



PUHINUI SCHOOL

Newsletter



3 March 2016

Newsletter No. 2016/03

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

AUCKLAND TRANSPORT: Puhinui School has become part of the Auckland Transport 'Safety At The School Gate' programme. This is an initiative supported by The Auckland Council, aimed at improving the safety of children entering and leaving schools, by monitoring more closely motorist behaviour at the start and finish of the school day. The focus is on ensuring that drivers who do not comply with the laws pertaining to parking, speeding around schools and running red lights are held to account. Wardens supplied by Auckland Transport will be supporting schools in order to keep children safe. This is a great thing because it will be your children's safety that will be the focus of the initiative.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION: Next week, from Monday the 7th of March to Friday the 11th of March, our senior classrooms will be involved in outdoor education week, where students in Years 5 and 6 will be experiencing a number of outdoor activities including: Tenting, cooking, orienteering, archery, water safety, first aid, shelter making and kayaking to name some. Students will be challenged in their thinking, creative solutions to problems and their ability to use common sense and practical actions in new situations. The emphasis will be on having fun, learning new skills, experiencing leadership opportunities, working in a team situation and, in some cases, facing fears in a safe, controlled environment. The Year 6 students will camp out in tents in the school grounds on Thursday night. They will be involved in an evening and night programme, including a talent quest and songs in a camping environment.

B.O.T. ELECTIONS: As our community will know, all schools are governed by a Board of Trustees, usually consisting of five elected people from our school community. Usually the elected members of the board are parents of students attending the school, but not necessarily. There is a defined process outlined in the Education Act, which determines the procedures which a school must go through in electing a board. A returning officer is appointed by the existing B.O.T. to oversee and manage the election process. All parents will be receiving information prior to the election, which will be held in June.

SOCIAL WORKER: Puhinui School has a full time social worker to assist both students and their families. This assistance may be in a number of ways, depending on the individual circumstances of the family. Mr Christopher Millstead, our social worker, is available to talk and work along side families providing support, advice and, in some cases, assistance with liaising with support agencies to provide practical help for them. Please contact the school on 278 8703 or 0800 167 919 in order to make contact with him.

UPDATING SCHOOL RECORDS: Today, a form will be sent home so any parents who have different contact details to those held by the school can update their physical address and/or their phone contact numbers including both landline and mobile. We will only change our records if a form is returned to the school. If we do not receive a change of details form, we will assume your contact details have not changed since last year. It is imperative that we have up to date contact details in case we need to urgently contact you in the event of an emergency involving your child.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP: The middle school classes are visiting The Stardome Observatory next Friday the 11th of March as part of their science topic.

VISITORS FROM SWEDEN: On Friday the 19th of February, we had eight principals and teachers from Sweden visiting Puhinui School to look at how the curriculum is managed, how resources are allocated to teaching and learning, and the general day to day school operation. The New Zealand education system has far more autonomy in how we organise and resource programmes and provide

school facilities to enhance the learning of children than that of the Swedish system. The visitors were impressed with the attitude, engagement and achievement of our students at all levels of the school. They were making comparisons to their own schools and talked to us about the challenges that they face in terms of the numbers of refugees, having suffered heartbreaking atrocities, arriving at their schools with no language with which to communicate, as well as having severe social and psychological issues from their previous lives. Their stories certainly confirmed the fact that we are all very lucky to be living in such a great country as New Zealand, with so many opportunities, for those who wish to work and take advantage of those opportunities. For all of our students attending Puhinui School some of those opportunities are:

working hard every day at reading, writing and maths

working hard and being engaged in the many other learning experiences available at Puhinui School

developing excellent work habits by commencing work quickly, continuing with the task and completing the task

developing social skills and attitudes to get on well with other people.

PARENT CONFERENCES: Many thanks to all of those parents who took the time and effort to meet with their child's class teacher last week. The partnership between the home and the school is extremely important. Teachers will be following up with any actions discussed for your child in the conference meeting. 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.

SPORTING EVENTS: Our sports teams have been regularly practising in preparation for the sporting events this term. Puhinui School will have a boys and girls play ball and cricket team competing in the zone field days on Tuesday the 22nd of March, with a saving day of Thursday the 24th of March. Our swimming squad has also been training hard for the zone swimming championships scheduled for Tuesday the 8th of March at the Papatoetoe Pools. We wish all teams the very best for their respective events.

HOUSE LEADERS FOR 2016: Congratulations to our four house leaders and deputy leaders for 2016. The leaders and deputies of the respective houses are:

	Leader	Deputy Leader
Gold house	Meilani Anderson Rm 7	Sione Hill-Tupou Rm 6
Blue House	Dilpreet Kaur Heer Rm 4	Jas Rathod Rm 1
Green House	Nazihah Busksh Rm 6	Paige Habib Rm 1
Gold House	Jordan Gow Rm 1	Angel Sitapa Rm 5

Our house leaders are selected for their personal qualities, their behaviour, attitude and common sense. Other aspects for selection are: their interpersonal skills, and their ability to influence other students in a positive way. We look forward to their leadership throughout 2016.

LUCKY LUNCH WINNER: Well done to Shishant Narayan 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 _____