

Term1, Week 6 – Wednesday 8 March 2017

Kia ora families

One of the great New Zealand traditions is school camp. Each year when I go to camp I am reminded of the incredible value of these three days. They provide an opportunity for children to:

- Find out how others live
- Be challenged to try new experiences
- Have to eat food they might not like
- Make new friendships and relationships through challenges and camp activities
- Get to know their teachers in a different context and for teachers to get to know students
- Use team work to solve real problems
- Be challenged to try things that are outside their comfort zone

Camp also gives opportunity for staff to get to know parents and build relationships. The reality is staff also put huge hours into camp preparation and then time away from their families for the duration of the camp. I want to thank the staff for their time and effort (if you are a parent of a child in Rangi Community please take the time to thank the team) and also the parent helpers, many of whom took time off work to help and finally the PTA for their financial support.

Take care,
Neill O'Reilly, Principal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Dear Parents,

We met last week for our first full meeting of the year. At the meeting our primary focus was the final approval of our 2017 targets and annual plans contained in the schools 2017-2020 Charter. We also reviewed a number of policies and approved the upcoming camps. The meeting concluded with the election of offices for our Board for 2017. The team and roles remains unchanged in 2017:

- Andrew Shipley - Board Chair
- Steve Sheere - Treasurer
- Ben Naylor - Health and Safety
- Danielle Thompson - Policies and Procedures
- Chrissie Balloch - Communications / Personnel
- Joy Banks - Staff Representative

2017 Annual Plan Summary

The school is working well toward the aspirational goals of 95% of all year 6 graduates leaving our school at or above the National Standards, of increasing self-regulation and positive hauora (well-being).

We have four targets this year to focus our resourcing, professional learning and support:

1. To improve writing outcomes in year 3
2. To improve mathematical outcomes school wide
3. To improve the self-regulation of our children, our REAL Learning Heroes
4. To achieve silver status as an Enviroschool

Each goal has a detailed plan to ensure progress is achieved. With our maths and self-regulation goals we are very fortunate to be supported by leading New Zealand Educators who have conducted groundbreaking research in recent years.

Maths

Associate Professor Roberta (Bobbie) Hunter and her team from the University of Waikato began working with staff in the summer holiday. Your children may be talking about maths being slightly different this year. What the research tells us, and the evidence supports, is that when children learn maths through meaningful contexts and culturally relevant problems they are more about to use mathematical strategies and progress at a faster rate compared to traditional maths focused on numeracy. Children will learn to solve problems in groups, explaining their reasoning in their sessions with the teacher, followed by opportunity for independent and group practice. We will be running some parent sessions later in the term to tell you more. If you would like to do some of your own research in the meantime the approach is call "Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities" ([DMIC](#))

Self Regulation

The team have been very fortunate to have Dr Lyn Bird (Principal of Selwyn House School) share her doctoral research with the school and in particular her online modules designed to help staff understand more about developing the skills of self-regulated learning in children. During the year the school will develop consistent strategies to support student self-regulation. Professor [Laurence Steinberg](#) of Temple University (USA) says *"The capacity for self-regulation is probably the single most important contributor to achievement, mental health and social success"* Our goal is to provide students with strategies, systems and habits that will enhance their self-regulation. This is also a goal the schools in the Ōtākaro Community of Learners (Shirley Primary, Intermediate and Shirley Boys High, Banks Ave, Chisnallwood and Avonside Girls High) and the schools will be working together over the years ahead to do all we can to help your child become a self-regulated learner.

Writing

The team will continue to provide targeted support to accelerate learning for children in writing especially in year 3. The BoT will be monitoring progress over the year.

Going for Silver!

Waitākiri School has been a school that achieved beyond expectations since it began in 2014. The team have really set themselves a big challenge in 2017. They want to achieve the silver award as an [Enviroschool](#). This is a lofty goal for any school let alone a relatively new school of nearly 700 children and 60 staff but the team are confident with a dedicated Enviro Ferns team and supportive parents (get into that Nood Food folks) that we can once again achieve beyond expectations.

The full Annual Plan and Charter are uploaded on our website under General Information.

Policy Reviews

EOTC

The Board considers the EOTC policy critically important. Under the new Health and Safety requirements our policies require stringency and the process to compile efficient H&S

documentation is lengthy, to ensure we cover all potential scenarios. Our policy review and feedback from staff, BoT and parents shows our policy to be robust with effective implementation.

SUN PROTECTION

In response to feedback regarding additional sunshade protection we have three new shade umbrellas throughout the school as well as positive confirmation that many students use the shaded verandah area during terms 1 and 4. We also have many lovely large trees to provide shade in addition to the indoor options during lunch break.

Sunscreen is available in every studio and it is suggested that families remind children of its availability to use, as an application of sunscreen before school in the mornings may not last them throughout the day.

We acknowledge that Christchurch weather often means our children would benefit from sunhats in some months within terms 2 and 3 and would encourage families to send children with hats to wear during this time. Our policy of compulsory hats in terms 1 and 4 covers the months with the highest UV risk. Teachers and staff work very hard to encourage children to take responsibility for sun sense and also monitor the use of hats.

Overall all feedback indicated people are content with the implementation of our Sun Protection and EOTC policies.

The Board is pleased by the amount of feedback provided in our policy reviews and encourage this feedback to continue.

We have placed a Drop Box in the REAL CHOICES room for our community to use as another means of communicating comments and suggestions to our team. The Board is always keen to hear from our community and encourage your feedback and thoughts; that is what we are here for.

