



Parua Bay School

"Success Through Effort"

"Ma te mahi ka matou"

NEWSLETTER -22nd August 2017

Term 3, Week 5

Kia ora koutou whanau

We are now nearly halfway through Term 3; the days are getting longer, brighter and warmer. The children are busily working on their learning goals and staff are focused on ensuring their students are inspired in genuine learning contexts, whilst at the same time, promoting higher student achievement. I continue to visit classes every Thursday; now that the school has grown so large, I have had to split seeing junior classes one week, followed by senior classes the following week. These visits allow me the chance to see first-hand what teaching and learning is happening in classes; I spend about 30 minutes in each class and make sure I get involved in the lesson. I then feed back to the teachers what I have seen, and feed forward suggestions and reflections for improved practice. Although I aim to be in classes at other times too, I value this devoted time in class as I can honestly keep a "finger on the pulse" of learning at Parua Bay School, and at the same time enjoy being with the students and staff.

The school parent / community survey has been sent out electronically last week. Please take the time to participate in this survey; the Board of Trustees and staff evaluates the responses to the questions, with a view to making improvements in the school's daily processes. In response to a query from a parent about our "Behaviour Policy", this document has been attached to our school website, under the tab "Our School" and scroll down to "Charter & Documentation". The Positive Behaviour for Learning Document (PB4L) is currently under review this term but please take a look so that you are better informed.

It is that time of year for parents of our tamariki in Years 6 and 7, where they are being faced with making decisions about whether to send their children to an Intermediate school or to keep them at a Full Primary school, like Parua Bay School. This is a very personal decision and it is always best practice to seek all the information available. Obviously we would like to retain all our students at Parua Bay School, and over the past few years we have been very successful at keeping a very high proportion of students here. There are always pros and cons to any argument; all I ask is that you give us the opportunity to show parents, whanau and students what Parua Bay School has to offer at Years 7 and 8. We endeavour to try to ensure this is not a "hard sell"; however, we are passionate about what we can offer and we do believe in our model. A meeting for all these issues and a chance to ask your questions has been organised for **Tuesday 12 September at 6.00 p.m.** at school. A letter will go out prior to this meeting to give more details about the meeting.

Following on from an initial meeting with Anna Gentry from Nature Play NZ and some parents, at the end of last term, Anna would like to come back into school to present her design concepts. It would be great to have a good turnout of parents at this meeting, as we need to be making these designs a reality and we won't be able to do this without our parents' support. This meeting is on **Tuesday 29 August at 6.00 p.m.** and a separate letter will go out to all parents giving more details about this.

Finally, good luck to all our elite cross country runners, who will be representing Parua Bay School at the Whangarei Schools Cross Country Race at Barge Park next Thursday 31 August. I look forward to seeing many of the parents there urging your children on to do their best.

Nga mihi ra

Danny Jewell

Religion and Spirituality in Maori Content at Parua Bay School

Questions raised by a parent have led the Board to consider religious and spiritual references in Maori content at the school. There are competing demands placed on primary schools. On the one hand, to provide a secular environment, and on the other, to enable Maori culture to have a place within the school. Neither the school trustees' association nor the Ministry were able to provide guidance on the issue.

Spirituality is an inherent component of Maori culture. Due to the influence of missionaries on Maori culture, Christianity also has a strong bond.

The Board's position is:

- We are proud to be a school that embraces Maori culture and values.
- We do not say what should and shouldn't be part of Maori culture.
- The culture and values of all students in the school should be treated with respect.
- We do not have any religious or spiritual instruction in the school, but songs sung and karakia recited (as a prayer or a positive statement) do sometimes contain references.
- This could include karakia that reference, for example, the four winds, or God, or Maori Gods of elements, or as in our own school karakia, where one translation refers to a local guardian in the form of a giant Stingray whose rumbles are an omen of forewarning.
- Songs can be associated with certain occasions, as in the hymn 'Whakaria Mai', which is a translation of 'How Great Thou Art' and closely associated with ANZAC commemorations.
- We are informing you about such content to enable you to make decisions on whether this raises any issues for your family and the values you hold.
- Parents have the statutory right to request that their child does not take part in songs or prayers/statements with religious or spiritual references.
- The school will try to provide more English translations for those songs or statements with such references; be mindful of children understanding the concepts in the Maori language being sung or spoken; and be receptive to delivering plans for children to comfortably opt-out where that is the parent's wish.
- Please provide feedback to the school (via your teacher or management) if this is an issue you want to know more about.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 23 rd August	Bake Sale - Fundraiser AIMS Games
Tuesday 29 th August	Junior Playground Meeting - 6.00pm
Thursday 31 st August	WPSSA X Country - selected students
Tuesday 5 th September	Team Tui Drains to Harbour PTA Meeting 6pm-7pm
Friday 8 th September	Whanau Hui - 4pm-5pm
Tuesday 12 th September	Y6 & 7 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 13 th September	HUB Waitangi Trip
Friday 15 th September	School Disco
Monday 18 th - Friday 22 nd September	Art Expo - more details to follow.

Bake Sale - Wednesday 23rd August

Fundraiser for AIMS Games. Bring along a few dollars for some yummy treats.



School Lunches

Pizza can be ordered at the office every Thursday. Pizzas are made fresh by The Good Food Collective and offer Cheese, Cheese & Ham and Salami for \$6.00.



