

Newsletter 10th May 2017

Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards -- Vernon Saunders Law

Dear Parents, students and caregivers

*On behalf of Te Kowhai School staff and students we would like to welcome all
our new students
The school roll is currently **327** children*

Cross Country – Next Friday (18th & 19th May)

Thursday 18th May: 6y Boys, 6y Girls, 5y Boys, 5y Girls will run at school/Willowbrook.
2pm start from school field area.

Friday 19th May: 7-13 year olds

Where: Schnuriger's Farm - 702 Horotiu Road
(first right past 100km sign heading out of Te Kowhai Village towards Whatawhata)

What your child needs:

Shoes (thistles and stones on the course), named drink bottle, appropriate running clothes, warm top for after run, any medication, warm jacket, and plastic bag for muddy shoes & clothes (it will be muddy!), great attitude.

Students will depart Te Kowhai School at around 12.30pm and walk down to the farm. Lunch will be slightly earlier and the Friday sausages will still be available. Parents are encouraged to park at the school/hall and then please help us walk down to the farm with the children. Some parking is also available at the farm. Races start at approx. 1pm & are expected to finish by approx. 2.30pm. Look forward to seeing you there!

Groups will be sent off in the following order; 12-13y Boys, 12-13y Girls, 7y Boys, 7y Girls, 8y Boys, 8y Girls, 9y Boys, 9y Girls, 10y Boys, 10y Girls, 11y Boys, 11y Girls

Parents are welcome to take children home after their races (although staying to cheer on other students is encouraged) but they **MUST ADVISE THEIR CLASS TEACHER ON THE MORNING OF THE RACE**. The course is pretty much the same as last years, with only a few very minor changes.

New Turf

It is great to see the new Astroturf project completed, and our students loving this new surface! Our thanks to those that supported the 2017 Top School Games, with funds raised contributing to this project. During the term break, there were also a large number of building upgrades and new roofs added. This term the pavilion and tuckshop will be upgraded as well.



TK Tron Rocks – lunchtime design session

We have had a good collection of Tron Rocks coming in so far. We would love to see even more. This Friday, Mrs Wilson will be running a lunchtime session where kids can paint their rocks at school. They can bring in a rock or two from home or we will have some here for them to paint. Once dry, they will hide these around the school to be found by other students. The kids are just loving this so we will keep it running for another couple of weeks.



Our Approach to Teaching & Learning: Part 1

Education has changed markedly over the last 5-10 years, and “looks very different” from when we were at school. These changes are very evident at Te Kowhai. Over the next few months we will have a series of newsletter articles, which highlight the changes, research and our approach to teaching and learning.

Over the last 2-3 years we have evolved quickly into all students learning in what is commonly known as an ***innovative learning environment***, with at least 2 teachers. Backed by enormous research and also Ministry of Education policy, Te Kowhai School has embraced these changes and become a magnet school for others to visit. Last year we have hosted 100s of visitors from all around NZ & Australia, and are set to host 100s more. We are proud to be able to support the changes that are increasingly occurring in other schools. We appreciate that these changes are major and that some parents may have concerns/questions or comments. These are huge changes for our teaching staff as well.

I encourage you to come and visit to see for yourselves, as I’m well aware of many of the myths out there regarding our classroom environments, having 2-3 teachers or eLearning. *I urge you to be curious, not judgmental.*

To that end, this newsletter contains the first of a series of snippets regarding our approach and why. I also encourage you to come along to one of our “Open sessions”, and hear about these changes, and then to see all Learning Communities in action.

The next available session is: Monday 22nd May 9am-10.15am
- Staffroom



Why the change to Innovative Learning Environments?

The majority of New Zealand’s school buildings were built between 1950 and the 70s. Since then, teaching practice and student learning needs have changed significantly. New technologies and building materials allow for new, vibrant and well connected learning spaces. All students deserve to be taught in these new modern learning environments, and benefit from new teaching methods. The Innovative Learning Environment (ILE) was introduced in 2010.

Source: Ministry of Education

As per the Ministry of Education requirements the building projects at Te Kowhai School are all designed as Innovative Learning Environments (ILE). This refers to the buildings and learning spaces.

