excellent turn out on the night and those unable to attend made appointments at other times. If you were away or have not yet been able to connect with the teachers, please contact the school to make a time. Teachers will also be trying to make contact with you. It is really important that we are all on the same page and working together to support students in their learning.

#### SPORTS/SCHOOL EVENTS

**Swimming Sports:** Congratulations to everyone that participated in our Y4-8 swimming sports last week.

##### **Freestyle 1 length Y4's, 2 Lengths Y5-8:**

Y4 Girls: Ava Neumann, Leah Smith, Isla Wright  
Y4 Boys: Jimmy Turner, Isaiah Birchall, Ben March  
Y5 Girls: Heidi Shepherd, Alice Bland, Jamie Neumann  
Y5 Boys: Awanui Owen, Carter Iraia, Findlay Anderson  
Y6 Girls: Jessica Kalkhoven, Paige Karl, Macey Guy  
Y6 Boys: Keelan O'Neill, Lucas Reihana, Lewis Newton  
Y7 Girls: Ellie McRae, Tayla Southall, Samara Harrison  
Y7 Boys: Tokoaitua Owen, Josh Turner, Isak Thompson  
Y8 Girls: Ava Iraia, Anya Miller, Bella Tissink  
Y8 Boys: Dion Robertson, Caleb Graham, Isaiah Watson-Meyer

##### **Backstroke 1 length Y4's, 2 Lengths Y5-8:**

Y4 Girls: Ava Neumann, Ella Guitry, Leah Smith  
Y4 Boys: Jimmy Turner, Sheldon Hill, Xander Tissink  
Y5 Girls: Lulu Cullen, Heidi Shepherd, Jamie Neumann  
Y5 Boys: Awanui Owen, Harry Turner, Carter Iraia  
Y6 Girls: Paige Karl, Jessica Kalkhoven, Macey Guy  
Y6 Boys: Jack Foden, Aza Schimanski, Keelan O'Neill/Lucas Reihana  
Y7 Girls: Ellic McRae, Lilly Jameson/Elly Neumann, Tayla Ruddell  
Y7 Boys: Tokoaitua Owen, Josh Turner, Nicholas Dawson  
Y8 Girls: Bella Tissink, Anya Miller, Samantha Atkins  
Y8 Boys: Isaiah Watson-Meyer, Connor O'Neill, Dillon Worsfold

##### **Breaststroke 1 length Y4's, 2 Lengths Y5-8:**

Y4 Girls: Ava Neumann  
Y4 Boys: Xander Tissink  
Y5 Girls: Alice Bland, Lulu Cullen  
Y5 Boys: Awanui Owen, Carter Iraia  
Y6 Girls: Paige Karl, Jessica Kalkhoven, Ally McIvor  
Y6 Boys: Che Nicholson, Keelan O'Neill, Jack Foden  
Y7 Girls: Ellie McRae, Tayla Ruddell, Lilly Jameson  
Y7 Boys: Tokoaitua Owen, Josh Turner, Casey Worsfold  
Y8 Girls: Ava Iraia, Maria Cullen, Keira Ripley  
Y8 Boys: Caleb Graham, Isaiah Watson-Meyer, Connor O'Neill

The Parents vs Teachers vs Students race was hotly contested once again. It looked like a photo finish between Parents and Teachers, but word from a reliable source had the Teachers winning by a hair.

**WPSSA swimming sports** will be held at Whangarei Intermediate School pool on Tuesday 19 March for Y4 & Y7/8 only, as Y5/6 will be at camp.

**The Junior swimming demonstration** event will be tomorrow, Friday 8 March at 1pm. This was postponed to enable staff to attend Jeffrey's funeral today.

**Y7/8 EOTC:** Students have participated in a wide range of activities over the last 3 days – High ropes, yachting, raft and shelter building and fishing. It has been great to see students challenge themselves and overcome their fears, nerves. Today has been team building with Rock Up activities.



**Y7/8 Positive Puberty Plus programme** parent meeting is Monday 11 March in R7 at 6.30pm. The programme will take place on Tuesday.

**Y5/6 EOTC:** Tuesday 19-Friday 22 March is the Y5/6 camp at Lonsdale Park, Matauri Bay. Information about travel, programme and gear required will be sent home next week.

If there are issues regarding these events with payment or for your child, please talk with their teacher.

#### NEW PARENT MEETING

This is next Tuesday 12 March 7pm in the school staff room. New families to our school are invited to come along and find out a little about our school goals, direction, annual events and to ask any questions you may have. New families have been sent an invitation to the meeting but any families are welcome to attend also.

#### IT'S TIME/KUATAETE WA CAMPAIGN

Teachers and principals are still in negotiations with the government and will consider any offer on Thursday 21 March. This will not mean any disruption for families/whanau but will mean changes to the school programme to enable teachers to attend meetings during the day. We continue to lose teachers to other occupations because of pay levels and workload.

#### SCHOOL FOCUS

This year our school is continuing our focus areas of cooperative learning, digital learning, and learning through discovery and culturally inclusive experiences. These areas sit under our strategic plan goals of engaged learners, engaged teachers and an engaged community.

Next year the new Digital Technology curriculum will be implemented and we are looking at the strands of digital design and computational thinking to incorporate into our technology curriculum. We are privileged to have the expertise of Yaron Overeem leading this, after his sabbatical based on it last year.

