

Puketaha School Newsletter

August 23rd 2018



Congratulations to Sam Gordon & Jake Walters 1st place in the U12 National Schools Duathlon at Pukekohe.



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Recently as a team we have been having many rich conversations around learner agency, efficacy and teacher agency. As part of this discussion we are continuing to build our knowledge with how to keep building this within our children and of course ourselves. The driver being to ensure that our children become and remain active agents of their own learning, rather than passive, behavioural recipients. This requires being reflective, knowing what you are learning and how you (the learner) are progressing with the new learning. At times we often have children asking us “do you think this is good?” or “do you like this?”. This week the challenge I have put to the children is they are not allowed to ask the questions mentioned above, but instead talk to the teachers in a way that demonstrates they have reflected on their learning and know what they would like to celebrate, as well as what they feel they could continue working on. An example given to them is: “Mr Booth, I am proud of this work because...” “Mr Booth, I feel I have done well because...”, “Mr Booth I would like to see if I can...”. As you can see by changing the approach in which we seek feedback it puts the learner back in the driver seat, while at the same time leaving plenty of room for the teacher to partner them with where to next.

Building student agency (knowing yourself as a learner) and efficacy (how you feel about yourself as a learner) is critical for children to make progress. We know that when learners are passive in this process building these qualities in them become more challenging and they are less likely to take risks. It is therefore important we continue to ensure that our learners are reflective and very much involved in as many aspects of the learning process.

“Reflection is vital to learning and students who engage in it demonstrate better recall, creativity and problem-solving. Students who practice something then reflect on it outperform students who simply practice without reflection. “We do not learn from experience ... we learn from reflecting on experience.” John Dewey

Last newsletter I published the results from Part One of our Community Survey around Communication. This newsletter I would like to share back the feedback around our Health Curriculum. Once again, thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey. In short, the large majority thought the many areas we aim to cover are important and that the way in which we cover them should be complemented by the efforts at home. Please see the graphs on the insert.

Next week I will be away with the Year 7 and 8 Sports Camp team to Totara Springs. A fantastic element to our Year 7 and 8 programme. Deb, Ricky and I look forward to coming back in Week 7 to report back on the many successes.

Warm Regards

Geoff

Key Dates

Friday 24 August	Powerful Learners Assembly 2pm
Tues 28 August - Fri 31 August	Year 7 & 8 Sports Camp
Friday 31 August	Daffodil Day/ Crazy Hair day
Tuesday 4 September	PTA Meeting
Wed 5 September	EWCS Speech Finals
Monday 10 September	BoT Meeting
Tues 12 September	Year 6 Parent Evening 6pm - 7.30pm
Thursday 13 September -	Hiwi the Kiwi 9am - 10.40am
Thursday 27 September -	School Hangi \$5
Friday 28 September -	Powerful Learners Assembly. Last Day of Term

Cookie Sale

Thank you to everyone who supported the Kakano 2 cookie sale. The children were able to donate over \$300 to the SPCA.



Wild Hair Day for Cancer Society

The charity we are supporting this year is the Cancer Society. Next Friday there will be a wild hair day and coin trail. With all donations going to the Cancer Society daffodil appeal. We will also have daffodils for sale at the office.

Agricultural Day

Agricultural Day notices have been sent out to interested parents/ caregivers, email office@puketaha.school.nz if you would like to be on the mailing list or find out more about the day. Note: Due to limited entries there will be no calf competition at Agricultural Day this year.

Photos

Rōpū Kākano 1 & 2, and Rōpū Māhuri Mrs Olliver & Miss Warren will have their group photos taken tomorrow Friday 24th August.

From the Library

We are trialling audiobooks through the ePlatform for the rest of this term. Each child has access to the ePlatform, with their their full name as the username, eg. Joe.Bloggs and the password is Library1. Please contact the library on library@puketaha.school.nz if you have any questions or comments. Thanks, Whaea Emma.

Community Notices

Asthma Waikato

Asthma Waikato offers FREE asthma consults for families of children aged 0-15, living in the Waikato, who struggle with asthma. We accept self referrals. If your child suffers from asthma and you would like some help getting on top of it, please visit www.asthmawaikato.org.nz and fill in the online referral form by clicking the blue button top right "Make a Referral". We are here to help.

Support a Refugee Family in Hamilton!

Now is a good time to join NZ Red Cross! Register for a FREE training course and become a Refugee Support Volunteer. The role is to support a UN-quota refugee family during their first 3 months of resettlement in Hamilton: setting up a house, introducing the new arrivals to NZ culture and assisting them to find their way around. Training starts on Thursday 6 September. The five training sessions run mornings 9.30-12.30 and evenings 6-9pm on the 6th, 13th, 20th 27th September and 4th October. Held at the Red Cross, 422 Te Rapa Road, Hamilton.

For more information or to register contact Linda at Red Cross: linda.weijers@redcross.org.nz or 078250285

A graphic with a blue background and a white border. On the left, a vertical blue bar contains the text 'LABEL READING' in white. The main area features the 'Fruit Watchers' logo at the top right, which includes a cartoon character and the text 'Fruit Watchers strawberry'. Below the logo, there are three lines of text in different colors: 'NO ADDED SUGAR' in yellow, '25% LESS SUGAR' or 'MADE WITH 65% FRUIT JUICE' in purple, and 'Look at the label and pick products with less than 10g of sugar per 100g.' in black. At the bottom right, there is a small box with '8 watches per box' and '134g NET'. At the very bottom, it says 'Developed by Sport Waikato 2018'.