



PUHINUI SCHOOL

Newsletter



4 August 2016

Newsletter No. 2016/10

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

WELCOME BACK: I hope everyone had a relaxing time over the holiday break and had a chance to have some family time. Welcome to our new children and parents to Puhinui School. I hope you enjoy your new school and your new environment in Papatoetoe. Term 3 will be a very busy term with a number of major events happening in music, art, culture, and sport. A term overview has been enclosed with this newsletter outlining the term's events.

THE KIDS SING: On Monday, our choir competed in 'The Kids Sing' competition at the Auckland Town Hall. This is an annual event organised by The N.Z. Choral Federation. Over thirty schools were involved over two days and, as you can imagine, the standard of singing was fantastic. All schools were involved in the judging sessions during the day and also the evening performance when all of the schools sang their selection of songs for the parents and public in attendance. The Puhinui School Choir, under the guidance of Mr Brent Read and Miss Jade Bloem, have been practising extremely hard in preparation for the occasion. Our choir was accompanied, on the piano, by Mrs Ngaire Bird, a former music teacher at Puhinui School. Many thanks to all three musicians for their contribution to the choir's standard of singing and its success in the festival. The Puhinui School Choir sounded absolutely amazing and had the audience spell bound as they performed their two songs:

Sing Jubilate Deo by Jerry Estes
The Seal Lullaby by Eric Whitacre

At the award ceremony, at the conclusion of the concert, Puhinui School Choir received three awards including a Gold award, the adjudicators award and an award to Mr Brent Read for the most outstanding choir trainer. Brent receives an allowance to further his study and skill as a choir trainer. Congratulations to our choir members for your achievement, many thanks to our parents for the moral support and encouragement of your children and, once again, to Brent, Jade and Ngaire for your inspiration, hard work and expertise.

SCIENCE CONFERENCES: Ian Milne, an ex Auckland University Science lecturer, who now works with our students and staff linking the world that the children live in and often wonder about to science, has just returned from presenting at two conferences. Ian was asked to speak at a conference in Belfast, Ireland and the Science Educators conference in Wellington. His presentations were based on his work with children in the various schools in which he works. Ian used the science work of our students at Puhinui School in his presentations. The focus at each of the conferences was the links between science and language, using the numerous experiments he has initiated with our students as the basis for his lectures. Educators both overseas and in New Zealand were extremely impressed with the science ideas and the quality of work in which he has been involved. Well done to our Puhinui School student scientists for your contribution to both of the science conferences.

FARM TRIPS: Our junior classes will visit Ambury Park next week as part of their science focus on the living world. This is a great opportunity to see and interact with farm animals, including horses, sheep, lambs, pigs, chickens, geese, ducks and various small animal pets. For some of our students, seeing some of the animals for the first time, will be a new experience, creating a number of differing responses from the child ranging from great excitement to uncertainty and nervousness. The farm experience provides a great motivation for discussions and language back in the classrooms, as well as increasing students general knowledge and confidence around livestock. Many thanks to all of our parents who will accompany the students on the farm visit. Without such parental help, such experiences for our students would be impossible.

MATHEX: Puhinui School have selected maths teams consisting of 4 students in each of Years 4, 5 and 6 cohorts, to compete in the local Mathex competitions, being held at Papatoetoe Central School on Thursday the 1st of September. This is a great opportunity for students to test their maths skills and knowledge against students from other schools in the same year group.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY: Our school cross country is scheduled for next Wednesday the 10th of August, when all of our students will be involved in races suitable for their age and stage of development. Our students have been training for their respective races and will be adequately prepared for their respective events. Not all children are suited to, or enjoy running, however, running as an activity is part of being a child, and being a healthy child. The real benefits of the cross country races is the amount and frequency of running our students do in preparation for the event. All that we expect is that our students do their best, just as we would expect in maths, reading and writing or any other activity in which they are involved while at Puhinui School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART INTENSIVE: Tomorrow, Friday the 5th of August, our Middle School have scheduled a syndicate wide art intensive. All classes will be experiencing visual art activities, using a variety of media and art techniques. An important part of our school philosophy is that of providing a wide curriculum, where students have a chance to try new things and develop a mind set and the confidence to do just that. We hope that while children attend Puhinui School their interests over a wide spectrum are developed, so that they continue to involve themselves in activities after they leave the school, that they have tried whilst at school.

BUILDING PROGRESS: This has been slow and difficult due to the inclement weather. We are scheduled to have the library and learning centre renovations completed by Friday the 12th of August which, hopefully, means we can start using the refurbished library on Monday the 15th of August.

STAFF FAREWELL: Mrs Adrienne Leonard, our administration person in the office, is leaving Puhinui School on Friday the 12th of August to work in the administration office at Mangere College. We would like to thank Adrienne for her work at Puhinui School over the last 16 years, firstly, as a teaching assistant in the support unit and over the last several years in the main administration office. We wish Adrienne all the best in her new role.

SOCIAL WORKER: Mr Chris Millstead, our the social worker assigned to Puhinui School from 'Family Works' will be working for three days a week in schools in the Franklin area. He will be at Puhinui School on Mondays and Fridays only, for the next six weeks.

TE REO KORI WORKSHOP: On Monday of this week our senior school students were involved in a number of workshops run by the Kahurangi Maori Dance Company. Our students thoroughly enjoyed working with the tutors learning and performing action songs, poi and rakau activities.

NEW PROPERTY OFFICER / CARETAKER: Chris Rowley has been working at Puhinui School for seven weeks since our long serving previous caretaker, Mr Macca Manawaiti, left. Chris is doing a great job around the school, whilst becoming more familiar with the extent of the role. Thanks Chris, the staff and children appreciate what you are doing to look after our school.

KIWI GAMES FUN SPORTS PROGRAMME: For children aged 5 – 11 years. Saturdays in Term 3: Starts 6th August; then 13th Aug, 20th Aug, 27th Aug, 3rd Sept and 10th Sept. 9.30am - 11am at Papatoetoe East School, 138 Tui Rd. Gold coin donation. Contact Mr Glenn at PACT Office 279-8340 or 0274 381646.

LUCKY LUNCH WINNER: Well done to Ryder Rouse 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 _____