

Principal's Column—Whakataki o Tumuaki

Nau mai, haere mai. Thanks to everyone who came to our teacher led conferences. We hope you learned all about how your child is progressing. Thanks to everyone who came to cross-country yesterday. What a brilliant day! We're so proud of all the children's efforts and determination in what turned out to be perfect conditions. A huge thanks to Stu Richards for hosting us, our course marshalls for keeping our children safe and going the right way, and the army of transporters. There are hundreds of photos on Facebook.

In my push for our new classrooms I recently produced a growth chart (below) for the Ministry of Education. It's quite amazing that, in the time that our oldest children have been at school, we have grown 5 fold!

Whatawhata School Roll 2007 - 2016



For those that wondered, I'm not leaving the school next term. I have been given a sabbatical, in term 3 and early term 4. Half of this time will be study and half family holiday time. We're using this time to visit my family in the UK and enjoy a few other places too. Laurel Benn, our Deputy Principal, will be leading the school during this time. It's in safe hands!

We have recently welcomed Kalani and Carrie into Te Rākau, Ryder into Te Pihinga 2 and Taine into Te Kākano. Welcome kids, we hope you love learning here.

Our pōwhiri to welcome all our new children was postponed today. It is now Thursday 26th May. Hope to see our whānau, new and old, next week.

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

Welcome Billy!

Billy the goat is the newest member of our Whatawhata family. After three attempts we think his enclosure is goat proof! Last week the animal team painted his house. Next we'll make him a goat playground. He will be moved around the school to graze and is given food scraps for lunch. Thanks



to Caitlin and Keegan for giving him to us.

We have started selling the eggs produced by our school chickens - this will fund their feed and care. They can be bought from the office at \$5 a dozen.

Keeping our school clean

We've been focusing on keeping our school looking neat and tidy. Classes have all taken on the role of guardians of their outside spaces as well as an enviro project or area, having pride in them being cared for and rubbish free. We hope you've noticed the difference.

We have started the Crest Clean awards. Each week the cleaners award a certificate for the tidiest and best recycling classroom. The most successful class will be shouted pizza lunch! So far Te Kaho 1 have two wins and Te Kaho 2 one.

Fundraising

Many thanks for the army of people who bought pies in the PTA Oxford Pies fundraiser. It was our biggest ever, raising over \$1000. Enjoy!!

We're so pleased with the response to the cross country fun run - huge thanks to you, your families and friends. It was great seeing the children complete their runs in such beautiful surroundings yesterday. If children were away we'll hold a special run at school one fine day next week to make sure they can still show their sponsors their efforts. Please send in their sponsor forms and money by Friday 27th May. Make sure they have chosen their prize too! Many thanks.

Whatawhata School Board of Trustees

We have had five nominations for the Board of Trustees. This means there is no need for an election and we have a new Board! **Welcome Joe Kingston, Renee Kenyon, Peter van Elzaker, Sean McCormack and Alan Snell.** I really appreciate you offering your commitment, time and knowledge.

Can I once again express my huge thanks to Michael Collins, Sean McCormack, Julie Cowley, Phil Armstrong, Nathan Rillstone and Laurel Benn for their commitment as our school board over the last three years. It's been awesome!

School lunches

You will find enclosed in this newsletter the menu for our amazing new school lunches from The Village Café and eatery. Orders will start on Monday. The school earns a little bit of money from every order so everyone wins! There are order bags at the office - Simply write the order on the bag, place the money inside, and hand in. Too easy!

Australian maths competition

We are again running the Australian Maths Competition at school. If your child is interested in taking part please get a consent form from their teacher or the office. The cost is \$8 which is required before entry.



Upcoming events May—Haratua

- 23rd BoT meeting @ 6pm
- 25th Te Pihinga pōwhiri @ Te Papaorotu
- 26th School pōwhiri 1.30pm
- 27th Inter-schools cross-country @ Waitetuna

June—Pipiri

- 2nd Richard in - Large ball skills
- 3rd Voting closes (if required)
- 4th Raglan wearable arts show
- 6th Queen's birthday - School closed
- 7th - 16th Assessment weeks
- 20th BoT meeting (TBC)
- 23rd-24th Marae pōwhiri and learning, marae sleepover
- 29th Te Pihinga wearable arts show

July—Hongongoi

- 1st Interschool Y7/8 Ki-o-rahi
- 5th Mid-year reports go home
- 8th Term 2 ends
- 25th Term 3 begins - Laurel as Principal