Our overall topic this year is Our Environment, so classes will be looking at a wide range of environmental activities/topics, both locally and further afield.

**Beginning of the Year Assessment:** All students have been involved in assessment tasks at the beginning of this year. This enables teachers and students to know 'what they do know' and 'what they need to learn next' or 'don't know yet'. Students can then be grouped and taught at their level. These would have been discussed with you at conference time also.

**Maths Teaching:** Mrs Anne-Maree Adams will be working with small groups of students over the next 5 weeks to reinforce maths skills and strategies. The programme will run 3 days per week focussing on Y2, Y5/6 and Y8.

#### REMINDERS

**Netball:** Students who have returned their forms have now been put into teams. Notices will be going home next week with all the details. Netball fees are due to be paid before the end of term.

**Maths Buddy:** Information has been sent home about this online maths programme that supports maths learning and for some classes is included as homework. Please return the consent slip and once payment has gone through you will receive a password to start using it. These will be in your child's homework book.

#### PTA NEWS

**PTA Spring Bulb Fundraiser** - NEW Northland supplier for PTA Spring Bulbs Fundraiser 2019. BULBS DIRECT are based in Waipu and Paparoa and we have had some great feedback about their products and customer service. Catalogues are available from the school office and businesses in our community with full ordering details and forms, a copy has been sent home to each family today. Orders need to be placed by 18 March to ensure bulbs arrive before the end of term one.

The PTA extend a warm invitation to all of the school community to attend the **PTA AGM** meeting which will be held at 7:00pm in the staffroom on **Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> April**. There will be wine and cheese and it would be wonderful to see you all there.

#### PTA Maunga Mayhem

Thank you to all of you that have brought your tickets for Maunga Mayhem! Please keep

encouraging friends, family members, work colleagues and anyone else you come across to come and join us for the Mayhem! All details and the link to buy the awesome "survivor" T-shirts, designed especially for our event, can be found on our website

[www.maungamayhem.co.nz](http://www.maungamayhem.co.nz)



#### SCHOOL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following pupils:

**Luke Ritchie R11** - For using good eye contact and answering his name confidently during the roll.

**Jessica Frost R2** - For setting quiet, quality examples of learning behaviour.

**Oliver Rolland R6** - For an awesome start to the year with being a great role model of classroom culture and expectations.

**Alexa Vollenhoven R3** - For working hard in all of her learning and trying her best.

**Ava Imms R6** - For being responsible for her learning—always prepared and ready to learn.

**Michael Lee R7** - For stepping up as a Year 8 learner and leader.

#### Key Dates/Coming Events - Term 1

Fri 8	- Junior Swimming
Mon 11	- Y7/8 Parent Puberty Meeting
Tues 12	- New Parent Meeting
Tues 19 - Fri 22	- Y5/6 Lonsdale Park Camp
Wed 20	- WPSSA Swimming

## A SPEEDY SUMMER HOLIDAY

It was a warm Summer day, and me and my family are in our grubby black van. We are rolling on the rocky road heading for the Heads Up scooter track. We turn into the steep driveway and race up the dusty hill. We finally reach the top and park on the gravel. Me and my sisters undo our safety belts and cheer for some summer fun. We all hurry out and snatch our helmets. "Yay! Let's go, go, go!"



My sisters scream. After a 10 minute wait, we're ready to start fun. The driver ties the scooters on the trailer and we zoom on up the hill. When we arrived at the top, we rush out and grab the scooters. Then we take off down the track into the trees. We all race through the track like a bolt of lightning and scream with excitement. Then when we finished we packed up and drove home for an evening rest.

By Lia Neumann, Room 9

#### CARPARK

The Board of Trustees have employed NCC Consulting Engineers to look at safety and proposals for the school car park. Currently we are surveying car numbers to provide further information. Proposals will then be taken to the MOE to determine funding possibilities and whether it meets criteria. This is a long term project.

#### SUMMER READING PROGRAMME

Thank you to all those students that took part in our Summer Reading Programme, the effort that was put in by all the students was fantastic. The following students received Paper Plus Vouchers for their efforts:

#### Outstanding Number of Hours Logged

Karlo Luke, Leah Carroll and Ahlia Broderick.

#### Good Effort in Fulfilling Contract

Toby Manderson, Elijah Hovell, Harry Turner, Daniel McDonald, Xander Tissink and Felicity Tautari.

#### Submitting a Favourite Book Video

Nathan Watts

#### Good Effort Completing Bingo

Mille Taylor

Please return any outstanding books to school. Many thanks to Paper Plus Whangarei for their sponsorship of this programme.

**COMMUNITY USE OF THE POOL:** From next **Monday 11 March** the school pool will be closed to the community on week days. It will remain open over the weekend. This is so we can heat the pool overnight and it is warm for swimming lessons during the day.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS:** This year we are having school photos taken earlier in the year, Wednesday 3 April, to help spread the costs through the year more. Forms will be sent home over the next couple of weeks.

#### COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Netsafe Live**—12th March, 6.30pm-7.30pm at Whangarei Girls High School. Free event about keeping young people safe online. Online bullying, abuse and harassment: 0508Netsafe (0508 638723) provides help and support for parents concerned about online bullying and inappropriate behaviour. Netsafe is an independent, not-for-profit organisation focussed on online safety.





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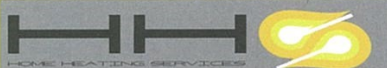


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