



A FINAL 2017 ROUND UP

The last days of a school year are inevitably bittersweet and sitting to write this final round up for the year, I have in mind the Te Arakura children who seem to grow in stature and confidence daily and of course Class 7 who have spent a healthy part of the last six months thinking they can't wait to leave and are suddenly asking *will you miss me?* Or in one notable case: *Do you realize Mary, the school will never be the same again, once we're gone!* True that.

Triathlon and Fun Day

Thank you to all the wonderful parents who made these two events work so well for the children this year. The general consensus is that despite being late out of the blocks in terms of the decision to separate the two events, the final products made up for the somewhat- less than- perfect- process. We staged two really safe and well managed events and the children (even our most dedicated grumblers) seem to have had a whale of a time. This, it must be said, is largely down to the truly wonderful attention and support staff received from so many of the parent body. On behalf of the both the teachers and the children, thank you.

Welcome Bay Lions

At our recent annual Lions Club assembly three of our leavers were acknowledged for their services to the school. Hamish Graham, Aurnyn Symons and Grace Tak Hewlett were all honoured with Lions Club Scholarships for contributions to sport, music and just being great kids generally. Grace was awarded a second \$500.00 music sponsorship as well to help fund a tour to Hawaii with Bethlehem College.

And adding further fizz to a great afternoon the school was presented with a cheque for \$1500.00 which will be added to the fair fund. This money (nearly half a pledge!) came as a result of our raffle ticket sales and was very gratefully received. As was the news that we very cleverly managed to sell both the third and fourth prize! Well done everybody.



From the farm

We still have hay for sale - reduced price before Term 1! \$9 a bale if over 10 bales or \$12 per bale Please contact Anne in holidays to arrange pick up 0221627709. After holidays price increases so get in quick. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped in the farm and gardens over the year and to everyone who has fed the animals. Any volunteers for over the summer holidays please see Anne.

Events still to come

Friday 15th December- Last day of term 4! School will finish at 1pm and reports will be given out at this time. Please see Kindergarten handout regarding last day times and activities! Shepherd's Play performance for our graduates and adult community members at the Whare at 12pm. All are welcome.

Monday 18th December- Christmas Carol Evening in the Whare 6:30pm. There will be a picnic on the grass outside beforehand, so come earlier and bring along your picnic blanket, some nibbles and your best singing voices! Any enquiries please contact Dennis De Monchy - dennisdemonchy@gmail.com

Thursday 1st February - First day back Term 1 2018 School and Kindergarten

Tuesday 6th February - Waitangi Day School and Kindergarten closed





CLASS TEACHER PLACEMENT 2018

We have had an extraordinarily difficult time putting together the jigsaw puzzle that is the Class Teacher Placement process this year and in fact, at this stage it still remains incomplete. What follows is what we have been able to nail down so far.

Kotahi Spring	Simone Andrews Jan Ione & Sam King	Summer Autumn	Suzanne Allen & Robyn Baker Tina Darlington & Donna McLeod
Class 1	Laura Jahnefelt & Shery Jenkins	Class 5	Fran Mc Call
Class 2	Ipa de Beer	Class 6	Shirley Bacica
Class 3	Jo Skentelbery	Class 7	Taryn Potier
Class 4	Michael Rall & co-teacher		

The Class 4 positions are not yet finalised however we are well into the process and look forward to announcing these as soon as possible. As always, we ask whether you approve of our conclusions or you do not, that you keep your thoughts and emotions to yourself and thus allow the children to freely experience the teachers we have carefully chosen for them.

Herald Article – Have you seen it?

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11951248

Thank you to all who've fed in their comments about the technology news clip published by the local Herald Newshub. As is customary for our community, there are those of you who are thrilled that our school looked so great and are happy for the publicity and there are a couple of you who have registered concerns.

While we welcome all and every comment and want to be the kind of community that can work with diverse points of view, it's probably pertinent for you all to know that we actually got a bit of a surprise ourselves with this. We thought we were having an article in the Herald and as with all newspapers we make sure that anyone who has asked their child not to be photographed is excluded. Over the years we have had so many children thrilled to see themselves in papers for their sports or music prowess or even as part of the fair and we thought that was what was happening in this case too. But no, and for those of you are who have taken offence we do need to sincerely apologize for our naivety.

Even if what we had agreed to was a regular Herald article, with all papers now on-line, it is definitely time for us to work up a new protocol around images of children. As a first position, we are imagining a procedure that has several layers- perhaps making the distinction between publicity material such as the beautiful record made for us recently of our fair, and then other journalistic publications. Let's be clear, schools are grappling with this all over NZ and our advisors admit it is a complex issue. In the meantime, please do email the office if you want to make sure your child is routinely excluded from such things in the future and we will make a register. To date we have had no complaints from anyone whose child was actually included in the article, but please do contact us if you are in this situation.

FROM THE KINDERGARTEN

An interesting read about the importance of cooking skills for children – check out the link below!

https://www.pdhq.co.nz/sn20/?mc_cid=421d552d82&mc_eid=5f9102dea0

FROM THE CRAFTY PUKEKO

Just letting you know that the Crafty Pukeko will be open on Tuesday 19th December 10am-2pm. Wendy will open and Cathy will be in the office to take eftpos payments – come get your Christmas gifts without the little ones around! We have heaps of goodies in store!

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, the WST, the College and all of our wonderful ancillary staff, we thank you for all the ways you have supported us in our work with your children over the last year and we wish you all a happy and holy Christmastide.

Nga Mihi
Mary T-J