Please feel free to get in touch via the Drop Box or phone. Cell phone numbers for Andrew Shipley and Chrissie Balloch are provided on the school website under 'Board Of Trustees.'

We do hope you have enjoyed the start to 2017 at Waitākiri School. It is wonderful to see the children thriving in our stunning learning environment and to see our dedicated and skilled staff working to ensure that each and every child progresses and has a positive sense of well-being.

Chrissie Balloch, Waitākiri School BoT

LEARNING HERO MORNING TEA

Congratulations to the Learning Heroes from Korimako Studio who had a Learning Hero Morning Tea with Mr O'Reilly last week. Pictured right are Alyssa, Izzy, Tristan,

Hunter, Lucas, Darnae, Caleb, Sofia, Shelby, Jack and Tyler.



PICNIC WITH THE PRINCIPAL

Congratulations to the Learning Heroes who had a Picnic with Miss Reynolds & Mr O'Reilly yesterday. Pictured left are Sharleah, Olivia, Paige, Cole & Rhys.

PTA MEETING

All are welcome to attend the next PTA meeting on Monday 13 March 2017 in the staff room at 7.15pm. We are always happy to have new members join or just come and see what we are about.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Waitākiri School home group and individual photos will be taken on Wednesday 15 March at school. Family photos will not be taken this year, as this is done every second year only.

THANK YOU!

We have a family of the school who have donated \$500 toward camp costs for families who might be struggling to pay for camp this year. We are so thankful to this type of support and a recent family who donated money so other families can afford the swimming lessons. It is acts like these that remind us we have REAL heroes in our school community as well!

Thank you so much!

Wanted.....Gardeners.

We need some keen gardeners who could help our Enviro team to develop, plant and maintain our edible garden.

We require one or two people who are able to commit to helping the children at lunch time (12.45 to 1.30pm) one day a week.



Please contact either

Woody ian.woodward@waitakiri.school.nz

or

Glennys Hill glennys.hill@waitakiri.school.nz

WAITAKIRI OSCAR HOLIDAY PROGRAMME AVAILABLE NOW

Tuesday 18th April to Friday 28th April
Juniors years 1-3 & Seniors years 4-8

Contact Amanda for more details
amanda.murray@waitakiri.school.nz

WAITAKIRI SCHOOL FUND RAISER PHOTO SHOOT!

NZ Family Portraits are holding a photo shoot at Waitakiri School!



DATE: Sunday 5 March 2017

We have arranged to take your 10x13" (253x330mm) colour or black/white Family Portrait normally valued at \$70.00 for only **\$15.00** This is absolutely Great Value!! Other Photos are available. Family, friends, neighbours, relatives all welcome, even the family dog may like to join in.

The venue is Waitakiri School. We will confirm your appointment time. It is important to keep to the appointment time to ensure minimal delay. An adult member of the family or group must be in the photo. Viewing and collection of your portrait will be approximately 10 days.

Postponed to Sunday 26th March - book in now!
Everyone who books a photo session goes in the draw to win a FREE photo pack worth \$200

For Bookings and Enquiries –

Shoot Coordinator – Amie Lines - text only - 021 1092 027

Email – amie.lines@me.com

The bearer of this voucher is entitled to receive one 253mm x 330mm (10" x 13") **FAMILY PORTRAIT**. Please note – customers must view their own portraits or offer is void, no refund will be made if you fail to keep appointment.

Important : this voucher may NOT be used to photograph children unless taken with parent or guardian

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Please register by returning this voucher with \$15.00 ASAP to the shoot coordinator.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____ Email _____

If you would like a paper copy of this notice, please collect one from the PTA notice board
In the CHOICE Room



Students from 13 Christchurch primary schools have been planning, planting, watering and creating their very own garden installation for the 3rd Oderings School Gardens Show. Come along and vote for your favourite garden in the people's choice award!



This year Waitākiri School has entered the Oderings School Gardens Show. A group of year 4 children from Travis and Ōtākaro have spent lots of their time planning and creating a design that represents our theme Māui and the Sun. The show will be open at the Woolston Club from Friday 10 March - Sunday 12 March.
Friday - 10am - 5pm
Saturday 10am - 5pm
Sunday 10am - 3pm.

Please feel free to come down and show your support!

Enviro News

from the FERNS



The school has recently been planting some flax plants and securing the stepping stones at the backfield.

DID YOU KNOW????

Most supermarkets now have 'Soft plastic Recycling Bins'. That means anything that can be scrunched up can go in there...including your one use plastic bags!!! Please use these bins to reduce the amount of plastic rubbish in our environment.



COMMUNITY NOTICE

Kindergarten spaces available

Woolley Street Kidsfirst Kindergarten currently have spaces available Monday-Friday 8.30am-2.30pm for children aged 2-5years at our kindergarten. We are a local kindergarten within the Waitākiri Primary School community and can take preschool aged children who may be looking for a local kindergarten. All welcome to come and visit us at any time.



In September my Dad is going to China to trek the Great Wall to raise money for people with Leukemia and Blood Cancer. We would really appreciate it if you came to our yoga night. Yoga is a fun activity to do as it relieves stress and stretches your muscles to keep you fit and healthy. Come along even if you've never tried yoga before.

Under 16: \$5 donation

Adult: \$10 donation

All donations go to LBC

Date: Friday 31st March

Time: 6:00 - 7:30pm

Venue: Waitakiri School Hall 170 Burwood Rd



For more information and to RSVP please contact:
021 364 766

tommyolliver@hotmail.com

www.facebook.com/pg/tommysgreatwallchallenge

INSPIRED
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