



# PUHINUI SCHOOL

# Newsletter



18 February 2016

Newsletter No. 2016/02

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**FIRST ASSEMBLY FOR 2016:** On Friday, the 5th of February, we held our first assembly for 2016. It was a pleasure to see the behaviour and respect shown from all of our students. They listened attentively to other students who spoke, performed and were contributing to the smooth running of the assembly. Our new leaders were great, speaking for their first time to the whole school, and certainly modelled the expectations we have as a school of ourselves and of others. We talked about the school as a family enjoying each other's company and being considerate of each other, treating others as we want to be treated ourselves. The theme of respect, which underpins our values at Puhinui School, was very evident.

Respect firstly for ourselves and for others  
Respect for our family and their values and beliefs.  
Respect for our school and the values and beliefs that we hold dear.  
Respect for property and our environment.

Many thanks to all of our students, teachers, teaching assistants and, of course, our parents for helping to maintain the high standards expected at Puhinui School, a place where your children can enjoy while learning, and learn in a friendly, safe environment.

**EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE REPORT:** The review office carries out independent audits of schools and their ability to provide their communities with a high standard of education. We had ERO visit Puhinui School in week 6 of Term 4 last year. The ensuing report from the review was received by Puhinui School in the holiday break, so effectively, this is the earliest opportunity for us to share its findings with our parents and community. All aspects of the report were very positive with an acknowledgement of how well our students are achieving and statements to the effect that there is high quality teaching and learning evident across all aspects of the curriculum. The school received a 4 to 5 year ERO return visit period, which is an acknowledgement of the likelihood of effective governance from the BOT, effective teaching, with high levels of achievement from students continuing. Included, is a short summary statement from the review report.

### **Conclusion**

Puhinui School is a high performing primary school in South Auckland. The school has a culturally rich and talented community. Students benefit from highly effective teaching and a caring school culture. Thoughtful school leaders are improvement focused and work collaboratively with the staff and community.

For parents who wish to read the whole report of five pages, go to the ERO website or enter into Google: Puhinui School 2015 ERO review report.

**SWIMMING LESSONS:** Learning to swim and water safety in general are part of the New Zealand Curriculum and as such is a compulsory aspect of the National Curriculum and therefore part of the Puhinui School Curriculum. Swimming at Puhinui School is compulsory, as is maths, reading and writing. All students swim unless they have a medical note for the day that they are excused. Minor health issues are not excuses and notes exempting children from swimming, are valid for the day that the note refers to, unless of course, a doctor has given written reasons why the child cannot swim for an extended period. Teachers will ring parents if any student is obviously avoiding swimming and using medical excuses for doing so. New Zealand is an island and as such life in New Zealand involves being in, on or around water, particularly for teenagers and young adults, which is why it is so important that children learn to swim at primary school. School is the perfect opportunity for that to happen.

**'SPLISH, SPLOSH, SPLASH':** All of our junior students were involved in activities in, on and around water on Thursday the 11th of February as part of our 'Splish, Splosh, Splash' day. They thoroughly enjoyed the water activities, particularly the slippery slide and were pretty tired at the end of the day. Thanks to our junior teachers and Mr Manawaiti, our caretaker, for the organisation of 'splish, splosh, splash' day and also to those parents who attended supporting the day's events.

**MIDDLE AND SENIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS:** Our middle and senior school students were involved in their respective swimming sports on Tuesday of this week. Both events had both competitive and non-competitive events to include all students, irrespective of their swimming ability. The emphasis was on maximum participation and students doing their best. It was very obvious in both events that there were high numbers of students able to easily swim a length of the pool and ever increasing numbers of quite outstanding swimmers, indicating the success of our school-based lessons and the community swim programmes.

**AUT PARTNERSHIP:** We are continuing through 2016 with the Masters of Teaching partnership we have with the Auckland University of Technology, situated on the North Shore. We will have five Masters students working at Puhinui School in the first half of 2016. They will work in a number of classes throughout their stay and be assigned to one class for their practicum work, a five week period.

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES:** A reminder to our parents that our parent teacher conferences have been scheduled next Wednesday, the 24th of February. All students will be leaving school after lunch at 1.30 p.m. so conferences can commence at 1.40 p.m. If parents usually pick their children up at 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday of next week they need to make arrangements for them to be picked up at 1.30 p.m. We regret any inconvenience this may cause for working parents. If you are unable to collect your child at 1.30 p.m., Bizzy Bodz, our after school care providers, are able to care for him or her until 3.00 p.m. at a cost of \$8.50. Please book your child in by speaking to Sumi at Bizzy Bodz in the Technology Room by 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday the 24th of February. All parents should have received detailed information regarding the conferences and by this stage would have made arrangements for a conference time with their child's class teacher.

**CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS:** The class photographs are scheduled for next Monday the 22nd of February. These will be taken by Photolife in the school auditorium starting at 9.00 a.m. Individual and family photographs are scheduled for later in the year.

**MODERNISATION PROGRAMME:** We are about to start a number of building projects around the school to modernise older out-dated facilities. These areas include:

The library office area and resource facilities in the library block

Updating the library and learning centre into a modern learning environment.

Creating a new resource area, teacher work space and flexible teaching spaces as part of the junior block.

Removing the old brick sheds facing the quad to facilitate a more useable walkway link between blocks.

Refurbish the old dental clinic into flexible teaching spaces.

The work is scheduled for the first half of the year and will hopefully be completed by the end of July. This will be the last areas of the school to be modernised from the original buildings constructed in 1953, some 62 years ago, providing the students and teachers with an excellent environment in which to learn and work.

**LUCKY LUNCH WINNER:** Well done to Talan Pearse from Room 17 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 \_\_\_\_\_