

Puketaha School Newsletter

March 29th 2018



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

As Easter looms around the corner and the change of season awaits in the close distance we naturally start to reflect on the season that has been and the many opportunities we experienced and relationships we have been lucky to build and strengthen. And while the term is far from over, Easter does allow us to appreciate the start of new beginnings, whatever they may be for people.

Often when I show around new families I am asked whether or not we still do 'tests'. My response to this question is simple, yes we do, however, they are no longer high stakes and we are able to put them in perspective as a point in time. I refer to them as taking the temperature. An example of this are our PAT tests (Progressive Achievement Test) All children from Year 3 up sit these tests in Mathematics and Year 4 up in Reading Comprehension. These tests are nationally normed and provide a great snapshot of how children are achieving in those areas, as well as give us a picture with each child's and their year groups progress over time. What is evident from these assessments are that every child is making progress and some cohorts are tracking higher than the national averages. It was nice to be able to share this data with our B.O.T on Monday evening.

Last Friday we had our Junior Swimming Sports and it was wonderful to see our little treasures have courage and showcase their swimming talents in front of their families. Thank you for taking the time to come in and join us to celebrate their successes with swimming this term.

Over the last couple of days we have had the privilege of connecting with you throughout our SLC's. These conferences are such an important part of annual reporting to parent process and we all very much enjoyed sharing your child's learning journey so far this year. In addition to this and arguably the most valuable element to these conferences are listening to the children share their learning. I have been so impressed with the children's agency throughout these conferences and how well they know themselves as learners. A big well done to all of them.

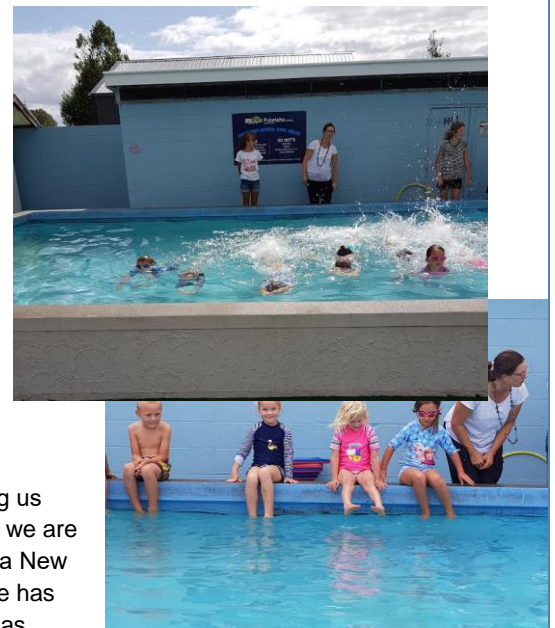
Next term we are opening Rōpū Kākano 9 for our new entrants that will be joining us next term and throughout the rest of the year. I am delighted to let you know that we are very fortunate to have Hayley Barnes as our Rōpū Kākano 9 Teacher. Hayley is a New Zealand trained teacher and has taught for over 15 years in Early Childhood. She has an excellent understanding of the stages and maturation of young children and has been working closely with the children of Ropu Kakano 1 for all of Term 1. We are excited about Hayley's appointment and the energy she will bring to the Junior Team, in addition she is very much looking forward to starting as a full time teacher next term.

Finally, if I could end with a small request. On Saturday 14th April (first Saturday of the holidays) we are holding a working bee here at school, starting at 9.30am. We are wanting to plant about 100 Griselinia plants for a new hedge on Sainsbury Road, plant a few extra plants around the Heart of the School to fill the gaps and move some mulch to top up our gardens. We will provide a sausage sizzle and refreshments for all. If you are able to let us know via Christine in the office if you are able to assist, that would be much appreciated. We expect it will only take a couple of hours.

I wish you all a very safe and happy Easter break, enjoy the time with your family.

Warm regards

Geoff Booth



Key dates for Term One

Easter Break - Friday 30th - Tuesday 3rd April
Friday 6th April Tough guy entries close
Friday 13 April Last day of term Powerful Learners Assembly 1.45pm
Saturday 14th April - Working Bee
Term Two starts Monday 30th April

Dates for Term 2

24 May - School Cross Country
1 June Year 5 & 6 Arbor day planting
6 June - EWCS Year 5-8 Cross Country
8 June - Tough Guy & Gal Challenge
22 June Sports Team Photos



IN BRIEF

Working Bee

Saturday 14th April. The school gardens need a bit of a tidy up and we have 200 new plants to plant around the school. If you can spare a couple of hours on Sat morning at 9am we would love to see you there.



Pool Keys

Please return all pool keys.

Sports Shirts

Could all sports shirts that have been loaned for Hockey, Touch & Cricket (Years 1 - 4 only) please be returned to the school office ASAP.

Sickness

To stop illness from spreading, it is important for students stay away from school when they are ill. How long they should be home depends on their illness.

The Ministry of Health gives school guidelines for how long children need to stay away from school if they are ill. <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/school-exclusion>.

Gastroenteritis - please note that the exclusion period for a child who has had a gastroenteritis bug is 48 hours from the time of the last symptom.

Absence from School

All absences and lateness need to be reported to the school office. This can be done via the absence line - 020 404 28607, through the school app by phoning the school 07 8243870 or via email office@puketaha.school.nz.

Movie Night

Join us to watch Disney's The BFG (G rating) on the big outdoor screen On Friday 6th April. Tickets available from the School Office. Limited car places available so book now.

Community Notices

Netball Holiday Programme

For Yr 1 - 8 to be held at Minogue Park Netball Courts, Monday 16th April & Tuesday 17th April 9am - 4pm
Register at: www.netballhamilton.org.nz, Closing date for registration and payment Thursday 12th April 2018, no late registrations and payments will be accepted. For any further information please email: admin@netballhamilton.org.nz

Hamilton BMX Club

Reminder we have our Wednesday club nights running from 5.15pm racing @ 6pm. New riders first 3 club nights are FREE. Riders must be fully covered eg: long pants, long sleeve top & covered shoes. We have bikes & helmets for hire \$2 each.