Principal’s Column— Whakataki o Tumuaki

Nau mai, haere mai. Well, that’s it—All over! What a brilliant year it has been. I feel so lucky to serve as your Principal here at Whatawhata School. We are blessed with an awesome community who support us in so many ways; wonderful children, a top team of teachers and support staff and an environment to be proud of. There have been so many highlights, I suggest a flick through Facebook sometime to see just how cool this year has been!

Thanks to those who came to learner led conferences last night. We hope your children taught you a lot about what they’ve been learning and how they’re going. Reports will come home next Tuesday to provide more information on your child’s learning and progress.

The Whatawhata Future team had a great meeting this week. We looked really closely at all the feedback we received. We used this, along with research into what makes the biggest impact on learning, to refine and clarify our guiding principles (what it means when we say: To Grow, To Achieve, To Care), and to map out the areas where people suggested we can continue to develop and improve as a school, as a staff and as a school community. I look forward to sharing an overview of this in the new year.

The Christmas tree is bulging with gifts you have so generously provided to help other families. These will be delivered within our community next week. Thank you!

From all of us here, thanks for your support for an amazing year, we wish you the best of health and happiness. To those leaving us we wish you the very best for your future. For those staying, we can’t wait to see you on 4th February.

Mā te wā—Until next time. Matt Stockton, Principal

Whatawhata Beach Day

To celebrate the end of the year we are taking the whole school to Raglan Kopua Domain beach for the day next Monday! We are encouraging all families including brothers and sisters to come along. Here are the final details:

- Staff will be in school until Friday 19th December if you need to get in touch, pay any final bills, etc. The office will reopen this in the new year.
- Late finishing and early office opening for 2015

Prizegiving Evening

This annual evening of celebration, performance and recognition will be held on Tuesday 16th December. The evening will start at 6pm and will be (for the last time!) held at Te Kowhai Hall. This is always a really popular evening and we hope you can join us. Here is the final plan:

- Children need to arrive between 5.45pm and 6pm. Kapa haka kids need to be there early to get changed.
- Each class, our kapa haka group, singing group and the whole school will be performing a range of songs, dances and waiata. Class awards will be presented after each.
- After these, the whole school awards will be given. Nominees will be announced then the trophy presented to the winner. If you donated a trophy, we’d love you to present it for us.
- The celebrations will finish around 7.30. Then there will be an ice-cream and music for the kids in the main hall, and a light shared supper for parents in the food hall. Please bring a plate. We’ll pack up and farewell around 8.30.

The PTA will be running a range of raffles and silent auctions thanks to the generosity of local businesses and families so bring your cash, cheque books and credit cards! If you have an item or service you could donate please let us know.

Happy Holidays! We all hope you have a wonderful time!