Fast food lunches are to be ordered on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. PLEASE NOTE: food is to be ordered and paid for by a Parent/Caregiver at the Bakery or Gas station.

Parent/Community Health Surveys

Recently we have emailed out the Parua Bay School Parent Survey and Community Health Survey. To get a true reflection of the school please ensure you complete these by Friday 1st September. Paper copies are available from the office if you are unable to complete online.

**Tuesday 29th August - 6.00pm Room
JUNIOR PLAYGROUND MEETING**
Please come along and show
your support.



**Tuesday 12th September - 6.00pm
Yr's 6 & 7 Parent Information Evening**

Board of Trustees Report August 2017

Principal's Report

This term we welcome Renay Brown and Jeremy Hamilton to our teaching staff. Accelerated Learning groups have re-commenced, with Hazel Smith focusing on Writing (Yr 5), Reading (Yr 2) and Maths for Year 6. Our roll count was 361 at 31 July, and work continues on plans for additional new classrooms and transport options. This has involved meetings with the Ministry of Education and local council representatives to try to achieve a co-ordinated plan that satisfies our current and future needs. A pedestrian crossing appears to be a possibility as well. Work is nearly complete on the new Staff area and Senco Rooms, and we have commenced re-painting the whole school. We would also like to establish a Junior Playground and have asked Nature Playground NZ to design some concept plans for us. The Education Review Office (ERO) is expected to visit the school in Term 4. We have also committed to becoming part of the Whangarei Community of Learning (COL). A COL is a group of education providers working together, sharing goals and resources to help all learners achieve their full potential.

Parent and Staff Survey

The biennial Parent and Staff Surveys were finalised and a link to the survey have been emailed to all parents. A Community Health Consultation survey followed, and results of both will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Board Members

We are very pleased to announce that Luke Malcolm has agreed to join the board as a parent representative, taking over from Staci Paul who recently resigned.

Cohort Entry

The board has agreed to the cohort concept in principle. This means that new entrant students would commence school in a group at the start of a term, rather than individually throughout the term. We will be contacting local pre-school organisations regarding this shortly.

Correspondence

In response to a parent email querying our school's policy on bullying, including how the policy is being upheld and how it is shared with the community, our *Positive Behaviour for Learning* document has been added to our school website. This document (PB4L) outlines the relevant school vision statements, school rules, school values, expected behaviours, classroom rights and responsibilities. It also covers classroom and playground incidents, bullying, the Responsible Thinking Room and steps for restoration. The Positive Behaviour for Learning document is currently under review.

School Zone

The Board has adopted an enrolment zone agreed by the Ministry of Education in June this year. The zone will be advertised to our community and in a newspaper according to Ministry guidelines. A decision will need to be made about the number of out of zone children Parua Bay School will accept each year, and the closing date for applications. We will be collating information on siblings of current students who are residing outside of the upcoming zone to inform our decision on numbers.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19 September.

Enrolment Zone

In order to avoid overcrowding, or the likelihood of overcrowding, the board of Parua Bay School has adopted an enrolment scheme which has been approved by the Ministry of Education.

Under this scheme, students will be enrolled if they live within the home zone described below.

The zone starts at 335 Whangarei Heads Road and finishes at Craig Road including all properties on Whangarei Heads Road between these two points.

The zone also includes all properties on roads off Whangarei Heads Road between 335 Whangarei Heads Road and Craig Road excluding:

- Properties numbers 433 and below on Mt Tiger Road and
- Properties on the eastern side of Craig Road.

The enrolment of out of zone students is governed by the provisions of the Education Act 1989.

The enrolment scheme, which includes a precise description of the home zone, may be viewed at the school office, where copies of the scheme are also available.



FANTASTIC GYMNASTICS 2017
fun and fitness for children of all ages

recreational
competitive tumbling
playgym
NEW kindy class

WHERE Parua Bay Community Centre
WHEN Monday - Thursday afternoons
CONTACT call/text 0276659174
hannah@fantasticgymnastics.co.nz



Wave Warriors Holiday Surf Programme

The O'Neill Surf Academy are running their popular holiday surf programme over the spring holidays for 6-16yr olds

Fun, Safe, Active & Healthy

6-16yr olds | 4 Day Programme | Fri 6th – Mon 9th October 2017
\$99 per person

Suitable for beginner and intermediate surfers – developing surf skills and water confidence in a fun and safe environment on the Tutukaka Coast

Limited spaces | Please email to book
surf@oneillsurfacademy.co.nz
www.oneillsurfacademy.co.nz



Kiwi NORTH Whangarei Museum • Kiwi House • Heritage Park

IT'S GREAT TO BE A DAD!
FREE DAY OUT

Dads free if accompanied by their children. Children free if accompanied by their dads.
All others – gold coin entry please.

Kiwi North - Gate 2, SH14, Maunu, Whangarei.
Father's Day Sunday 3rd of September 10am until 1pm.
Free entry to Kiwi house and Museum for dads and children.
Free to all – BBQ and Activities.

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Barnardos 1 million Kiwi kids' futures are in our hands
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Barnardos 09-438 2954 Tim.Sides@barnardos.org.nz Kiwi North 09-438 9650 admin@kiwinorth.co.nz



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