

On the day of our school raft race I reflected on the last 12 years that I have attended this annual community event. I remember being so impressed when I attended my first one with my eldest son Russell. As a little class one child he was nurtured by the older students and parents, tossed on a raft (no life jacket back then) and he held on tight as his raft disintegrated into floating parts. My husband Wayne would take annual leave to come and play also. In those days, we went to Matapihi and sailed off by the railway bridge. We had to move from that venue as our school numbers grew because we could no longer fit along the seashore.

Back then I recall several trailer loads of 'stuff' arriving for our students and overexcited parents (including myself), busily involved in the preparations of raft building and then came the race. Mario's tradition of weird and wacky awards has continued and Michael certainly pulled out some unusual treasures. My favorite was the nail for the winning team; "You nailed it" he beamed!!!!

One of my wonderings though is, why, when we now have so many more families that we had only a small supply of gear for raft building. This year we fielded 15 teams but only had enough gear for 8 rafts. Thanks to a quick-thinking parent, Olaf, a solution was found - two teams, approximately 20 students, building one raft and taking turns to race it.

It was a strange feeling attending as a teacher this year. I kept bumping into longtime friends, having lots of cuddles and enjoying a chat, then having to remind myself, "Get to work Shirley". I found the day very well organised, very relaxed and most enjoyable. I have been studying and teaching in the mainstream for the last six years and know this sort of event does not happen elsewhere. Knowing how busy parents are too and just how stressful life is these days, I do so hope as a community we can continue to support the teachers to make this a safe and fun day.

If you have never attended, take time next year to come along. Even if you can't, go hunting in the garage, garden shed, find old rope, planks of wood and any other floating bits and fill up a trailer. Remember to bring your togs, we always need adults in the water.

One last reflection, Michael and I were chatting about how no rafts fell apart. Just a little hint parents for next year, it is meant to be the children building, and it is okay if they fail. It is one of my teaching mantras "We have our best learning from making mistakes". We just need to have the parents close by in the water to help! I promise Dads, no one is judging your building skills! I am looking forward to seeing you all again next year.

Ma te wa  
Shirley Bacica Class 5 Teacher (and longtime parent)



# RAFT RACE DAY FUN!





## FROM THE OFFICE

### **School Photos**

Please make note that school photos will be taken on Friday the 7th of April.

### **Parking**

A reminder that the first two parking spaces outside the office are reserved for families with small babies. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Produce Swap**

Do you have too many Avos and not enough Zucchini's? Too many apples and not enough pears? School and Kindy mum, Jodi Keet is keen to get a parent initiative up and running here at school. A weekly Excess Garden Produce Swap to be held each Monday outside the Michael Hut 2.30pm-3.00pm. Bring your produce to swap with others. For more details or information please give Jodi a call 021 330 506.

## FROM THE FESTIVAL GROUP

Pancake Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. Pancake races in the amphitheatre from 1:45pm. All welcome.

## FROM THE FARM

Great news – our little lost pig is back home safe and sound! Now named Harry, he will be a great friend for Hermione up on the farm after his grand adventure. Thanks to everyone who helped us find him!

If you have any excess fruit at home you would like to donate for preserving and jam making please drop off to your child's class for Anne to collect.

Hay bales for sale: \$12 each or 5 for \$50.

## FROM THE KINDERGARTEN

Please note that Dominique and the kindergarten administration office have now moved to the end of the Summer Rose building.

## CLASS 5

### Class 5 Friday Lunches – Sushi and Juicie Shop

Every Friday starting March 3<sup>rd</sup>. \$2 juicies. \$3 for 4 pieces of sushi. Choose one of the following:

Chicken Teriyaki

Salmon

Vegetarian: Avocado and Cucumber

Please place your order and pay in your child's class on WEDNESDAY mornings.



Please join us to support the Class 5 school camp fundraiser for a screening of the re-imagined Kiwi classic movie 'Pork Pie' and Retro Hamper Raffle. (Including a 'Moko Tiki' limited edition print from Lester Hall.)

Wednesday 01 March from 7:30pm (movie starts at 8pm) at Rialto Cinema, Tauranga.

\$20 per ticket + booking fee. Treat bag included.

Both movie and raffle tickets are available from Lisa Darlington, Laura Fleming or Jackie Heetkamp or book movie online at [eventbrite.co.nz](http://eventbrite.co.nz). 80s dress encouraged! All welcome!



### FELTED EASTER EGG WORKSHOP

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 1pm – 2:30pm in the Cowshed

\$5 per person

Bring a felting needling (available from the Crafty Pukeko)

Perfect for beginners. Sorry not suitable for children to attend.



### DATES FOR TERM ONE

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April

BOT Meeting 5:30pm in staffroom

Shrove Tuesday (parents from 1:45pm)

Ash Wednesday – school only assembly

Class 7 Parents Evening 7pm

Class 1 Parents Evening (see class teacher for details)

Class 4 Camp

Class 2 Parents Evening (see class teacher for details)

Class 5 Estuary Trip

Kindergarten Parents Evening 5:30pm in respective rooms

School Photos