



# PUHINUI SCHOOL

# Newsletter



7 July 2016

Newsletter No. 2016/09

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**END OF TERM 2:** Term 2 finishes on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of July at the usual time of 3.00 p.m. Term 2 has been a very busy term, both in class programmes, as well as activities in sports, art, science, kapa haka, band, chess and music. Our students have worked really hard in all areas of the curriculum and certainly deserve a break to rest and re-charge their batteries for Term 3, which starts on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> July at the usual time of 8.50 a.m.

**INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS:** Reports were sent home with individual children on Monday. It was very uplifting to read the reports and see how well our students are working and how much they are enjoying school and their learning. This is of course, in the main, a result of the positive feedback and encouragement that they receive from you as parents. Many thanks to all of our parents for your continuing support of the school and what we are collectively trying to achieve for your children. As we have said on many previous occasions, education is the key to future success.

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES:** Many thanks to all of our parents for their involvement in the conferences and for the ongoing support of your children's learning. Teachers certainly appreciate the face-to-face discussions with parents, in order to share information and learn more about each individual child. Teachers will follow up with any plans, goals or monitoring that is decided at the conference between themselves and parents. The success of each child who attends any school, is a shared responsibility between the parents and the school. For a child leaving Puhinui School at the end of Year 6, we see success in the child as:

- being confident as a learner and in their ability to accept and deal with challenge.
- being literate and numerate, having enjoyed learning success whilst at Puhinui School.
- being optimistic about their future learning and having the confidence in their own ability and the social skills to enjoy their next school.

If any parents wish, at any time, to discuss their child's progress or have any concerns regarding their child addressed, please don't hesitate to contact their class teacher to make a time mutually suitable for both parties. The school contact number is 278 8703 or 0800 167 919.

**STAFF LEAVING:** Mrs Megan Bayley, our Year 1 and 2 teacher in Room 12 will be going on maternity leave at the end of week 2, Term 3. Megan will be returning to Puhinui School at the beginning of 2017. We wish Megan and her husband, Chris, well for their exciting new arrival.

Mrs Marie Bull, one of our Teacher Assistants is leaving Puhinui School tomorrow, the last day of term. Marie and her family have moved to Pukekohe. She has had a long association with the school, having had 6 children attend over the years, and then becoming a teaching assistant at the school in 2013. We thank Marie for her contribution to Puhinui School over those years in both capacities as a parent and also as a staff member. We also wish Marie and her family the very best for their new lives in Pukekohe.

**NEW PROPERTY OFFICER:** Mr Chris Rowley has been appointed the new property officer and caretaker for Puhinui School to replace Mr Manawaiti after his recent retirement. We welcome Chris and hope he enjoys his role at the school.

**KAPA HAKA:** On Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, the Puhinui School Kapa Haka performed at ABC Hayman Park Childcare Centre as part of their Matariki celebrations. Congratulations to all those students involved for representing the school so proudly, performing with strength and confidence, and for upholding the Puhinui School values in the wider community. Feedback from the centre said that their young children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were running around afterwards practising their pūkana and talking about how amazing it was. Many thanks to the tutors, Miss M. Clune and Mrs M. Waimotu who work with our group, and the students for their commitment to the kapa haka.

**ZONE WINTER SPORTS:** All the three codes of soccer, netball and rugby were scheduled to play at Bruce Pulman Park in Papakura on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. This sporting fixture is always a great day for all children involved in teams and this year was no exception. The games in all codes were very exciting and often produced extremely close results. All teams played with great sportsmanship, with children enjoying playing against other schools, often meeting friends made as a result of their interschool exchanges throughout the term. Congratulations to all of our team members for their contribution to the field day. The results were:

Netball	3 <sup>rd</sup> in both the E and F grades
Soccer	1 <sup>st</sup> place in both the A and B grades
Rugby	2 <sup>nd</sup> place in the under 40kg grade

Many thanks to all of our teachers for their time and expertise coaching our players at lunch times in preparation for the field day.

**ART ENHANCEMENT:** Many thanks to Mrs Jessica Pearse and Miss Serena Walker, two of our teachers, who have been teaching the students attending the Papatoetoe Schools' Art Enhancement at Puhinui School for the last four weeks. The artwork produced by each student in each of the enhancement groups was quite outstanding. More importantly, however, was the artistic learning process in which the students were involved throughout the week long enhancement. Students were learning various art techniques, experimenting with different media and interacting with students from all of the other schools in the Papatoetoe area. Well done to everyone involved in the enhancement programme and many thanks to Jessica and Serena for their art expertise and their ability to enthuse and inspire the students.

**VULNERABLE CHILDREN ACT:** The overarching policy for protecting vulnerable children at Puhinui School has been posted on the Puhinui School website for our parents information.

**DROP-OFF ZONE:** The drop-off zone has been operating effectively, thanks to the patience and tolerance of our parents and the supervision provided by Mr Millsteed, our School Social Worker, and Mr Rowley, our Property Officer. It certainly makes the parents' task of dropping off their children in the mornings much easier. We look forward to this continuing throughout the rest of the year.

**MUFTI DAY:** Last Friday, Puhinui School was a 'flash of colour' as children took advantage of the chance to wear their everyday clothes, rather than their usual uniforms. It certainly transforms the school on such an occasion, not only in terms of colour but also the excitement of the children. I'm unsure whether there are the same levels of learning productivity on mufti days as opposed to normal uniformed days, but what I do know is that it's much more fun wearing mufti. The \$642.70 raised through the children and staff donations will be forwarded to the Westpac Helicopter Service.

**TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI (MĀORI LANGUAGE WEEK):** This week has been Māori language week and, as such, our staff and students have been involved in using and learning more Māori language. Today the whole school was involved in a Māori intensive where all children were able to join activities embracing and learning about aspects of Māori culture. Each class based their respective activities on Māori legends and myths and stories involving Matariki. The students were involved in art, dance, drama, and games all relating to Māori culture.

**WRITER OF THE FUTURE:** Mrs Heather Haylock works as a Literacy Teaching Assistant at Puhinui School in Room 23, a new entrant class. Heather also has a passion for writing, in particular children's stories, which children find very funny because of Heather's use of language which appeals to children and situations which children can relate to. Last week Heather was contacted by the Story Lines Foundation to inform her that one of her stories titled 'Granny McFlitter The Champion Knitter', had been selected for the 'Gavin Bishop' writing award and as such, will be published for sale in 2018. Congratulations Heather, we look forward to reading your much celebrated story.

**BUILDING PROJECT:** After some set backs to the present building projects and the shocking weather, we are now back on track with progress clearly visible in the library upgrade, the two new teaching spaces, resource facilities, teacher work area and the increased staffroom size. Another teaching space to be developed will be the refurbishment of the old dental clinic, as a mini classroom. We are hoping all these projects will be completed and operating by the end of Term 3.

**LUCKY LUNCH WINNER:** Well done to Jayden Smith from Room 24 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 \_\_\_\_\_