

Puketaha School Newsletter



February 15th 2018

Welcome new students: Marangi Tewhare, Milla Goodin, Mason Rabarts, Phoebe Hurst, Maddyson Dick

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Thank you to all our families who attended our Meet the Teacher Family Picnic last Thursday. It was another wonderful example of community and it is one of those occasions that always makes me feel so humbled and privileged to be the Principal of our special place. During the evening many people asked how the year had started and the answer is simple "best so far". While I feel like a bit of a fraud when saying this as it seems to be the same answer I find myself giving every year, it is the honest one. I, along with our team are simply delighted with how the children have transitioned into both their new environment or new make up of children.

This is a credit to you our parents and caregivers who support the children to ensure they arrive here with all they need and to our incredible team, who have ensured they invested the necessary time over the break to plan and prepare. Their presence in our spaces are obvious and I would like to thank all them for their energy to their role.

On Monday we will be holding our first BoT meeting for the year. At this meeting we will look at, discuss and decide our strategic direction through our Charter for the coming year. Often when we talk about strategic direction we can fall into the trap of looking at narrow and short term outcomes, that at times, while quite tangible, are often not sustainable nor overly beneficial for achieving goals such as a love for learning. We are fortunate to have a BoT that thinks broader than this, broader with the big picture and broader with what's best for our children, not just today, but well beyond their immediate future. Personalising Learning and designing programmes that embrace childrens' interests, gifts and talents, while also tailoring to their maturation and stage are the fundamental components to our Charter. As you can see it is centred around our children.

Next Thursday we are holding our first Parent Information Evening starting at 6.30pm, and aiming to finish by 8.00pm. The focus for the evening is understanding the developmental stages of our children, with a focus on up to 6 years of age as well as looking at the use of digital tools. Trust me, there will be something for everyone at this evening and I strongly encourage you to join us. Children are welcome and we will provide some supervision for them. Refreshments will also be provided. Please RSVP by Wednesday 21st February.

Finally, we continue to strive that our communication to you is both informative and timely. There has been (and today is no different) lots of communication going home. Please do take the time to read the emails and App alerts, and take note of the key dates that relate to you and your children.

Warm regards

Geoff Booth

Key dates for Term One

Friday 16 Feb

Last day for Scholastic Orders / Sausage sizzle for Fun Friday - \$2

Monday 19 Feb	BoT Meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday 20th Feb	PTA AGM 7pm
Thursday 22 Feb	Parent Information Evening – Early Years & Digital Technology 6.30pm – 8.00pm
Friday 23 Feb	Try Challenge
Friday 2 March	Powerful Learners Assembly 2pm
4-9 March	Year 7 & 8 Camp – Tongariro
14 – 16 March	Year 5 & 6 Camp - Raglan
Monday 19 March	Swimming Sports Year 3-8 DATE CHANGED
Friday 23 March	Junior Swimming Sports Year 1 & 2
Monday 26 March	BoT Meeting
26-29 March	Book Fair Week
Tuesday 27 March	Student Led Conferences 3.15pm-5.30pm
Wednesday 28 March	Student Led Conferences 2-8pm
Thursday 29 March	Grandparents Day
Tuesday 3 April	School Holiday (Tuesday after Easter)
Friday 13 April Last day of term	Powerful Learners Assembly 1.45pm

School Gen Project

We have entered Puketaha School into a Genesis Energy Competition called the School Gen Competition which is giving away three prizes \$10,000.00, \$15,000.00 and \$25,000.00 to schools with the most votes. To keep it fair they are averaging the votes received by the size of your school, so smaller schools are not disadvantaged. If you could support us and spread the word that would be great. You can vote once each day. The school with the most votes wins. Link to the website is: <http://www.schoolgen.co.nz/voteforyourschool/>

School Sports Shorts

You may have noticed that Kukri are the new supplier of our Sports Uniform. Kukri is a far better quality of clothing and have been great to deal with. As a result we are selling Black School Sports Shorts that I would like all children representing our school in sport to wear. They are \$25.30 each. As a dad the price per wear works out to be very economical. Please see Christine to make your order.

