



# PUHINUI SCHOOL

# *Newsletter*

17 September 2020

Newsletter No. 18/2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

**TE REO MAORI:** This week is Te Reo Maori Language Week and our Literacy Book Week too. Throughout the week teachers and students have celebrated te reo through daily kupu (phrases), te reo activities and useful words in Maori. Stories, waiata and karakia have been read, performed and spoken. We hope everyone has enjoyed hearing your children speak te reo and helping it to grow and revive in our communities.

**WEEKS 9 AND 10:** We are in our last 2 weeks of school for the term. Our last week of term will be next week and our last day for the term will be Friday 25th September. School will finish on the day at our normal time of 3 p.m. Term 4 will commence on Monday 12th October at the usual time of 8.50 a.m. It has been another different type of term with the unfortunate need to go into Level 3 restrictions, however, we hope we can get a full term of learning in next term. We hope families are able to enjoy some time together in the break time and that all families are as well as can be expected during this different Covid-19 time.

**LITERACY WEEK:** This week we have had a special focus on rich literacy based activities as part of our Book Literacy Week. Throughout the week we have enjoyed video and teacher read alouds in the Library, lots of reading based activities in classes like book reviews. We have had a book drama show performance by 'Perform Education' for each syndicate and an author visit with workshops from John Carr for the Middle and Senior students. Tomorrow we will have our dress up as a book character day and the children will be involved in a character parade where they will walk around the school while classes clap and cheer them on. Winners for our book review competition will be announced tomorrow. The classes have each selected a book or literacy theme and made classroom door displays. These will be judged tomorrow by a special group of literacy judges. Good luck to each class.

**PASIFIKA WEEK:** Next week and hot on the tail of Te Reo Maori and Book Week, we finish our term with a further cultural celebration, that of our Pasifika Cultures. It will include teachers running intensive Pasifika theme based activities in their teams. We had planned on having a cultural performance evening with you all, as our community, unfortunately Covid 19 restrictions have meant this had to be cancelled and we are unable to have parents participate due to the restriction guidelines for gatherings. We will, however, run three cultural performance shows during school time for our students throughout the week. This will mean that all of the students who are involved in our cultural performance groups will still get the opportunity to perform in front of a student only audience and enjoy performing to groups of their peers. Our cultural performance groups include: The Choir, Senior Pasifika, Te Roopu Ahurea Kapa haka, Middle School Kapa Haka, The Bollywood Boys, Junior School Pasifika, Junior School Modern Dance, Senior School Advanced Guitar, Middle School Pasifika, Middle and Senior school Indian Girls, Ukulele Group, Fijian Group, and a Junior School Indian Group. It is wonderful to see how many groups we have, and it requires a lot of practices, coordination and time. A big thank you to all staff members who committed to taking all of our cultural groups. Ultimately, we do it to ensure students get the opportunity to share, participate and be involved in cultural performances and to celebrate our New Zealand diversity together.

**SWIMMING TERM 4:** In Term 4 we will begin our class swimming programmes for students. We would like to assure our parents that swimming is a safe activity and has no extra risks attached to it in terms of contracting the Covid-19 virus. We will revise changing routines to allow for appropriate distancing, apart from this, swimming should be considered safe and is an important part of our curriculum. A reminder to parents that swimming at school helps students grow water confidence and increases the safety of children in and around water. Please help us by ensuring that your child is ready for swimming. They will need a

named bag, towel and their togs on their class swimming days. Swimming at lunchtimes will also be available for students. Senior and Middle School students begin class swimming in week 1. Junior students begin class swimming in week 5.

**DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP ROUTINES:** Parents please be aware that until we are advised of a drop to Alert Level 1 (which we hope will come through) we remain with the same drop-off and pick-up routines. Please see these are as set out below:

At Alert Level 2 we ask that:

- Students do not arrive before 8 a.m. in the morning. The gates will remain closed until then. If possible we ask that children arrive from 8.20 a.m. and before 8.45 a.m.
- If you do come into the school grounds to pick up your child after school, can you please wait until 2.45 p.m. The gates will remain closed until this time.
- Please stay away from the classrooms and distance yourselves 2 metres apart in open waiting areas.
- If you enter the school grounds please use the QR tracer code at the gates, or sign our contact tracing register booklets by the school gate. Before and after signing please sanitize your hands. We will have sanitizer on the table next to the contact tracing books.
- For enquiries throughout the day please make sure you come directly to the office.

**DRINKING FOUNTAINS REMAIN CLOSED:** Parents please ensure that your child is bringing a drinking bottle to school each day. The drinking fountains remain closed during Alert Level 2 schooling. Please make sure bottles are named. We would like to promote students bringing water, or watered down orange juice. Please refrain from fizzy drinks.

**USING THE TRACER QR CODE:** We continue to encourage all our parents to download and use the QR tracing app. If we all make tracing a habit we are helping keep Covid-19 out of our communities. Thank you for supporting us and our people.

**A REMINDER OF THE GOLDEN RULES:**

The golden rules set out by the Ministry of Health (MoH):

1. If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work or school. Don't socialise.
2. If you have cold or flu symptoms call your doctor or Healthline and make sure you get tested.
3. Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.
4. Sneeze and cough into your elbow, and regularly disinfect shared surfaces.
5. If you are told by health authorities to self-isolate you must do so immediately.
6. If you're concerned about your wellbeing, or have underlying health conditions, work with your GP to understand how best to stay healthy.
7. Keep track of where you've been and who you've seen to help contact tracing if needed. Use the NZ COVID Tracer app as a handy way of doing this.
8. Businesses help people keep track of their movements by displaying the Ministry of Health QR Code for contact tracing. Please use this when visiting the school.
9. Stay vigilant. There is still a global pandemic going on. People and businesses should be prepared to act fast to step up Alert Levels if we have to.

**SKIDS:** Our after school providers are available for families who require before or after school care. To contact SKiDS, **ring Becca at 0800 754 377. Text 022 473 0281 or email them at [puhinui@skids.co.nz](mailto:puhinui@skids.co.nz).** Please see our website for more information, or call into the office for a pamphlet. You can also visit tSKiDS in the Tech Room before or after school if you wish.

**LUCKY LUNCH DRAW:** Well done to Orlando Siale from Room 22 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 a draw for a free school lunch.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_