Long gone are the days where students are sitting in the same place all day every day and doing the same thing with the same teacher.

Our classroom environments with walls removed, flexible furniture, 1:1 iPads in younger classes and older students bringing their own laptops are obvious changes to see, but behind all of this are years of thinking and work focused on how learning has changed, research, plus a determined focus on preparing these students for a world that will be vastly different from the one we see today.

Common query: "Why do things need to change? I went to school and turned out fine..."



There are enormous changes within society and today's learners will live in a world which is difficult to imagine. The emergence of new technologies and their exponential rate of development dramatically change the way we live, work and carry out our day to day living today. Our current students will enter jobs that haven't even been thought of yet and they will face a range of unknown problems. Children can now learn anywhere, anytime from anyone, and are no longer just reliant on teachers, parents or the library for information. It is no longer enough for students to just learn facts and information.

To thrive in this changing world, they need to know how to access knowledge, communicate well, be creative thinkers and collaborate. Widespread consultation led to our new vision and learner qualities, and received exceptionally strong endorsement in the end of 2016 Board of Trustees survey.



Our curriculum is focused on developing learners that are thinkers, communicators, self-managers, collaborative and resilient. These learner qualities are so essential. These are the vital skills that businesses are looking for. Please note our approach is not an *and/or* approach, but an **and/and** approach where the traditional "3Rs" of reading, writing and maths are **still a huge focus** as well.

Communication

A reminder that our School Newsletter goes out fortnightly. With over 300 people signed up to Skoolbag and 850 people on Facebook, these means of communication will provide more timely and up to date information. Please note that you do not have to sign up to Facebook to follow or look us up. Our Facebook page shows lots of photos & videos of our students in action. <https://www.facebook.com/tekowhaischool>.

Linc-Ed Reporting

At the end of last term, a letter came home and a link (tekowhai.linc-ed.com) was shared with you all to get onto our new online reporting platform. If you did not get this letter or email, please email julietd@tekowhai.school.nz and it can be shared with you again.

When you log in you will see that your child/ren had a comment written for them by their teachers last term about how they have settled into the year and are displaying some of the Learner Qualities. Some of our students may have more information there if they have recently had an anniversary report. There will be more information shared with you towards the end of this term as well regarding how your child/ren are learning through the use of Learner Qualities and in relation to how your child is tracking towards core curriculum areas (National Standards tracking for Year 4-8).

This site will replace the printed reports that have traditionally sent out but we are endeavouring to share more relevant information in a more timely manner. The use of this site will evolve over time and we will then be able to streamline / minimize some of the other apps we use.

Optional Uniforms

We are expecting these within the next few days, and will disperse them as soon as they arrive.

Scholastic Book Club

The final day for ordering books from Scholastic Book Club will be Monday 15th May. Please have all orders in to the office no later than 9am. Thanks

School Donation – Claiming back from the IRD

Did you know that you can easily claim a 1/3 back from your payment of the School Donation? For any donations paid before 31 March 2017, a 1/3 can be claimed/refunded via the IRD immediately after this date. Any donations paid after 31 March 2017 cannot be claimed for refund until after 31 March 2018. To claim the tax credit you need to fill out a tax credit claim form (IR526), attach your donation receipt/s and send it to Inland Revenue. It's really easy! To find out more, or to download a tax credit claim form, visit - www.ird.govt.nz

Term Two Dates 2017

Note: assembly dates will be dependent on when the Pavilion upgrade is finished (internal relining). It is due to start this week. Assembly dates will be advised via Skoolbag (school app)

Date	Event
18 th May	Cross Country – 5/6 yrs
19 th May	Cross Country – 7yrs-13yrs
2 nd June	Interschool Cross Country
5 th June	Queens Birthday
16 th June	Disco
19-20 June	World of Maths show
27 th – 28 th June	Mid-Year Catch ups (Student/teacher/parent meetings)
1 st July	Quiz Night
3 rd -7 th July	ERO visit
5 th July	TK X-Factor

Fair Play - "Give it a rest – then they'll play their best."

