



PUHINUI SCHOOL

Newsletter



24 November 2016

Newsletter No. 2016/15

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

COUNT DOWN OF EVENTS: The end of the term is approaching extremely quickly, with still so much to do and so many activities scheduled. It may be useful for parents to have an overview of the events scheduled, which include;

Week 7	21 November to 25 November	
	Friday 25 November	Assembly House leaders / band / Kapa Haka
Week 8	28 November to 2 December	
	Tuesday 29 November	Mufti Day
	Thursday 1 December	Year 6 Disco (5 - 8 p.m.)
	Friday 2 December	Special assembly, Principal's farewell (2 p.m.)
Week 9	5 December to 9 December	
	Monday 5 December	Monitors and cultural groups lunch
	Tuesday 6 December	Prizegiving dress rehearsals
	Thursday 8 December	Prizegiving assemblies Junior School at 9.30 a.m. Middle School at 11.30 a.m. Senior School at 1.30 p.m.
	Friday 9 December	Have-A-Go-Day for Middle and Senior School
Week 10	12 December to 15 December	
	Monday 12 December	Students visit their 2017 rooms to meet the teacher and new classmates. (9 a.m. - 10.50 a.m.) Year 6 pool party
	Tuesday 13 December	Middle School Motat trip (Rooms 8, 16, 18, ½ 17) Senior School water wars
	Wednesday 14 December	Middle School Motat trip (Rooms 15, 19, 20, ½ 17) Reports go home with each student
	Thursday 15 December	The last day of school for 2016, finishing at 3.00 p.m. Year 6 graduation assembly starting at 1.45 p.m.

2017 START OF THE YEAR: School starts for students in the new year, on Tuesday the 31st of January, as Auckland Anniversary is on Monday the 30th of January. The following Monday, the 6th of February is Waitangi Day, when all schools will be closed, and on the third Monday, the 13th of February, Puhinui School has a teacher only day, for all staff and teacher aides to be involved in professional development focusing on the teaching of reading. Yolanda Sorrell, the facilitator is only available on that particular day. We certainly apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause our parents.

PASIFIKA CONSULTATION: On Tuesday the 8th of November, we met with the parents of our Pasifika students, to discuss what activities we have in place and what emphasis we place on Pasifika learning. We discussed the opportunities available to Pasifika students to acknowledge and celebrate the cultures of the Pacific. We also shared with our parents the achievement data in reading, writing and maths, highlighting the excellent Pasifika student achievement and success. As with our Māori students, our Pasifika students are achieving comparable with all other ethnic groups and also comparable with all students attending schools throughout New Zealand.

PAPATOETOE LEADERS VISIT: On Thursday November the 10th, two of our ex students, Paige Linstead-Manaia and Roy Rogers, were scheduled to visit Puhinui School to talk to our Year 6 students, who will be attending Papatoetoe Intermediate next year. Unfortunately Roy had other commitments so Paige spoke to our students about life at intermediate and what to expect when they first arrive in 2017. Our students were full of questions and full of excitement and optimism about their next step on their learning journey. It was indeed very interesting hearing Paige discuss aspects of her school, of which she is the Head Girl, in such a relaxed and informative way. It made me acutely aware of the great influence that her parents and family have had on her to this date, the great foundation she has received by attending Puhinui School and the continuing opportunities that Papatoetoe Intermediate is providing in her ongoing development. Well done Paige. It was a very uplifting experience.

ASSEMBLY: Tomorrow, Friday the 25th of November, our school assembly will be facilitated by our house leaders, rather than a class. Both of our bands and Kapa Haka group will be performing as part of the assembly, so if any parents wish to visit for the assembly, which will start at 2.00 p.m., please come to the school auditorium.

POETRY RECITALS: Last Friday the 18th of November, our Senior School Poetry Recital finals were held in the auditorium, with our Year 5 and 6 students providing an audience for the finalists. There were two sections, the Year 5 and Year 6. Congratulations to all of the finalists for their courage to speak in front of the whole Senior School, for their preparation and research and finally for their enthusiasm and skill presenting their respective poems. The results of each section were as follows:

Year 5 Section	1st Shyla Hunt	So You Want to Write a Poem
	2nd Makea Upu	Dancing
	3rd Balpreet Masaun	Taking a Selfie
Year 6 Section	1st Sifala Sagaga	My Long Dream
	2nd Shanaya Prasad	Pimple Poem
	3rd Danielle Hulme	Homework

STAFF LEAVING PUHINUI SCHOOL: Staff leaving a school is usually cyclic, when a number of people leave at once. For Puhinui School the last exodus was approximately seven years ago, when we had several teachers move to new positions. If there is a positive aspect of teachers leaving a school, it is, of course, that it provides opportunities for remaining and new staff. This year we have a mini exodus, with the following teachers leaving Puhinui School on the 15th of December:

Megan Clune, our Assistant Principal, has been awarded one of the most prestigious awards one can receive in education, which is 'The Woolf Fisher Teaching Fellowship'. This award has prompted the University of Auckland to offer Megan a teaching position, on secondment for one year, working with Masters of Education students in maths and science. This is a tremendous opportunity, of course, which unfortunately means that she will be absent from Puhinui School until 2018, when she will return to her Assistant Principal's role. We are thrilled for her, and wish her the very best for her year's secondment and certainly look forward to her return at the commencement of the 2018 year.

Aman Virk, our Year 3 and 4 teacher in Room 19, has been appointed to a leadership teaching position at Willowbank Primary School in Dannemora commencing at the beginning of 2017. Aman will be an excellent leader and will also be sorely missed by both students and staff at Puhinui School. We all congratulate him and wish him the very best for his new role at Willowbank School.

Sean Ackland, our Year 3 and 4 teacher in Room 20, is moving to Dominion Road School, which is much closer to where he lives. Sean has been at Puhinui School for three years and will be hugely missed for his outstanding work in the Middle School. We wish Sean the very best for his new position.

Kurt Jefferies, our Year 5 and 6 teacher in Room 3, is moving to Kaurihohore School, a primary for Years 1 to 6 in Whangarei. Kurt completed the Masters of Teaching Programme through AUT, of which Puhinui School is a partnership school assisting to deliver the programme. Kurt has been an excellent young teacher and will certainly be an asset to his new school. We thank Kurt for his work in the Senior School at Puhinui School and wish him the very best for what, I'm sure, will be a bright teaching future.

Jamie Purkiss, our Year 1 and 2 teacher in Room 13, has been a replacement for his wife, who has been on maternity leave. Jamie has won a position at Ashhurst school, Palmerston North. Jamie's wife's family are moving to Palmerston North, so both Jamie and Ashleigh have decided to follow them. We thank Jamie for his work in the juniors and wish both him and Ashleigh the very best for their move south.

We have been able to appoint excellent people for the above positions, who will bring new and exciting skills, experiences and qualities to contribute to the quality teaching team that we have established at Puhinui School.

LUCKY LUNCH WINNER: Well done to Jashanpreet Singh from Room 11 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 _____