



PUHINUI SCHOOL



# Newsletter

19 October 2017

Newsletter No. 17/2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**WELCOME BACK:** To all our families welcome back to Term 4 at Puhinui School. A special happy Diwali festive season to all our Indian families. Term 4 is an exciting term with a very full calendar. It is a 9 week term which, for teachers means squeezing in all the assessments and reporting, as well as continuing with the quality learning. Although we are all busy it is also a great time to be enjoying and celebrating the learning of all students. Please see our overview for Term 4 and be sure to lock in prizegiving dates towards the end of the school year.

**LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY:** Parents a reminder that this weekend is Labour Day weekend. School will be closed on Monday the 23rd of October for Labour Day. School resumes on Tuesday, the 24th of October at the usual time of 8.50 a.m.

**SCHOOL HATS & UNIFORM:** Parents please note teachers are checking on uniforms and talking to students who are not wearing the correct uniform. Please be aware that jewellery other than stud earrings and hair bands in colours other than yellow, green or black, and non-school hats are items that should not be worn to school. If you are unsure please see your child's teacher. They are happy to discuss with you what our expectations are. Please note that our uniform helps us promote pride in our school and is part of our Puhinui value of 'Community'. School hats are compulsory in Term 4 and any student that is not wearing a hat outside must play in the shaded areas of the school.

**UNIFORM SHOP:** Angel's Fashion is our supplier of the Puhinui uniform, their opening hours this term are Monday to Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. They are also open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. On occasion they may not close until 4 p.m. on Saturdays. If unsure please phone them on 277 7735, or mobile 021 843 577. The office has a list of uniform items if you require it. We also have a small number of second hand items available, if you would like to enquire about these, please come to the office and talk to the office staff.

**SWIMMING:** Please note swimming for the Senior and Middle School has begun. The junior swimming programme begins on the 13th of November (week 5). Please ensure your child has named togs, towel and a bag to keep their items in (it can be a plastic bag). This week all teachers had professional development on developing water confidence. This was a hands on practical workshop that teachers are able to incorporate in their swimming lessons for Term 4. The watersafe instructor stressed the importance of all children being confident in the water and in knowing how to manage any events that require them to know what to do in the water in the event of an emergency. Parents please keep this in mind. It is very important that all children take the opportunity to be in the water to ensure we equip them with water confidence skills.

**DIWALI:** On Tuesday, we had a great Puhinui Diwali Day, for many of our Indian families this is a very important time of the year. It was great to see students dressed in their cultural attire and supported by those in bright, colourful clothing. During the day, all students were given a chance to learn about Diwali and experience some of the cultural activities many of our Indian families identify with. Happy Diwali to all our Puhinui families and students. *Please see below writing from Room 2 students about Diwali.*

*On Tuesday we celebrated Diwali, it was a lot of fun. We played games and we made henna designs. This was an opportunity to learn about Diwali and it's history. I see why people celebrate it because it's pretty awesome. It's a time where friends and family get together and have fun. They eat together, play together, pray together and are happy together.*

*By Emma Linstead-Manaia*

*Diwali is the festival of lights. During Diwali lamps are lit to celebrate the return of Rama from the forest after 14 years. Diwali is usually at the end of October or in early November. Diwali is a great time of the year when people get active. At school we did a lot of different types of activities, we went to different rooms and did things like make paper lanterns and learn about the story behind Diwali.*

*By Ryan Lal*

*Even though I'm not Indian, I can see why Diwali is such an important festival. It brings all the goodness together. I could see how fun India could be and how nicely they include other people from other culture. I feel like being an Indian would be an enjoyable thing. I'm so glad that I learnt so much about Diwali.*

*By Chandra Pham*

**MIHI WHAKATAU:** As part of our welcoming for new students we will be having a Term 4 special welcome on Friday morning. This is a chance for Puhinui School to formally welcome our new students and their families into our Puhinui whanau. The mihi whakatau will begin at 9.10 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend. Please note there will be no Friday afternoon assembly this week.

**PASIFIKA DAY NEXT FRIDAY:** Next Friday, the 27th of October, we have our Pasifika Day at Puhinui School. This is once again an opportunity for our students to celebrate the diversity and rich cultural strands that make our school and New Zealand so special. Students will be involved in a number of learning experiences that help them appreciate and relate to our Pasifika cultures.

**PASIFIKA CONSULTATION:** To our Pasifika families, on Thursday the 9th of November, (week 4) we have a Pasifika sharing and consultation event at 3.15 p.m. in the school auditorium. The Junior School and Senior School Pasifika groups will share some of the items they have been learning at school. Teachers will also share some of the ways they incorporate Pasifika elements into the curriculum. We look forward to seeing you at this event. All students are welcome to wear Pasifika themed clothing, e.g. lava lava, puletasi on this day, or if not please send your child to school in their uniform. It could be as simple as wearing a flower in their hair. A letter will follow next week with more information

**NET SAFE PARENTS EVENING:** Parents please be aware that on Thursday the 2nd of November, (week 3) from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., there will be a 'Netsafe' parent evening. Netsafe is an organisation that supports schools, families and the community about staying safe when using the internet cyber world and when interacting via social media. One of the important considerations for educators and families is appreciating that our students and children live in a digital age. This is their reality, therefore, promoting safety in using digital technology and interacting in a cyber world is an important consideration. By educating adults we are better informed to educate our children. All parents are invited to attend.

**TABLES:** Tomorrow, Friday there will be some tables outside the container opposite Mr Rowley's caretaker garage, at our Grayson Avenue entrance. These are free to a good home. Please feel free to see Mr Rowley if you are interested.

**MUFTI DAY:** Last terms mufti day proceeds of \$690.70 was forwarded to the Ronald McDonald House appeal. They were very appreciative of the proceeds and replied by expressing their thanks. They talked about how through fundraising they were able to help out 485 families, which equated to 3333 nights of free accommodation! It is probably best summed up when they say, "Your help will ensure that we can continue to provide our essential services to families who have a child undergoing medical treatment by providing accommodation and support..." That's what it is all about, thank you parents and students, 'Others before Self.'

**LUCKY LUNCH WINNER:** Well done to Rishabh Kumar from Room 26 who was the lucky lunch winner from the last newsletter. On Mondays or Fridays, the lucky lunch winner is able to order a pie of their choice and a box of juice from the auditorium before school.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_