



PUHINUI SCHOOL



# Newsletter

30 June 2023

Newsletter No. 9/2023

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, Kia orana, and Greetings.

**END OF TERM:** Thank you parents and whānau for your support in Term 2. It has been another great term with lots of learning progress and a number of opportunities for students to grow as young people. We hope you get a chance to spend some time as a family in the holiday break, despite the work commitments and the business of life that you may have to juggle. For the tamariki holidays are exciting and a time to relax, before we look forward to the learning and events in Term 3. Be safe and see everyone back on Monday 17th July.

**TERM 3:** Term 3 begins Monday 17th July. It will be an exciting term with our main focus being science. Students will be involved in a number of science based topics, carrying out experiments and learning about amazing phenomena all around us. Our focus will also become what students read and write about, with lots of opportunities to utilise science things across our curriculum learning. In week 8 we will be having a special science week intensive. This will include a parent science afternoon where we will invite whānau into our classrooms. The students will share science experiments with you and more than likely will include amazing "wow" science experiments, along with a few crazy science explosions too! In Term 3 we also have our choir performing and the Mathex competition. Our sports teams will go to gymnastics, cross country and rippa zones. Late in the term we will also have our Pasifika groups performing at assembly and our Pasifika Cultures Week (week 9).

**MATARIKI WEEK:** This week we have been celebrating Te Ao Māori. It is always an appropriate time of year to do so as the natural world gives us the signs that Winter is here and the old will give way to the new. The stars and the seasons are special markers of this time cycle and this is an integral part of Matariki. At school the students have been involved in a number of learning activities throughout the week that help them appreciate Te Ao Māori and Matariki. The teams have also had an intensive day with lots of Māori inspired waiata, arts and crafts. What a great way to end the term.

Mānawa maiea te putanga o Matariki.

Mānawa maiea te ariki o te rangi.

Mānawa maiea te Mātahi o te tau.

Celebrate the rising of Matariki.

Celebrate the rising of the Lord of the sky.

Celebrate the rising of the New Year.

**ART EXHIBITION:** As you will be aware, this week during parent conferences we have been displaying art from across the school in our auditorium. We have really enjoyed sharing with you examples of the variety and quality of art the students have been able to produce. Pleasingly the art has also had a focus on development of skill and artistic technique. You can see this in the art work and when you talk with the tamariki about how they made their pieces. Well done students and teachers - great art!

**PARENT CONFERENCES:** Thank you parents, it is always our pleasure to meet with you to share the progress your tamariki are making at school. Half way through the year is a good time to meet. It gives us a chance to discuss the progress your child is making, while also having half a year to continue working on specific goals and learning tasks. Teachers genuinely enjoy sharing the learning with you and also hearing about what children are like at home and the things they do. It all helps to provide teachers with a connection to home and relate to tamariki even more. We had a great turn out for parent conferences and we hope you left with answers to any of your questions as well as happy to hear how your child is progressing.

**SCHOOL VALUES:** Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Opportunity and Community are our school values. Our school motto is 'Others before Self' When the school was established in 1953 the school motto followed not long after. When we think about it, it is a significant part of our history as a school. We hope that we can, as Puhinui educators continue to serve our community and our tamariki in a caring professional way. For students, we are reminded to find ways that help them learn how to serve. Often it is helping others in small ways each day. For our senior students it is in the monitor jobs they do and for our Year 6 Leaders it is in how they conduct themselves and are an example to others. There is a lovely Samoan saying that I have recently seen:

"O le ata i te pute o te tautua" The pathway to leadership is through service.  
This is a neat way for us to think about how we serve and show 'Others before Self'.

**ATTENDANCE:** Our attendance is sitting at 86.9% this week. I was hoping we would be close to 90%. However, we have had a lot of flu and stomach bugs over the last few weeks so I'll try to remind myself that we can look forward to a good Term 3 to get us to 90% by the end of the year. This term, keep those good routines going, especially during cold winter days. Our 2023 saying is still important to remember:  
***"Learning is turning up each day and improving slowly over a year, one day at a time."***

Last year we had 1 student who had 100% attendance which was a little sad. This year we are excited to see that there are 40 students that have been here all year. We would love to see this number of students continue to be here every day.

This weeks attendance rates:

- 341 students (49%) are showing between 90% to 100% attendance. Excellent work!
- 188 students (27%) who are sitting between 80-90% of attendance. Goal: get to 90%
- 97 students (14%) who are sitting between 70-80% of attendance. "Turn up on the hard days"
- 64 students (9%) lower than 70% attendance, who are of huge concern with attendance.

We are working hard to encourage each student to have the best attendance possible. Ultimately this is a family challenge. We continue to encourage all families to build consistent positive routines and habits that ensure their tamariki are at school every day.

**SKiDS:** SKiDS is available for care during the holidays. If you would like to know more about the upcoming holiday programme please contact SKiDS, **ring Becca at 0800 754 377. Text 021 050 7893 or email them at [puhinui@skids.co.nz](mailto:puhinui@skids.co.nz).**

The OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation) Subsidy is for children aged five to 13 years (or up to 18 years if they receive the Child Disability Allowance). It helps towards the costs of before-school and after-school care for up to 20 hours a week, and school holiday programmes for up to 50 hours a week.

You may be able to get this subsidy if you're:

- working, (depending on salary threshold of household), studying or on an approved training course, or
- involved in an activity that Work and Income has asked you to do, or
- a shift worker who works nights, or
- seriously ill or disabled, or
- caring for a child in hospital or for a child you get the Child Disability Allowance.

Contact : Becca de la Vega -0800-754 377

**LUCKY LUNCH WINNER:** Well done to Kyra Seiuli-Fabricius from Room 23 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.