



PUHINUI SCHOOL Newsletter



16 February 2017

Newsletter No. 2017/02

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I'd like to begin this newsletter by saying a big thank you for all the friendly smiles, handshakes and greetings I have received since the beginning of the year. I have thoroughly enjoyed being back here at Puhinui School and reconnecting with many familiar families, parents and whanau. For those whom I have just met, this is my third time back at Puhinui School. I began here as a beginning teacher in 1999 and right from day one it has been the school that I have always compared others to. Now as Principal, I feel very fortunate to be supported by such a great staff, and great community with amazing children. The best way I can describe it is by saying "it feels like coming home". So thank you all once again. I am looking forward to this year and serving our community. Best wishes Mark Elder, Principal.

TEACHER ONLY DAY: On Monday we had a full staff revision workshop with Yolanda Soryl on phonemic awareness. Essentially, phonemic awareness is the critical understanding of how we map our English language speech sounds and use letters to help express these when we read and write. For many students they find it easy to learn to read by putting these sounds and letters together. For others it is hard work. In a school we have a wide range of students that fit between these two groups. This professional development with Yolanda, was a chance for us to extend our understanding of phonemic awareness and to discuss how we systematically ensure our students are given the opportunity to develop these important literacy skills. This is one of our focus areas for 2017 and over this year we will continue refining our teaching practices around phonemic awareness.

Helping Develop Phonemic awareness at home: Here's a hot tip, did you know nursery rhymes, rhyming words, poems and songs are all key fundamentals for developing pre-reading skills before school. So parents if you have any toddlers, and pre-school children this is a great way to prepare them for school.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: All families should have received a parent conference letter, yesterday (Wednesday the 15th). Please check with your child if you didn't receive this form. The parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday the 1st of March. This will allow parents to discuss how their child has settled into their new class and how they are working and socialising while at school.

Reminder! On the 1st of March, the learning programmes will finish at 12.40 p.m. Students will eat their lunch at school, have a short play and then go home at 1.30 p.m. This is so the conferences can start at 1.40 p.m. We certainly apologise for any inconvenience that this will cause parents. We look forward to seeing as many parents as is possible.

CONSTABLE DIMITRIOUS VISIT: On Tuesday afternoon we had a visit from our school community police officer, Constable Dimitrious Laurenson. It was great to see him at school. While we were at the front gate a mum was walking with her little son. He came up to Constable Dimitrious and said hello to him. It was lovely to see the young boy shake his hand and have a chat with him. I have extended an open invitation to Constable Dimitrious and he knows he is welcome to visit us at anytime, the children love to see him.

PARKING AND STUDENT SAFETY: One of the reasons Constable Dimitrious came to visit was to check on how well our parents are parking, dropping off and picking up their children before and after school. He stayed a while at the end of the day and talked to a number of parents about parking along Puhinui Road. We appreciate that it is hard for parents in terms of the very limited parking we have outside our school gates. Unfortunately, parents please note, no one should be stopping in the cycle way and on the yellow lines along Puhinui Road. Luckily, however, we do have parking close by in Fitzroy Street, Norman Spencer Drive, and Tavistock Street, which is close to the pedestrian crossing. Parents please remember we have a lot of students coming through the gates every day and we need to keep them all safe from harm when they are arriving to and departing from school. Please help us keep our community and children safe.

GRAYSON AVENUE ACCESSWAY: This has been designed as a drop off zone in the mornings and a pick up zone at the end of school. The parking is limited and cannot accommodate parking for everyone. When parents show patience and consideration for others and just how the facility works, traffic flows and children are dropped off and picked up successfully. Staff members are on duty to help facilitate this happening. They may have to talk to parents and guide them. Please don't take offence to this as they are trying to keep your children safe.

SPLISH, SPLOSH, SPLASH DAY: Last Friday, our Junior School students held their annual splish, splosh, splash day. This is a fun day where the students are involved in a number of cool water activities including, slippery water slides, jumping through the sprinklers, water obstacle course, blowing bubbles and other fun water based games. The junior teachers have been running this day for many years and it is interesting to see how over time it has evolved into the great fun day it is now.

Although the day is all about the students enjoying themselves, it is also about helping them grow in confidence around water, in that respect it is a nice part of our swimming programme for the students. An extra bonus for us is in using the excitement of the day, as a writing topic back in class. The quality of student writing is always enhanced when they have experienced something, which has motivated them to write. We can see this in the examples of student writing we have attached for you to read and enjoy.

On Splish, Splosh, Splash day I liked Miss Walker's obstacle course because we have to tip water on your head. When we tip the water on our head the water is so cold. When I was back standing behind the cone my hair was cold.
Chloe, Room 9

I like the obstacle course. It was so much fun because I tipped water on my head. The water was cold.
Pay't'n, Room 9

My favourite part was shooting the rubber ducks. I felt cold.
Gurjashan, Room 11

My favourite part was putting the sponge in the bucket and throwing the sponge to Miss Ashley.
Avantika, Room 11

Well done to all the junior teachers and especially to Miss Kylie Chapman for coordinating the event.

SWIMMING SPORTS: Yesterday, we had the Middle and Senior swimming sports day. As with the junior fun water day, our swimming sports have a number of important outcomes for our students. Firstly, enjoying being in the water together as a team. Secondly, growing confidence of being in the water. Our third important reason is that we can take the skills the students are learning and apply them in competitive and non-competitive races. Finally, we get to enjoy being active, encourage others and developing our sense of belonging. Well done to the students. It was a great day yesterday! Congratulations and thank you to Mr Mohammed Khan for coordinating the Middle School swim sports and to Mr Ezra Feau for coordinating the Senior School swim sports.

CLASS PHOTOS: Class photos will be taken on Monday the 27th of February in the auditorium. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE: Bizzy Bodz provide before and after school care on the school site from Monday to Friday. If you would like any information regarding the care and cost please contact Jo Adamson on 530 9020 or collect a brochure from the school office.

LUCKY LUNCH WINNER: Well done to Isabella Liou from Room18 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 _____