

Principal's Column—Whakataki o Tumuaki

Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome back every one. I hope you had a really enjoyable break, it sounds like a lot of R&R for families and children alike.

This term will, as always, be a really exciting one. We hope our monster range of classroom, school-based and outside learning opportunities ensures everyone is excited, engaged and going great guns in their learning.

We were really excited to come back to our new deluxe staff room. Finally we have a place where we can actually all sit down together at the same time! Huge thanks go to Daryl from Andrew Building, Brook from Peter Owen Plumbing, and Michael from Carpet Mill, all dads of kids here at school, who managed to get the whole thing done for us in the school holidays. Thanks so much fellas!

This term we have welcomed Ihaia, Ashlee, Manaia and Micah into Te Kākano, James into Te Kaho 1, Phoenix and Te Tukairea to Te Kaho 2, and Kalani into Te Rākau. Hare mai, haere mai, haere mai to you all, we hope that you will love learning and life here at Whatawhata School. Our pōwhiri to welcome all our new children since March is on Friday 20th May. Hope to see our whānau, new and old, here.

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

This term's learning

This term our Discovery focus area is The Arts. The contexts for the arts are "wild things and monsters" in Te Kākano, Art to Wear in Te Pihinga, Kiwiana in Te Kaho 2, and Symbolic and Iconic art in Te Kaho 1, Te Kaho 3 and Te Rākau. A whole range of art techniques will be explored by learners supported by teachers and visiting artists.

Our sports foci are around running, large ball skills (throwing and catching), fundamental skills and Māori games.

Our enviro focus is around sustainability and improvements in our own spaces and our chosen spaces - we all chose a place that we will look after and cherish.

Our Māori focus is *Te Marae*, learning much more around protocol, language, traditions and stories and culminating in a two day Te Papa-o-rotu marae pōwhiri and learning for everyone. Kapa haka club and whole school kapa haka return.

Our lunch and after-school clubs this term are singing (working towards the kids 4 kids concert), Junior jump jam, walking group, library, robotics, rock band, enviro, senior jump jam, and animal care. Kapa haka has also begun.

You will find enclosed (or have already received) this term's newsletter from your child's teacher. This provides much more detail about their learning this term.

We have professional development days in engaging boys in writing, hooking kids onto reading, 2 x collaborative teaching / learning days, understanding ASD, music, and,

visual literacy. Different teachers are involved in different days. While it's not the best losing the class teacher for a day we know that what they learn will more than make up for it.

Teacher led conferences

Our teacher led conferences are next Tuesday. **We'd love to see EVERY ONE of you.** Teachers will be sharing information about the progress your child has made over the last term and their next learning steps. They are 10 minutes long (except for longer Te Kakano sessions as already advised). Please head online or call the school to make an appointment. Just go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter event code **4zhyp**.

All children will be in the Learning Centre from 1.30pm so teachers are free to meet with parents. Meetings are available through to 7.00pm.

Cross-country and Adidas Fundraising

Just two weeks until our infamous school cross-country at the Richards' farm. Training has begun in earnest at school with endurance and target setting practices. It's a great thing to do with your kids after school and at weekends too - see if you can keep up! Amy has included the full details in this newsletter. This is one of those days where we need as much transport help as possible so please, if you can, help us get everyone there.

A huge thank you for all the money that has been raised so far by your children gaining sponsorships for their cross-country run. Please keep badgering those friends and relatives! We know the funds will make a huge difference to the school. Money can be raised right up to race day then returned to school the following week. You rock...

Many thanks for all the pie orders. These will be delivered to school next Thursday so please come along to the staff



workroom (the old library) at 2.30 to collect them. Thanks!

Board of Trustees

In this Newsletter you will find a leaflet all about becoming a school trustee. The Board plays a vital role in many aspects of school life including:

- Shaping the long-term direction of the school, establishing policy and monitoring progress towards these

- Monitoring and evaluating learner progress and achievement

- Overseeing staff, property, finance and health and safety management

- Ensuring that the educational needs and aspirations of our learners (and especially our Māori and special needs learners) are identified and planned for

- Leading the appraisal of Matt's performance!

We'd love you to consider becoming a trustee. Nomination forms with full details will be mailed home soon and are also at the office. If you have any other questions don't hesitate to speak to any of our Trustees or to Matt.

School leadership team

We're trying a different approach to school learner leadership this year. Te Rākau children applied to become part of our leadership team. Peta and James were appointed as our head girl and boy respectively, and Jessica, Helena, Georgia, Mary and Noah complete the team. They will be working regularly with Matt, helping understand the wants and needs of our learners and coming up with solutions and ideas to make school better for all. Their first role is helping children (and staff) know all that is going on at school by collecting and

sharing information daily.

Whatawhata Sports teams

Thanks to the volunteers who have offered to support our sports teams this year. A huge thanks too to Amy Lake for co-ordinating everyone to make these possible. We have two netball teams, two football teams, two hockey teams and two basketball teams.

We URGENTLY need a couple more children to be in our novice hockey team (children up to year 5). It's a brilliant game! Let us know asap if your child is interested.

School lunches

It is with great excitement that I announce a new supplier for our school lunches, The Village Café and Eatery! They have prepared a delicious and nutritious menu of healthy lunches and snacks. This will come home next week in a fridge friendly format. Orders will start on Monday 16th May. The school earns a little bit of money from every order so everyone wins! There are order bags at the office for you or your child to place your order - Simply fill out the order and place the money into the bag. The school cannot charge lunches to your accounts. I for one can't wait!

Upcoming events May—Haratua

- 3rd, 4th Reading and writing teacher development days with Sheena Cameron
- 5th HPV for Year 8s
- 8th Mother's day
- 10th Meet the teacher conferences
- 13th CoreEd teacher development day
- 16th-20th Road safety week
- 19th School cross-country
- 20th Nominations for BoT close
- 20th School pōwhiri 1.30pm
- 23rd BoT meeting @ 6pm
- 27th Inter-schools cross-country @ Waitetuna

June—Pipiri

- 2nd Richard in - Large ball skills
- 3rd Voting closes
- 6th Queen's birthday - School closed
- 7th - 16th Assessment weeks
- 20th BoT meeting (TBC)
- 23rd-24th Marae pōwhiri and learning, marae sleepover

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

