



# Pukekohe North School

Princes Street, Pukekohe. Phone 0-9-238-8552

## Newsletter # 12 –Thursday 9 August 2018:

### A great start to Term 3 2018:

We are receiving regular compliments about the improvements to our student's behaviour and what a joy to work with they are!

Our kaiako are working extremely hard and developing our students into amazing citizens.

To assist the development of school programmes and to build kaiako knowledge and skills, we have a large number of Writing and Mathematics Facilitators, Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour plus many educationalists and Support Agencies Staff through our school during a normal week.

They are all so enthusiastic about the changes they see in the tamariki and how they so enjoy working with our teachers who are so receptive to new learning, strategies and techniques to progress our students learning.

What makes me most proud is the large number of students who are beginning to really engage in their learning and want to learn.

### Progress after 6 months at school

We have much progress to make to ensure our students are attaining levels in the curriculum equal to that of their age.

In our first newsletter of the term I informed our community that 42% of our students are now at their Age Equivalent Level in Reading.

In the first half of the year, 62% of students made at least 6 months progress in that time, some even more progress.

Our mathematics is lagging as students learn several new strategies to solve equations such as  $25 + 16$ .

Most of our students just 'count 16 on from 25' to get an answer.

In the New Zealand Curriculum, students must be able to solve maths problems in several ways.

So in the example above, a student might take 5 from 16 to make a 'tidy 30' and simply add on the remaining 11 to provide the answer of 41.

We see our writing achievements beginning to progress as well, but again, students need to write very explicitly not just show capital letters, full stops and correct spelling.

It has been spelling that the teachers have been concentrating upon in their classes in the first half of the year.

In NZ we have The Essential Lists (1-8) that all students must know to write. This is nearly 300 words. Our Mid Term Data indicates that over 70% of our students know how to spell the Essential Words for their age level. We have a lot of work to do, but this is a very positive start.

### Strike Action: Wednesday 15 August 2018:

I am sad to report Pukekohe North School will close on Wednesday 15 August for the day to allow Teachers to voice their concern to Government in the strongest terms about our conditions of work. This is a nationwide Day of Strike action including marches in cities and towns, visits to Parliament and letter writing to local Ministers.

It is not only about a pay increase! Whilst like all workers, teachers want their salaries to keep up with pace of inflation and to be paid appropriately for the work we do, we have other concerns for the Government to review and address: These include:

- There is a teacher shortage meaning often classes across Aotearoa must to be 'split across the school' when a teacher is sick or on Professional Development leave.
- Our teacher work force is aging and the sector is not adequately encouraging young people into our work force then retaining them in schools
- Class sizes are becoming too high ( National agrees and state they will increase the number of teachers in schools, but we need to attract teachers to cover the present vacancies BEFORE we can add MORE staff into schools)
- Students across the motu are becoming more difficulty to teach. Staff at Early Childhood Centres record they are dealing with traumatised 3-4 year olds! We need the resourcing and expertise to support these young learners.
- These students add to an already full workload where teachers are regularly working 60+ hours per week for the 40 hours we are being paid.
- Expectations on teachers are high to solve the socio-economic problems of society. We must be better resourced to support students with health and well-being issues to make them feel safe and secure before we can actually improve their learning and make sound progress in their Literacy and Numeracy.

We want the Government to provide solutions and plans to assist our tamariki.

We are at crisis point and providing a 3-4% pay increase will not simply assist the situation.

***Pukekohe North School will open again on Thursday 16 August as usual.***

### Supporting Nga Hau E Wha Marae:

You would all have heard of the theft of taps and copper piping from Nga Hau E Wha last week. This has upset everyone and Pukekohe Schools want to provide our support by holding a Mufti Day on Friday 17 August.

We are asking whanau to provide a Gold Coin donation for the Mufti Day with all monies raised from our schools to be presented to the Marae Committee to use as they see fit.

### Cross Country

Whaea Sally has been working hard to organise our school Cross Country to be held on Tuesday 14 August from 11.20.a.m.-12.50.p.m. around the school and local street.

Sally has set aside Thursday 16 August as her saving day if it is raining on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

She has requested that students run the cross country in spare clothes in case they do get dirty or wet.

We look forward to seeing you at school to support the runners next week.

