

## Principal's Column—Whakataki o Tumuaki

*Nau mai, haere mai.* Well just like that term 1 draws to a close and Autumn truly arrives. It feels like we've only just started! Looking back though it's been a pretty awesome couple of months.

As we speak teachers are completing our termly array of assessments to monitor the progress that children have been making, reflecting on this information with their teams and using the results to set their priorities for next term. They will also be using this information to talk to you about this progress in our teacher-led conferences during week 2 of next term. We're confirming details for these and will open up bookings as soon as possible.

We have recently welcomed Olivia, Linkin, Mitchell and Isabella into Te Kakano. We hope you love learning here kids, welcome to our big family!

This is the last school newsletter before the end of term. From all of us here, we wish you a safe and happy holidays and look forward to seeing you all back again on 2nd May.

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

## Cross-country (in conjunction with Adidas)

Our school cross-country is in the third week back after the holidays so make the most of the break to get your kids active and running around - it's always an amazing whole school day. This year we're running it as a fundraiser too in conjunction with the Adidas Fun Run programme to help achieve our courtyard projects. A full pack will be coming home on Monday so the kids will have heaps of time to badger those relatives and friends over the holidays! Thanks in advance for your support.

## Fundraising

Last week the PTA sent home an Oxford Pies order form. This has always been a huge success for us at school, raising good money while you get a great feed. Everyone wins! Please pass these forms around your friends and whānau then get the forms back to school by the last day of term, 15th April. Orders can be sent in on the first day after the school holidays if you need but we'd love as many orders in as possible next week please. Cheers

Nicola Inder is again running the Entertainment Book fundraiser, another "everyone wins" fundraiser with heaps of savings for you and some cash for us! An order form went home two weeks ago. Please call in if you want to order - a sample is on display so you can see just how much you can save.

We'll be holding a one-off super sausage sizzle next Friday. These tasty sausages in wholemeal bread with cheese will be \$2 each. Orders need to be placed in classrooms on the Friday morning.

## Our singing group are heading to Kids 4 Kids

The 'Kids for Kids' show is back in Hamilton this year and Whatawhata will once again be a proud participant. This will be a really fun evening in October, jam-packed with 100% kiwi music led by Jackie Clarke and supported by a choir of hundreds. The singing group have already started practicing for this event and they're sounding amazing. We still have some spare places available for Years 2 and up so if your child is interested, please contact Nicola or Bree for a permission form or just remind your child to go along to the club. It's on Monday lunchtimes in Te Kakano and practices are 15-20 minutes.



## What we've been learning

Believe it or there have only been seven school days since the last school newsletter. In this time however, the usual myriad of learning opportunities have been going on...

Our Year 3 and 4 touch team boys and girls won their division in The Waikato Touch Association league. Awesome!

Te Kaho 3 and Te Rākau had a brilliant day exploring the Da Vinci exhibition and the Waikato Museum

Magnolia tree came for a four year olds morning - so cute to see the Te Kakano kids being the "big brothers and big sisters"

Our coaches have been working hard with our softball and tee-ball teams for tomorrow's inter-school tournament in Raglan

Te Kaho 2 have made some amazing board games as one of their homework projects

The "bee man" Sean and his trusty sidekick Conor came to teach and show Te Kaho 2 all about these magical creatures

The rope swings are swing bridge are all back in action...

You'll also have noticed a number of our teachers out on different development days too including fundamental skills, Enviroschools, writing, Māori achievement and reading recovery. While we recognise that this means your child has a different teacher that day, we know that the benefit of these development days greatly outweighs any impact. We also try to use the same "relief" teachers wherever possible so they get to know the class learning programmes and the children.

## Our central courtyard

Our central court / grass / tree area looks a little forlorn right now. We are working on developing this area, with the playground hopefully moving into this central area, and children designing, fundraising and creating a number of learning, play and nature zones around the perimeter (mainly in term 3). Moving the playground then provides us a much bigger space to build an all-weather astroturf area. All this needs big \$\$\$ of course but we are confident we can make this a reality in the near future...

## Sports teams - We need more netballers!

We have managed to put together a few teams for winter sports which is awesome. **We are so close for netball but don't have quite enough for ANY full-teams** in any age group. If you think your child (both boys and girls are welcome) would fancy giving netball a go this season PLEASE get in touch with Amy Lake or grab a notice at the office. We need these by Tuesday next week.

## ASC farewell Tanya, welcome Kuini

It is with sadness that we said farewell to Tanya from after school care (she's also been a teacher aide and office administrator). Thanks for your efforts and time for our children Tanya. We welcome Kuini Ihaka into after school care in her place. Many of you will already know her as Pouaka's and Kahesha's mum and helper on many trips and visits. Great to have you on board Kuini

## Upcoming events

### April—Paenga-whāwhā

8th Inter-school softball and tee-ball (Y5-8) @ Raglan

14th Te Pihinga 1 and 2 pōwhiri @ Te Papa O-Rotu Marae

14th-15th William Pike Challenge—Sailing

15th Term 1 ends

### May—Haratua

2nd Term 2 begins

5th HPV for Year 8s

10th / 11th Meet the teacher conferences

13th CoreEd teacher development day

19th School cross-country

23rd BoT meeting @ 6pm

27th Inter-schools cross-country @ Waitetuna

