

Principal's Column—Whakataki o Tumuaki

Nau mai, haere mai. Thanks to those who came along to our pōwhiri last week. It had to be an inside one so was a bit wild but we enjoyed welcoming our children, whanau and parents in our own unique way. We'll be working on strengthening this welcome with our Māori community and key staff. It is likely to become a *Mihi Whakatau* instead, where we can shape our welcome to our school's wants and needs while being respectful of local *tikanga*.

Well done to our 40 children who braved the really challenging inter-school cross-country course at Waitetuna. It was wild with many many bogged cars and muddy kids. Even in these conditions they did us proud. Thanks to all those who transported children, especially on the return leg - we hope your cars are OK! Of our team, Taane was 1st in 9 year old boys, Joakim 3rd in 10 year old boys and Mirella in 6yo girls (and running the 7 year olds course).

We have recently welcomed Tye, Joshua and Te Ikimoke into Te Kākano, and Synton into Te Kaho 2. A really warm welcome to you children and families, we hope you love learning here at Whatawhata School.

Remember, no school on Monday - Happy birthday Queenie!

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

Wearable Arts

Te Pihinga classes chose Wearable Arts as their context for art learning this term. Their creations are coming on so well. Many of these children have entered the Raglan Art to Wear awards which are happening this Saturday. They will be completing a dress rehearsal then two public shows in the afternoon and evening. So exciting! This is totally sold out I'm afraid. Well done Emile and SJ for your commitment and thanks to those parents who have come in to help turn the children's ideas into reality - without taking over.

There will be a Te Pihinga Wearable Arts show at school on Thursday 30th June. Everyone will be invited to see the amazing creations first hand. We may also try and run an art gallery at the same time so you can see the artistic talents and ideas of our other children. More details coming soon...

Fundraising - wow!

We're so pleased with the response to the cross country fun run fundraiser - huge thanks to you, your families and friends. With nearly all the money now in it looks as though the school will receive at least \$3000 and the children will receive a whole range of prizes including balls, art kits, rc cars, quadcopters, table football and many other things. If you still have money to hand in please do so tomorrow so we can order prizes on Tuesday.

Pōwhiri for Te Pihinga, Te Papa o rotu marae

The pōwhiri for our Te Pihinga children at Te Papa o rotu (Whatawhata) marae was an amazing day with a lot of emotion from tamariki and whanau. Children were able to experience the full Pōwhiri process, share kai and enjoy the essence of being on the Marae. A special connection was made between Whatawhata School,

Magnolia Tree Childcare, Ngati Mahanga Kōhanga and Te Papa O Rotu Marae.

Thank you to all of the kōhanga whānau that were there early to prepare kai and the venue for us. Children made many connections with learning that has been taking place in class. It was lovely to hear them express these with us and their whanau. Te Pihinga you made us proud on the marae, especially with your angelic singing and respect of tikanga. A big thank you to the parents who ferried children to and from the Marae!

We're still trying to get plans confirmed for our whole school marae visit. We will confirm by the end of next week when this is happening (this term or later in the year) and what it will look like.

New Te Pihinga 3 class for Term 3 and 4

We have advertised for a new teacher to join us from term 3. This is because we now expect to have over 235 children here before the year's out. The plan is to graduate the oldest children from Te Kākano. The collaborative way that these children have been learning will continue, with Emile, SJ and the new teacher working closely with Te Kākano, Core Education and each other to make the transition smooth, ensure their learning journeys continue and to develop new ways of working together. Te Pihinga will need to be in the Learning Centre which means a bigger collaborative space for these learners but the loss of the Learning Centre and library for the rest of the school. Every finger and toe is crossed right now that the Ministry of Education confirms funding for new classrooms so this is only a short term solution.

School lunches

Our school lunches have really taken off with many children enjoying our hot and cold options provided by The Village Café. The Shepherd's Pie, Lasagne and Mac n Cheese are really flying! If you didn't get a menu they are available at the school office. You can order every day before 9am.

Uniforms

Please, please, please name your child's uniform (and gum boots!). We have a dozen or so fleeces or hoodies right now with no names on so don't know who they belong to. In this cold weather, long pants are fine but they must be navy blue tights or sports pants. We recommend spare clothes in bags in case of muddy slipups!

Car parking

I'm really pleased how good we've become as a community at parking in the right places so that our children are safe. Please note and follow these important reminders and, if you see someone doing these, please speak out on behalf of all our children.

Whether the cones are there or not, don't park on the far side of School Road. Parking there means that cars cannot reverse out easily and children are having to cross the road. After you reverse out, drive North up to the main road.

Cross at the crossing, not at the junction of Kura Street and School Road. Our road patrol is out every day helping children cross in the right place.



Upcoming events

June—Pipiri

- 2nd Richard in - Large ball skills
- 4th Raglan wearable arts show
- 6th Queen's birthday - School closed
- 7th - 16th Assessment weeks
- 10th Te Rākau to Wero Whitewater Centre in Auckland as part of WPCA
- 21st First BoT meeting of our new Board
- 23rd-24th Marae pōwhiri and learning, marae sleepover - TBC
- 29th New Board training evening
- 30th Te Pihinga wearable arts show

July—Hongongoi

- 1st Interschool Y7/8 Ki-o-rahi
- 5th Mid-year reports go home
- 8th Term 2 ends
- 11th Teacher planning day
- 25th Term 3 begins - Laurel as Principal

