



PUHINUI SCHOOL *Newsletter*



2 March 2017

Newsletter No. 2017/03

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES: Our beginning of the year parent conferences were held last night (Wednesday) with a very good turn out. Teachers appreciate the time taken by our families to come in and talk about how their child has settled into school. There are always a number of positives that we are able to take away from our parent conferences. Information that is shared with parents can sometimes help us make subtle adjustments to how we work and at times it can also help us make big differences in how we approach learning and care of students. We hope the information shared gave everyone a sense of appreciation, and that it will contribute to improvements for our students. As a school we value the support and faith our community has in us as educators and in turn we appreciate the important partnership we have with our families and the Puhinui School community. If you have any queries regarding your child throughout the year please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. If it is an issue outside of the classroom and class programmes please contact the office on 278 8703 or our freephone number 0800 167 919.

ZONES SWIMMING SQUAD: This afternoon our swimming squad have been at the Papatoetoe Swimming Pools in preparation for the Swimming zones next week. Mr Feau, Miss Gagen and Mr Mose have been practising with the squad over the various weeks to sharpen their swimming skills. This traditional practice at the pools is an excellent part of our preparation because it gives the children a sense of what it is like to swim in the big pool the students will be competing in next week. The squad will be finalised after today's training. Good luck to all those who will go through to the zones next week. Swimming Zone Day will be on Tuesday the 7th of March, with the start time of 9.30 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend the day and support the Puhinui team.

PROPERTY INFORMATION: Recently we had our playground warrant of fitness checks. We have had some equipment replaced and maintenance has been carried out to ensure our playgrounds continue to be safe, enjoyable spaces for our students to play on.

Earlier in the term we had arborists at the school to carry out safety checks and to do work on our trees. You may have noticed how good the front trees look now that they have had their haircut!

Our library, old dental room, junior refurbishment and resource area are almost completed! We have a number of small items that building contractors are working on, and we all hope they will be finished in the next few weeks. Our new spaces are looking good and we are seeing them being utilised fully already, particularly the atrium space outside Rooms 23, 24 and 25.

Mr Rowley, our awesome property officer continues to work quietly behind the scenes ensuring general maintenance and care of the school is maintained. He works well with the sub-contractors that we have come in and out of the school and he knows every

working operation of the school. He is our property doctor! Thank you Mr Rowley for the good work you do for our school. Very shortly Mr Rowley will be expecting his second child, so it is a very exciting time for him and his family, we wish him and his wife all the best.

SCHOOL CHARTER: Our School Charter is a document that we submit to the Ministry of Education (MOE) at this time of the year (1st March). This document highlights our successes and areas for improvement to the MOE. We now begin working on the goals we have set for 2017 and our strategic plans. Currently the staff are working on developing our targets for 2017. Part of this process involves identifying students for learning support. At this time we also look at identifying and continuing to work on the quality teaching and learning initiatives we have proven to be a success over the recent years. We have excellent learning programmes here at Puhinui School, so we must ensure that we continue to build on these. We also use this time to begin actioning other possible initiatives that may enhance our quality learning programmes for our students. Like all good teams, we look at good fundamentals as well as exciting new ideas that may help us make improvements year after year. Our recent professional development in phonemic awareness is an example of this. This is an example of an initiative that you will see in our literacy programmes this year.

HOUSE LEADERS: Congratulations to our four house leaders and deputy leaders for 2017. The leaders and deputies of the respective houses are:

	Leader	Deputy Leader
Gold house	Jayden Dawes Rm 5	Ibraheem Saqib Rm 4
Blue House	Makea Upu Rm 4	Levi Muagututia-Saipela Rm 6
Green House	Grace Mataia Rm 1	Shyla Hunt Rm 7
Red House	Janessa Chalmers Rm 1	Donna Fesolai Rm 5

MIT FREE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES: Do you speak English as another language? Do you want to learn English while your children are at school? We have FREE part time ESOL classes at MIT – North Campus at Otara. Please ring Silvia – School of English office – 968 8748 for more information.

KIWI GAMES FUN SPORTS PROGRAMME: For children aged 5 – 11 years. **Saturdays** in Term 1: **Starts 4th March**, then 11th, 18th, 25th March and 1st April. 9.30am - 11am at Papatoetoe East School, 138 Tui Road. Gold coin donation. Contact Mr Glenn at PACT Office 279 8340 or 0274 381 646.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE: Bizzy Bodz provide before and after school care on the school site from Monday to Friday. If you would like any information regarding the care and cost please contact Jo Adamson on 530 9020 or collect a brochure from the school office.

LUCKY LUNCH WINNER: Well done to Jasmeet Saini from Room 8 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 _____