



# PUHINUI SCHOOL

# Newsletter



12 May 2016

Newsletter No. 2016/06

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**WELCOME BACK FOR TERM TWO:** Welcome back to all of our students and parents for Term 2. I hope all of our students had a restful time and recharged their batteries for the new term and of course, the onset of the colder months ahead. Enclosed is the term overview so parents will see the many events both in classrooms and on a syndicate and school wide basis.

**SENIOR SCHOOL HEALTH TALKS:** Last Friday, we held our senior school health talks separately for girls and boys. Our boys' talks focused mainly on appropriate hygiene, as we grow older and the importance of showering and changing clothes regularly. We also discussed some aspects of the changes that do occur to us all, as we reach puberty, when boys have growth spurts and start to notice body shape changes. The girls' discussions also focused on hygiene and looking after our bodies and also included changes in their bodies as we reach puberty.

Both boys and girls discussions were lead by experienced teachers, which the students know and relate well to. Discussions were very informal and informative, allowing for students to ask questions for any explanation and/or clarification. Our students were extremely interested in the discussions and asked sensible, responsible questions. It is very important that when discussing changes to our bodies as we reach puberty, children receive appropriate, factual information from responsible adults, so they are able to understand what is happening to them as they develop through pubertal changes into their teenage years.

Many thanks to the teaching staff involved in the discussions and also to our senior school students for their active, sensible contributions to the success of the programmes.

**'KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE':** Many thanks to the parents who attended the information sharing meeting regarding the 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' programmes being taught at all levels of the school during weeks one, two and three of this term. Our students will be involved in a series of topics, focusing on how they can keep themselves safe in various situations which may or may not arise. They may bring aspects of the work home to discuss with parents. Also, thanks to our teachers who contributed to the evening.

**WELCOME TO TRAINEE TEACHER AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS:** We regularly have trainee teachers from both Auckland and AUT Universities completing their practicums assigned to various classes throughout the school. It is a chance for them to further develop their teaching skills, management techniques and general knowledge of the curriculum and how it is delivered.

**ALL MEETING:** Thanks to our parents who attended the Accelerating Literacy Learning (ALL) meeting on Tuesday evening. Our ALL programmes are certainly making a difference to children's reading. The key, of course, for all reading improvement is actually, doing more reading, everyday. All of our students should be reading both independently and to, or with, people at home every evening. We have suggested to parents in past newsletters to switch off T.V.s and computers for thirty minutes, at an agreed time, so children will become more involved in regular reading and establish a desire to read more. Thirty minutes reading each night will make a huge difference to your child's ability to read and understand what they have read.

**SENIOR SCHOOL ELECTRICITY SHOW:** As part of our 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' focus, our senior school classes attended a presentation from Vector yesterday to discuss keeping safe around electricity in a variety of potentially dangerous situations, around the house, whilst at school or any other environment where there are electrical outlets. The discussion focused on understanding electricity and strategies to help us remain safe, as well as knowing what to do in the event of someone receiving an electric shock.

**SENIOR SCHOOL STARDOME TRIP:** As part of our science topic, all of our senior school students will be visiting the Stardome tomorrow, the 12th of May. The focus for the visit is 'Our Place, Our Space', including a Māori emphasis regarding Matariki and the solar system. The experience will be the basis for discussions and research in the student's respective classrooms for the duration of the study focus.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION:** This is a reminder regarding the timetable for the election process, in order to elect the Board of Trustees, of Puhinui School.

Close the roll at Noon	Wednesday 4 May	Completed
Call for nominations	Friday 6 May	Completed
Close the supplementary roll	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	
New Board takes office	Friday 10 June	

All parents and caregivers will have received nomination forms for the pending B.O.T. elections on the 3rd of June. Those parents eligible to stand for the B.O.T. need to understand some of the responsibilities involved in serving on a school B.O.T. As a board, members are responsible for the governance of the school, the safety of, and the academic achievement of all students, in collaboration with the Principal and the senior managers of the school. They need to be involved in the strategic planning, to ensure the effective delivery of the New Zealand Curriculum and the mandatory reporting required by the Ministry of Education. It is a role with responsibility and accountability, but with great satisfaction, in the knowledge that the students at Puhinui School receive a quality, balanced education with their needs being met. The senior management and myself, look forward to working with the new B.O.T. from Friday the 10th of June.

**PUHINUI ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING:** As a school, we are indeed very fortunate that we have a lights controlled crossing to ensure the safety of our students when crossing Puhinui Road, a particularly busy road. At school, we insist that all students crossing Puhinui Road do so, using the crossing, for their own safety. Teachers on duty are responsible for the orderly appropriate use of the crossing, both in the mornings and at the end of the school day. Unfortunately some parents walk across Puhinui Road with their children, as a short cut to the school gates, rather than using the crossing. We would appreciate parents actually using the crossing rather than taking a short cut across the road and that all parents help us to instil a sense of safety in all of our students, when they are given the option of either using a crossing which is available, rather than putting themselves at risk by crossing without the assistance of the controlled lights. Many thanks for you help in this matter.

**GREAT WRITING:** Many thanks to John Dam, from Room 17, for sharing his story about dinosaurs with me, on Tuesday of this week. I thoroughly enjoyed, not only the story, but also seeing such a big smile on John's face as he was telling me about it.

**PARENTS COLLECTING CHILDREN AT 3.00 P.M.:** Parents who have been delayed collecting children after school during term two will be able to do so from the school library. The library is the building in front of the Junior School with the hexagonal type front.

**KIWI GAMES FUN SPORTS PROGRAMME:** For children aged 5 – 11 years. Saturdays in Term 2: Starts 14<sup>th</sup> May; then 21<sup>st</sup> May , 11<sup>th</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> June, and 2<sup>nd</sup> July. 9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Papatoetoe East School, 138 Tui Road. Gold coin donation. Contact Mr Glenn at PACT Office 279-8340 or 0274 381646.

**LUCKY LUNCH WINNER:** Well done to Aryan Permal from Room 12 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 \_\_\_\_\_