### Kura Rumaki:- Future Prospects for Pukekohe North School

Our Kura Rumaki kaiako Jean and Mae held a quick hui with whanau on Thursday 2 August during lunchtime.

Thank you to those who could attend and the ideas presented.

The following points were raised at the hui for further discussion especially as the Rumaki numbers increase to over 40 akonga with more to enrol during Terms 3-4.

#### IDEAS MOVING FORWARD:

- Maara Kari / Hauora
- Develop a social enterprise-sell the fruits of the student's labour
- Build a stronger presence of the Kura Rumaki
- Building Future Leaders / Leadership Camps
- Bi-lingual- Tatari, Tautoko, Tauawhi
- A fund raising committee- Annual Gala Day
- Communication –Facebook / Electronic Communication – Permission Slips
- Kura noho / Noho a Marae held in January each year
- Kapa Haka, Manu Korero, Waka Ama, Maori netball/ league
- Kohanga Reo Community
- Transition Year 3
- Tino Rangatiratanga-incorporating Tikanga a iwi / Nga Matapono Maori / Kemu

The Board of Trustees is organising a Whanau Hui in September to discuss a Development Plan for our Kura Rumaki.

We will announce a date for this hui soon and the agenda of ideas for discuss as above.  
This is going to be an exciting time for our Kura!

We are holding Te Reo Maori Speech Competitions in the Rumaki on Friday 17 August with our Year 5-6 and 7-8 Winners going on to represent our kura in the Franklin Competitions in September.

#### Buying of Sweets before School:

Teachers are beginning to see students in class with lollies and chewing gum!

We do not allow this.

I have spoken to the shopkeepers who say they are not selling sweets to our tamariki, it is the parents buying it from them and giving it to them BEFORE school!

Please stop this.

After school is the time to buy sweets not to be all SUGARED up before their learning commences each day.

#### Message from our Public Health Nurse-Sara White



We are all addicted to food. You have to eat to live, and we are hard-wired to like sugar and fat, so it's no wonder most of us are overweight. Children process some foods differently to adults, so what we put into their bodies can have a bigger impact (good or bad). For example, they take longer to process caffeine. We don't usually offer kids coffee, but we let them have coke (which is loaded with the stuff). Let's be honest, most breakfast cereals are simply crunchy sugar. Fresh whole food is awesome for growing good bodies and brains. Small changes can make a big

difference. How about just swapping Coke for Sprite? Or rolled oats (raw or as porridge) for that crunchy sugar? You might even end up saving money too. Apples in season are cheaper than muesli bars (aka chewy sugar). Your kids may resist, but our job as parents is to help them grow well (despite what they think). Kia kaha! I'm at school Tuesdays and Thursdays, my cell is 021 229 7886.

### [Year 8 Student Enrolment at Pukekohe High School for 2019:](#)

Whanau of Year 8 students in Rooms 1 and 10 are informed that Pukekohe High School is taking 2019 Enrolments TONIGHT from 4.00-8.00.p.m. if you have not already visited the school

### [Celebrating Student Success](#)

Tuakana – Teina Reading Programme  
Room 6 work alongside Room 12. Great reading and sharing their reading books with each other.

Toni-Zain is reading to Junior



### [Senior Syndicate](#)

The senior classes had two fantastic days competing in the recent Franklin Netball Tournament. The year 7 & 8's sent one team and the year 5/6's were lucky enough to get two teams into the draw. All three teams did the school proud in both their sportsmanship and netball skills with outstanding results for all three teams. Well done Senior School.



### [Upcoming Pukekohe North School Events:](#)

Friday 10 August –Year 3-4 Netball Competition

Tuesday 14 August School Cross Country Competition – 11.20.a.m.-12.50.p.m. (Saving Day – Thursday 16 August)

Tuesday 14 August –Hui at Pukekohe High School re the Growth of Auckland effecting our schooling in the area. 6.00-8.00.p.m.

Wednesday 15 August –Nationwide Teachers Strike Day- Pukekohe North School Closed

Friday 17 August –Kura Rumaki Speech Competitions

Friday 17 August – Maia Assembly -9.00-9.30.a.m. in the hall

Wednesday 22 - August Meth Awareness Workshop at PNS Hall 5.30-7.00 (TBC)

Thursday 23 August –Next Newsletter due home.

**Jim Stafford-Bush Tumuaki**