Principal’s Column—Whakataki o Tumuaki

Not a newsletter this week but rather all the details for these last couple of weeks at school...

Prizegiving Evening

This annual evening of celebration and Prizegiving is being held on Tuesday 15th December. The evening will start at 6pm and will be held at Te Kowhai Hall. This is always a really popular evening and we hope you can join us. Here is the plan:

Children need to arrive between 5.45pm and 6pm. Classes will be performing a range of songs or dances. 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 by around 8.30.

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

If your child has a trophy from last year, please send back to school asap. Cheers

Whatawahata Beach Day

To celebrate the end of the year we are taking the whole school to Raglan Kopua Domain beach on Thursday 17th December! We are encouraging all families including brothers and sisters to come along.

For the day to be a success we need as many helpers as possible to transport children, monitor the water, playgrounds and parks and generally keep everyone safe and happy. Please complete the enclosed form and send back to school by Friday 11th December.

We need everyone here by 8.30 including all those who are helping with transport. All helpers will need to sign the school transport safety forms. Please sunscreen your kids. If you are taking your children directly there you will need to let us know.

We’ll leave around 9.15 once everyone is registered and assigned. We’ll meet in the open area to the right of the bridge (where the junior playground is).

If the weather is bad, we will make the call to cancel by 8am. This will be posted on Facebook.

The day will start with morning tea and a safety talk. From around 10.15 we’ll ask everyone to spread themselves around the area. Children will then be free to move around the different dry activities (except Te Kakano who will stay together in a larger group). These activities are:

- Scooters and skateboards in the skatepark
- Bringing your own as well as suitable safety gear

Bikes on the BMX track (due to lack of space you can only bring bikes if your parent is bringing you)

- The awesome new junior and senior playgrounds
- Sand activities—Scultures and creations (sand tools welcome)
- Beach sports—Touch, cricket, etc.

Classes will be called through the morning to swim if they wish. This ensures there are plenty of people in the water or watching from the beach to keep them safe. It’s a nice incoming tide all day. There will be no bridge jumping. Children can bring boogie boards (these will be shared with other children too).

There will be another chance to swim later in the day.

Please pack the usual beach wear plus something warm to wear for after swimming. Children will need a packed lunch, water bottle and plenty of snacks. Everyone will get an ice-cream after lunch (juicies for the dairy-free kids...)

We’ll pack up and leave around 1.30. Anyone leaving early or staying on with their kids will need to sign them out.

Year 8s to Rainbow’s End

Our gift to our Year 8 leavers is a trip to Rainbow’s End—Beats a calculator any day! We’ll be heading up there next Thursday 10th December. We’ll leave at 8.30am and will return home around 5pm. They’ll need to bring a lunch for the day (or they can bring money) and can bring phones / cameras (though these are entirely their responsibility). Matt and Alyssa’s mum Katrina will be going—tough day!!

Whatawahata Secret Santa

So many school families were so generous last year providing a wrapped Christmas gift that the Whatawahata School Secret Santa and his little elf helpers delivered to local families that most needed a helping hand.

We are really hoping you could again provide a gift so we can make Christmas special for others within our Whatawahata community.

Please send wrapped gifts to school with a note saying who the gift would be suitable for (e.g. 8 – 10 year old boy) by Monday 14th December. Thanks in advance for making our local children very happy.

Reports and new classes

Our reports will come home with children on Wednesday 16th December. We’ve tweaked the report a bit to make it simpler to read and follow and have introduced an awesome new “how your child is growing” section—we love it! These represent a significant amount of work for teachers and we hope you find them enjoyable and informative.

In the same envelope you will find information about your child’s class and teachers for next year. You will also find their stationary list for next year.

Books and library books

Please, please, please have a really big hunt around at home for any school library books, school reading books, journals and other items that you may have from school. We spend a lot of money on these each year and would love to get every one back. Thanks!

Lost property

We have mountains of the stuff! We will reunite named items with owners but please come and check lost property on the picnic tables anytime before that. Cheers!

Last day plans

With teachers leaving, classes moving and the like it’ll be a slightly chaotic last couple of days. We’ll be asking the older children to help with moving resources and furniture.

On the last day we’re having a nice catered lunch for the staff and Board of Trustees. During this time we’ll put on a movie and popcorn and have all children in the Learning Centre.

School will finish at 2.30pm on that day with buses and after school care as normal.