



PUHINUI SCHOOL Newsletter



7 April 2016

Newsletter No. 2016/05

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

END OF TERM: Term one ends next Friday, the 15th of April, at the usual time of 3.00 p.m. School commences again on Monday, the 2nd of May, at the usual time of 8.50 a.m. I hope that all of our students have a well deserved break from school and enjoy their free time and increased freedoms over the holidays. We look forward to seeing all of our students for the new term on Monday, May the 2nd.

SCHOOL FRONTAGE: We met with Watercare engineers early this week to ascertain where we can plant trees along the school frontage. Given the extensive Watercare infra-structure buried under the grassed front area of the school, the placement of trees is critical. Once their placement has been established, planting to enhance the area will commence.

SUPPORT PROGRAMMES: Not all children learn at the same rate and in the same way. Children have had, in some cases, vastly different experiences prior to their school life and as such, some children require additional assistance with their learning. We have a long established Learning Support Unit managed by our SENCO, Mrs Lorraine Borrie. Mrs Borrie has a team of learning tutors who help targeted students in learning programmes to assist with language and reading development. Students requiring help are timetabled through the unit on a daily basis. There is also one-to-one assistance for targeted children in the classroom learning environments. The learning assistance resources and programmes include:

P.M. Reading, Reading Teacher of Literacy Support, Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour, Soryl Phonics, Speech Language Therapy, Patch Play, ESOL oral language programmes, Occupational Therapy.

SUMMER SPORTS FELD DAY: On Tuesday the 22nd of March, our school cricket and softball teams competed in the Papatoetoe combined schools summer sports field day. Our teams performed very well against some very good competition. Our girls softball, cricket and boys cricket all gained 4th placings overall, while our boys softball team gained 1st place overall. Well done to everyone competing.

BOT ELECTIONS: The timetable for the pending BOT elections is as follows:

Close the main roll at noon	Wednesday 4 May
Call For Nominations by	Friday 6 May
Close the Supplementary Roll noon	Wednesday 18 May
Nominations close noon by	Friday 20 May
Voting papers sent by	Wednesday 25 May
Close Poll election day noon	Friday 3 June
Count votes	Thursday 9 June
Board takes office	Friday 10 June

If there are any queries regarding the elections that are not explained on the documentation, which you will receive in due course, please do not hesitate to ring the school on 278-8703.

SAMPLES OF CHILDREN'S WRITING: A major focus for curriculum review and teacher professional development this year is that of writing. Whereas writing and reading are closely interlinked and complimentary to one another, the writing process is, in terms of teaching and learning, defined by its structure, comprising of:

Planning which includes: thinking about **What, When, Where, Who and Why**, the chosen topic, characters, setting, content, purpose, intended audience, discussing ideas with others, drawing, sequencing of ideas and visualising.

Drafting and recording which includes: initially writing ideas in sequence to shape the storyline, including elements of the above. Focusing on vocabulary, interesting ways to express ideas, spelling and grammar.

Editing and proofreading which includes: reading carefully to identify spelling and grammatical errors, better ways to express the ideas, more suitable use of language, the structure of the language, including personal voice and personal experience wherever possible.

Publishing which includes: presenting the finished piece of writing ready for sharing in whatever way is preferred, e.g. handwriting, computer, captioned pictures, charts.

Sharing which involves: reading to/with peers, teachers, parents, presenting at syndicate and whole school assemblies.

Our goal is to develop, in our students the essential writing skills, in order for them to be able to express themselves in a number of different genre for different purposes. We also hope that our students will develop a like, if not, a love of writing.

Included below are some examples of student writing.

Senior School Sample

Maybe next time

By Nathan Taule'alo

Room 7

My eyes focus on the clappers like a hawk, waiting for them to snap together like a crocodile! Sweat drips down my skin, then suddenly...Snap! A majestic dive by me and my fellow competitors as we broke the surface of the water. As I swing my arms with all my might I look back and see a shadow streaking behind, "at least I'm not last" I think to myself. But Meilani had to steal the crown from me and take the win! I give him an evil glare but he doesn't even notice. My Mum who was in the crowd tried to cheer me up, "maybe next time, maybe next time."

Middle School Sample

A sensory poem about Autumn

By Harshita Saini

Room 18

*Autumn looks like dead leaves falling gently off the trees.
Autumn sounds like crunchy leaves crashing into each other
Autumn smells like cold air blowing in the blue sky.
Autumn tastes like sweet chocolate.
Autumn feels like orange and yellow leaves crunching under my feet.*

Junior School Sample

Catching Insects

By Sita Hill-Tupou

Room 12

An insect catcher can be made out of all types of objects. They can be made out of cardboard and plastic. When we catch an insect we trap them in our insect catcher. Then we can watch how an insect moves.

SUGARY DRINKS: There has been much discussion in the media of late, regarding taxing fizzy drinks and for schools to declare their respective individual environments fizzy drink free, in an attempt to address the issue of childhood obesity. As a staff we have been very interested in observing the drinks brought to school by our students. We certainly don't see unhealthy drinks in any quantity at all. We see fruit juice, water, milk, which is provided by the school, and of course students drinking water from the drinking fountains situated around the school. It appears that our parents, are thinking parents, who want their children to eat and drink healthily, which again is of no surprise to us. We encourage all of our families to consume food and beverages which are healthy rather than the alternative.

The balance of diet intake and activity output is the key to our children's health. If the calories consumed is matched by the calories used in activities undertaken, there is no weight gain and core strength development. At Puhinui School we focus on the activity side of the equation, through our daily fitness, sport, swimming and regular P.E lessons. The great majority of our children are very fit, and as a consequence, very healthy.

MUFTI DAY: Next Friday the 15th of April, Puhinui School is having a mufti day to raise awareness of the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust. The Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust provides a dedicated 24-hour a day, seven day a week service that makes a life or death difference for thousands of people every year.

LUCKY LUNCH WINNER: Well done to Topeto Pulotu from Room 24 who was the lucky lunch winner from the last newsletter. On Mondays or Fridays, the lucky lunch winner is able to order their free lunch from the auditorium.



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Please sign and return this slip to school tomorrow so your child's name can be entered in the draw for a free school lunch.

Parent's signature _____ Child's name _____ Room _____