PTA News

The PTA AGM is next Tuesday night (20th Feb) , 7pm in the staff room ,all welcome for the election of officers and to set our plan for the new year. We would love to have some more members so please come along and see what we are about (no experience necessary)

Fun Fridays start again this week (\$2 sausages) . If you are able to help out at some stage through the year either with order taking or food prep please send your details to johnng@xtra.co.nz or phone Diane 021636651

Parking

A reminder to parents and caregivers picking up their children to please cross the road at the main gate on Sainsbury Road and use the footpath behind the parked cars. For safety reasons we do ask that parents come in to school to collect their children please, this includes parents who park in the Puketaha Road carpark.

Fee Payment

Payment can be set up through Kindo - if you have not already signed up the link is via the School Website. Cash payments can be made at the office. Please see Christine Jeffery at the School Office or phone 07 824 3870 if you have any questions about fee payments.

Tax Credit Claims

Individuals with taxable incomes can claim back a proportion the School Donation through the IRD. Forms are available from the School Office

Grandparents Day - 29th March

Grandparents day will be held on Thursday 29th March starting at 11am in the PAC (school hall) for morning, there will be an opportunity to visit the learning spaces and share a picnic lunch (BYO) with the children.

Try Challenge

This years Try-Challenge event will take place next **Friday 23rd February**. Children will take part in a Triathlon type challenge similar to last year where they swim, bike and run on our school grounds. Below are a few details about the day so you can come and enjoy the fun. A separate notice will be sent out via email with more details.

Approximate times:

Year 8 - 10.30am Year 7 - 11.00am Year 6 - 11.30am Year 5 - 12.00pm	Lunch Break 12.30 - 1pm	Year 4 - 1.00pm Year 3 - 1.20pm Year 2 - 1.40pm Year 1 - 2.00pm
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Please note all times are approximate and we encourage you to arrive early to ensure you get to see and support your child.

Students can start bringing their bike, helmet and shoes, as of **Wednesday 21st February** and leave them here locked in their learning environments. The day is once again planned to be an exciting, fun and challenging day. We look forward to seeing you.

Tough Guy/Gal Challenge

This event will be held in Hamilton and our school is planning to compete on **Friday 8th June**. Parents enter children online themselves. Put in your full school name and tick the box to say 'Teacher will collect the race bag'. The cost for the Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge is \$25 if paid a minimum of two weeks before the event.

Entry Types

Ankle Biters: School Years 3 and 4 - 1.5km one lap course

Little Nippers: School Years 5 and 6 - 3km one lap course

Big Rascals: School Years 7 and 8 - 3km one lap course

Community Notices

Waikato Expressway - Hamilton section

NZTA project update - February 2018 The team building the Hamilton section of the Waikato Expressway have been hitting some key milestones lately and you can catch up on all the progress in the February Project Update out this week. Mark down Saturday 3 March for the 2018 public information day. This year we can get people out and about on part of the expressway by bus. Read the Hamilton project update [here](#) or go to <http://nzta-waikatoexpressway>

Suburbs Community Sports Club

Junior Rugby Weigh-in Sunday 11th March 10am-2pm, At Suburbs Community Sports Club, Flagstaff Park, Commodore Ave, Hamilton, Ages 4-12 years, boys and girls all welcome. All new players are required to bring a birth certificate or passport. For further details go to www.hamiltonsuburbs.co.nz or contact Brendon Stone 0274846013

Gymnastics Academy

Term 1 Gymnastic Academy has already started up on Tuesdays, classes are 3pm & 4pm, book online at <http://www.thegymnasticacademy.com> or call Marie 0211705426.

Waikato Schools Symphonic Band

WSSB have an Open Rehearsal on Thursday 22nd February 2018 at St Pauls Collegiate, Hamilton from 5:45pm. The band is comprised of students from many different primary, intermediate and high schools in the Waikato. We meet weekly on a Thursday during term time to practice and compete and perform at various events throughout the year. We are looking to recruit new players and would welcome the opportunity to show you what we do and how you can be part of it! Please feel free to contact us at waikssb@gmail.com if you have any questions.