With the Winter Sports season beginning it is timely to remind students and parents of our expectations with regard to fair play on the field/court and being a good supporter from the sidelines. With students representing the school, we believe that what they do and how we act represents hugely our school and community (which we know are great!) The Fair Play programme (promoted by Sport Waikato and the Hillary Commission) has been designed to provide students with positive experiences, which will help them develop and reinforce their ability to be fair players in life as well as in sport.

TE KOWHAI SCHOOL FAIRPLAY CODE OF CONDUCT

FAIRPLAY PROMISE FOR PLAYERS:

Good sport is about positive attitude. Play your part - play fair. To the best of my ability I will:

- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an official
- Work hard to do my best at all times
- Turn up to practice
- Be a good sport and recognize good players and good plays by all involved
- Remember to thank my coach, the officials, the opposition and supporters
- Help others in my team when I can
- Avoid putting people down or bullying
- Give it heaps and not get ugly

FAIRPLAY PROMISE FOR PARENTS:

Good sport is about positive attitude. You can set the right tone, and help make the game a success. Play your part - play fair. To the best of my ability I/we will:

- Encourage my child/ren and other peoples children in their efforts in sport
- Insist that my child plays within the rules and by the principles of Fairplay
- Respect my child's efforts the same regardless of whether he/she has won or lost
- Display self-control on the sideline. Always be positive. Never shout at or ridicule players
- Watch my child play and let him/her enjoy the game
- Remember that my child plays sport for his/her reasons not mine
- Be a positive role model for my child
- Never place undue pressure on my child to play or perform
- Make an effort to understand the rules of the game
- Give it heaps and not get ugly

Vanuatu Trip 2018

We have over 35 people that have expressed an interest in this cultural trip in June 2018, and have heard some wonderful examples of students using their initiative to fundraise. Later this term we will hold a follow up meeting for any families wishing to do combined fundraising or to share ideas. If you were unable to attend the initial information session, and would like further information (or if you attended, but hadn't contacted Tony to express an interest), then please contact Tony for further info. tonyg@tekowhai.school.nz

Year 7 Boostrix vaccinations

Thank you to all parents who returned consent / non-consent forms for their child's Year 7 Boostrix (11 year old) vaccination. The Public Health Nursing team will be immunising the consented Year 7 students in Term 2 - from the **15 May to 25 May**. If your child has already had their Year 7 Boostrix (11 year old) vaccination at the GP, - please phone them via the following contacts to let me know.

Public Health Nurse Barbara - Office Phone: 07 8288220 or Work mobile: 0212710257

Happy 155th Lloyd and Des!

Last month our caretakers turned a combined 155! With Lloyd turning 85, and Des 70. If you missed it, click the [stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz) link below to see the article and movie ☺

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/92167354/waikato-caretakers-celebrate-double-milestone>



Community News

Hi, my name is Karen Horan and I clean at Te Kowhai School. If anyone is looking for a cleaner for morning home cleaning jobs (Mon-Thurs) please contact me on 0212958077.

Waikato Ear Health

Now at Northcare Medical Centre, Pukete

Wednesdays

No referral required

- Professional ear care by experienced NZ registered nurse
- Ear Micro-examination and micro-suction (performed under direct vision using a microscope)
- For removal of wax, skin, debris and foreign objects. Adults \$48 Children (over 4yrs old) \$38

Ph 0800777327 for appt

Supporting success in your school.

If you are a parent, staff member or member of the school community and you draw down a new ASB home loan of \$250,000 or more, ASB will donate to your chosen participating school:

\$500

ASB lending criteria and terms apply. Fees may apply. To be eligible for this donation your new home loan application must be received, approved and then documented in a facility agreement, along with the completion of a school donation voucher, between 1 January 2017 and 30 June 2017. A minimum of 20% equity is required in the security property provided to ASB. This home loan offer is only available on loans secured by an owner-occupied residential property. Only one donation will be given per customer. Donations will be made by ASB on behalf of the customer to the chosen school upon full draw down of the new home loan. This offer excludes loans for business purposes and bridging.

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