

Puketaha School Newsletter



May 17th 2018

Welcome New Student - Anita O'Neill

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

This week I was fortunate to come across a Blog titled '*The problem with forced rankings*'. The blog alludes to the human desire to seek out the best option... best restaurant, best car, best coffee, best school etc and how people find it at times difficult to appreciate the answer of 'it depends'... as this puts the opinion and decision back with the individual and them to do the unpacking with what best means for them. For us here at Puketaha School, it is not (never has been) about being the best school, the best teacher or getting the best results, it is simply about being the best we can be and in comparison to none.

This idea is also in align with what we expect of our children. We are not about comparing each child against each other. But rather growing them and developing them from their current status quo to a new status quo, until our children develop an understanding that the status quo keeps shifting as they continue learning. Hopefully a lifelong behaviour.

You see the thing with comparisons, especially in a school context is it eliminates too many variables that actually make a difference, in order to put people into a linear line/race. It diminishes effort, motivation and the behaviours that lead to being better (not the best).

Therefore, the guidance for all moving forward is always keep the focus on the individual, celebrate their strengths, interests and goals. This is what we believe will continue to build motivated, engaged and self-determined learners.

Warm Regards

Geoff

Paid Union Meetings

You may have heard in the media lately the need to better resource our education sector and improve the conditions for Education Staff. **On Monday 25th June at 1.30pm** there will be a Paid Union Meeting for all teachers. We understand that closing our school causes disruption and at times frustration for you as parents. Therefore, we will be staying open for instruction on this day. However, we will be having an early pick up option at **12.45pm** on that day if you are in a position to do so. Thank you for your support.

Reporting to Parents on Student Progress & Achievement Policy.

This policy is being reviewed as part of a regular review cycle. If you would like to be a part of this process go to the [School docs](#) website, login with Puketaha and puketaha as the password and follow the instructions in the 'current review' tab.

Pink Shirt Day - Tomorrow - Friday 18th May

Speak up Stand Together Stop Bullying

Pink Shirt Day aims to create schools, workplaces and communities where all people feel safe, valued and respected. It is about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting positive social relationships.

There are plenty of pink stickers for those children who want to support this but don't own a pink shirt. For more info go to <https://www.pinkshirtday.org.nz/>



Key dates for Term Two

22 May - Morrinsville Netball/Rugby Funday

24 May - School Cross Country

31 May (Thursday) Powerful Learners Assembly 2pm

1 June Year 5 & 6 Arbor day planting

6 June EWCS Year 5-8 Cross Country

7 June E Pro8 Challenge - Yrs 5 & 6

8 June Tough Guy & Gal Challenge

8 June EPro8 Challenge Yrs 7 & 8

18 June BoT Meeting

20 June EWCS Technology Challenge

22 June Sports team photos

25 June Teachers Paid union meeting

29 June Quiz Night

5 July Year 5 -8 School Production

6 July Powerful Learners Assembly 2pm

School Cross-Country

On Thursday 24th May 2017, we will be having the Puketaha School Cross Country from 12:30pm - 2:45pm. We welcome parents to come along and support their children. All children ages 5 to 13 are expected to participate unless exempted for health reasons, with a note of explanation from parents.

Our course will include some farm components and for health and safety reasons all students are to wear suitable footwear such as sneakers or running shoes. This is an age group event starting at 12.30pm with the 12 year olds and older. Prizegiving is approximately 2pm – certificates for 1st, 2nd & 3rd.

Timetable - times are approx as events will run concurrently

12.30	12 years + girls, boys
12.40	11 years girls, boys
12.50	10 years girls, boys
1.00	9 years girls, boys
1.10	8 years girls, boys
1.20	7 years girls, boys
1.30	6 years girls, boys
1.40	5 years girls, boys
2.00	PRIZEGIVING
2.45	FINISH

P.T.A Quiz Night

The P.T.A are running their annual Quiz Night again for all who are interested. This year it will be on **Friday 29th June** (save the date) and will be held at the Eastern Suburbs Rugby Club in Flagstaff. More details to come in our next Newsletter.



Dear Families,

On Monday the school Board of Trustees had our first meeting for Term 2. As always we discussed the school's current financial position. One item of concern was the level of unpaid invoices (excluding annual school donations) which are now at a level that is just not sustainable.

As many of you know The Board and Staff are committed to providing a rich range of additional activities for children that run alongside and complement the everyday classroom programmes. These opportunities are extras and do come at a cost, which we are very transparent about. Currently, the Board is carrying a debt of over \$15,500.00 in unpaid invoices for the extra activities parents have chosen for their child to participate in this year alone.

We go to great lengths to ensure there is no disparity within our school and where financial hardship is a real issue we are always willing to support these families in any way we can. However, the school cannot continue to carry this level of debt and so we are asking that if you have unpaid invoices that you contact the school asap to either pay the outstanding amount or set up a payment plan. Copies of all unpaid invoices will be sent out again next week.

We thank you for understanding our position on this and supporting us to ensure we continue to be able to deliver the learning programmes and resources necessary for all children.

Ali Grigg

Student Medical Information

Please ensure that the school holds any current medical information that the school needs to be aware of for your child and that emergency contact details are up to date.

Community Notices

Fusion Marching Club

We would like to invite New Members “To GIVE MARCHING A GO” Ages: 5 years – 12 years. If you would like to join our Fusion Marching Club please contact for details:

Michelle: 021376288 or Fusion.marching.club@gmail.com.

Toolbox Parenting Courses

New Toolbox courses starting later this term. Contact Heather Bruce - The Parenting Place Waikato coordinator 027 544 8341 email: heather.bruce@parentingplace.nz or check the Parenting Place website

e² Young Engineers

(Young Engineers) is all about having **fun** while **learning** and it's here in Hamilton and Cambridge. A programme that is enjoyable for both girls and boys. Children will learn about the basic principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Physics by building motorised Lego models. For more information – please go to www.youngengineers.nz.

Confidence – school speeches - public speaking

After School Classes Kids gain real life skills!

Ring Roz 027 248 2888 www.speak4success.co.nz

