



PUHINUI SCHOOL



# Newsletter

13 March 2023

Newsletter No. 3/2023

Dear Parents/Caregivers & Whānau,

Nau mai, Haere mai! Hello, As-salām 'alaykum, Namaste, Nǐ hǎo, Chào bạn, Musta, Noa'ia, Hola, Mauri, Ni sa bula vinaka, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Tālofa, Mālō e lelei, Mālō nī, Talofa lava, and Kia orana, Greetings.

**SCHOOL VALUES:** Opportunity is our current school value. This is a great value for the tamariki. It helps us encourage them to not be afraid to try new things and to see it as an opportunity to learn and grow. Every day there are examples where students are taking opportunities to be better. It can be seen in new groups and sports teams they may join, or it can be in working with someone new, or it can be in trying a new way of doing something. Part of opportunity is knowing that we don't need to be good at everything and letting tamariki know this. We learn a lot as we experience things so it is understandable that the children will not be perfect when they try something for the first time. We need to keep encouraging them to know this is ok.

**ATTENDANCE:** As from today, 13 March we have an attendance rate of 87%. Our normal rates for attendance prior to Covid were around 92% at this time of the year. We have 220 students who currently have 100% attendance (gold standard attendance). We have 143 students who are around 95-99% (silver standard attendance) and a further 12 students at 90-95% (bronze standard attendance). 102 students are ranging just below, to below standard on 80-89%. Of concern, are students who are showing 70 -79% attendance, this is 56 students. Of critical concerns are students below 70% this is over 100 students. Our message for families is to please take attendance seriously and make sure your tamariki are at school everyday! If a child is currently showing 70% attendance, that means as of today they have been at school for 16 days out of a possible 23 days. This can improve for tamariki if they have no more days off school (unless they are genuinely sick or unwell). We would love to challenge each family and ask you aim for 90% or greater attendance this year. Learning is turning up each day and improving slowly over a year one day at a time.

**NZEI INDUSTRIAL ACTION Thursday 16th March:** A reminder that the teacher union (NZEI) have called a strike day for this Thursday 16th March. A letter has been sent out to all families to advise them that this will unfortunately mean our Junior School will be closed on Thursday. A reminder notice will be sent out tomorrow to all families. Thank you for supporting us as we manage the best option for keeping the school open for as many students as possible. The NZEI and their teachers do not take strike action lightly especially at this time when there have been disruptions to how we have started school in 2023. Ultimately we hope that it helps the MOE and the union agree to terms that will help deliver an educational system that is highly effective, filled with quality people and provides enhanced learning opportunities for tamariki.

**SPORTS ZONES:** Tomorrow we have zones sports days in boys and girls cricket and boys and girls playball. Good luck to our teams. We look forward to hearing how they went.

**OUTDOOR EDUCATION:** This week we have the Senior School involved in their various outdoor education activities. This is always a highlight and memorable week for our senior students. By the end of the week the tamariki are normally quite tired, and at the same time they have thoroughly enjoyed the experiences that often have taken them out of their comfort zone in a good way. In anticipation, thank you to all those who have helped prepare and who have been involved in outdoor activities.

**ASSEMBLY:** Every second week we have a school assembly that is hosted by a class or by one of our student groups. This week Room 11 will be hosting assembly. Our assemblies normally begin around 1.50 p.m. on Friday. Our upcoming value for the next few weeks is announced at each assembly and our House

Captains share what the value means. The class on assembly leads the assembly and shares some of the things they have been doing in class.

**STUDENT WRITING:** Zoe from Room 4 shared her writing at our last assembly. I enjoyed listening to her describe in words the night using imagery and her imagination:

*Soon the night sky will come and you can gaze at the sky with miniscule stars. I live right below the Orion's Belt so I stare at that when I am home. The best part of the night is the moon, it glows like a lamp in a pitch black forest. It makes me calm and any nerves fly away. Crickets start to chirp loudly in the night. The dark purple makes me doze off while the cold air demands I put my sweater on. The night is relaxing and peaceful.*

**INFORMATION UPDATES:** Parents please note we have sent out to whānau our contact update form. Please could we ask that you have this back with any updated information as soon as possible and at least before the end of the term. The updated contact information is important when we need to call about your child, if they are sick and when something needs to be communicated with home of importance.

**CURRICULUM ACHIEVEMENT & 2023 TARGET STUDENTS:** At the end of each year we analyse student achievement and measure the progress that students have made over the year. At the end of last year our students overall showed pleasing progress despite the interruptions that occurred throughout the year. We highlight a number of areas in Reading, Writing, and Maths. We analyse year cohorts (groups) gender and ethnicity. We measure numbers of students who are well below, below, at, and above. This information is then used to report to the MOE, our Board and ERO. We use the information to help us develop our strategic plans for the upcoming year and to set target groups that we would like to plan initiatives for, or that may need monitoring throughout the year. In the coming newsletters we will share some key achievements in areas that you may find interesting.

**LOST PROPERTY:** Parents we have a lot of lost property at the moment so if your child has lost any items of uniform, or swimming togs and towels, please encourage them to come and look through the lost property in the quad area. Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled. This does help us ensure that items do eventually make their way back to the tamariki.

**PUHINUI SWiS:** Social Workers in Schools (SWiS) is a free service available to our children and their whānau here at Puhinui School. These services are designed to provide assistance to families who may be experiencing difficulties or challenges. The wellbeing of children is the key focus of the service. Please feel free to contact our school SWiS (Shital Naidu) through the Office, or by one of the following: [shital@puhinui.school.nz](mailto:shital@puhinui.school.nz) or 0274102148.

**DENTAL HUB:** Dental services are accessed from 2C Grayson Avenue. The parking directly outside the clinic is provided for dental staff and parents of children being treated. The dental hub's phone number is 09 2781975.

**HEALTH NURSE:** The Mana Kidz Health Nurse is working in our school . We have a new Health Nurse who will work every Wednesday morning 10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. If you intend on seeing the Health Nurse, please advise the office by Tuesday noon so you can be booked in to see her.

Health checks include:

Hearing checks      Vision checks      Sore throats      Skin conditions - sores, eczema  
Asthma concerns      Toileting issues      Consistent runny nose (especially during winter)

MANA HEALTH NURSE CONTACT DETAILS: 0226187813 OR 0800 MK TEAM: 0800 658 326

**SKiDS:** Our before and after school care providers have resumed their services. 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). Get started by enrolling on AIMY PLUS <http://skids.aimy.co.nz> . Please note SKiDS operate independently of Puhinui School.

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13 MARCH 2023

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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 \_\_\_\_\_