

## Newsletter 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017

*"Friendship with oneself is all important because without it one cannot be friends with anyone else in the world." -- Eleanor Roosevelt*

Dear Parents, students and caregivers

*On behalf of Te Kowhai School staff and students we would like to welcome all our new students: **Bailey Gwynne**  
The school roll is currently **328** children*

### Cross Country

Last week we held our Cross Country. It was awesome to see such perseverance and resilience from our kids as many of them find the cross country very challenging. Thank you also to the many parents who came along to support. Congratulations to all participants in this years school cross country. The top three finishers in each age/gender group will represent Te Kowhai School in the Inter-Schools event to be held on 2nd June at Waitetuna. Best of luck to you all. Thank you to Glen Schnuriger for the "loan" of their farm!



### Results

Age Group	First	Second	Third
5 Year Boys	Daniel Robinson	Taite Kerby	Mason Williams
5 Year Girls	Paige Stewart	Alexis Bjerring	Tannah Smart
6 Year Boys	Nixon Banks	Carter Watkins	Lars Meier
6 Year Girls	Ella Mackie	Olivia Stone	Khloe Cole
7 Year Boys	Jack Stirling & Levi Banks		James Rutledge
7 Year Girls	Katie Davis-Barnes	Violet Rusbridge	Sophie Williams
8 Year Boys	Zeke Foster	Thomas Geddes	Rhys Lumsden
8 Year Girls	Sian Ruediger	Lucy Jamieson	Hayley Cutler
9 Year Boys	Quinn Pyle	Noah Gardiner	Carson Mackie
9 Year Girls	Natalie Cooke	Jordan Astwood	Samantha Richards
10 Year Boys	Daniel Astwood	Ty Gerrand	Logan Lumsden
10 Year Girls	Kate Ruediger	Larissa Avery	Bianca Slomp
11 Year Boys	Joe Stock	Finn Thorley	Noah Rodley
11 Year Girls	Nina Trumm	Connie Thorburn	Emma Davies
12/13 Boys	Mathijs Wetzels	Tobias Wetzels	Jamie Zyza
12/13 Girls	Nikita Goodwin	Brooke Pyle	Mya Ruediger

## Board of Trustees News - 17th May, 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of the Board of Trustees news.

The Winter Sports season is definitely upon us. It is fantastic to see so many kids training hard and then running around in TK colours on Saturdays. For a school our size, our TK learners are extremely lucky to have such a wide array of sports available to them. This is primarily thanks to the small army of volunteers who have put their hands up to coach, manage and help get the teams out there. Thank you to all those volunteers. It is help like that which makes Te Kowhai the amazing school it is.

The new turf on the hard-court area looks fantastic. As mentioned in the last Board news we can all thank money raised by Top School Games for this improvement as this will be funded using the money raised from the Games and Ministry funding, as opposed to using Board Funds. It looks like we are definitely getting our money's worth.

**Board of Trustees Vacancy** - The Board of Trustees has a Casual Vacancy for Elected Trustees following the resignation of Sheree Williamson. Sheree and her family are moving to the city, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her input on the Board, as well as the PTA.

If ten percent or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published (21<sup>st</sup> June is final date), to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the board to hold a by-election should write to: The Chairperson, Te Kowhai School Board of Trustees, Horotiu Rd, RD8, Hamilton by **21<sup>st</sup> June**.

**12 Months Leave of Absence** – The board has agreed to allow Kent Watkins a 12 Month leave of absence to allow him and Steph to take up exciting teaching positions in China. This is an amazing opportunity for Kent and the Board of Trustees wishes him well on his travels.

As they say though, as one door closes another one opens. We will be welcoming Anita Stokes back to Te Kowhai, returning from her Asian expedition.

**Student Achievement** - The focus for this meeting was an overview of Learning Support in place for those learners who have special needs, are either not achieving, at risk of not achieving or for who particular curriculum/social/health/behavioural aspects require attention. There are various formal programmes in place (eg Fountas and Pinnell Literacy Intervention, Multilit and Targeted Learning in Maths). There are also number of Learning Assistants too who run the above programmes as well as providing invaluable in class learning support. These funded both by the Board of Trustees and externally

We have a number of methods of tracking these interventions and the progress of students. One of these is via Linc-Ed management system. This is our school management system and all data can be accessed by teachers / leaders. Formal assessments as well as notes on the students are held in the database and follow the student through their time at school.

Given the funding in place for these initiatives, the Board of Trustees will be receiving regular up-dates on the efficacy. The Board invests heavily into programmes that support our students, and currently resource this area at levels that are 800% of the Ministry of Education funding "tagged" for learning support.

**Community of Learning** – As part of our involvement in the CoL, Katie Robinson, Lisa Jones and the Across School Team had the pleasure of listening to and learning from Te Mihinga Komene, with a focus around Cultural Responsiveness. Te Mihinga is a Core Facilitator who is committed to the promotion and revitalisation of te reo Māori through education. Her background was in teaching all levels in various sectors. The session was around a Māori medium settings developing our reo competency, fluency and curriculum and those attending came out of her session with a deeper understand build our confidence around Maori language and strategies to use te reo and tikanga Māori in real life contexts.

### **Parent/Teacher "Catch-up Meetings"**

Teachers are well under way with their 'Catch-up Meetings'. The purpose of these meetings to meet with the parents of students who are at risk of not achieving, or who are not achieving at their National Standard. There has been some positive feedback from staff and parents around these meetings and we hope that our parents walk away from these meeting informed about their students learning. Notes from these meetings are an example of notes being kept in the Linc Ed database (mentioned above) and can be referenced in the future.

All the best for the Winter Sports Season.

Te Kowhai School Board of Trustees.

## PTA Quiz Night

Friday 30th June has been confirmed as our annual quiz night. It will be held at the hall across the road from 7pm onwards. Tickets are available from today. Start swotting up, get the babysitting organised, and think of a team name – teams of 6-8. Prize for the best team fancy dress.... Please see the flyer at the back of the newsletter

## 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
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Interschool Cross Country
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen's Birthday
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Disco
19-20 June	World of Maths show
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Mid-Year Catch ups - (Student/teacher/parent meetings)
30 June	Quiz Night
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Tough guy/girl challenge
3 <sup>rd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> July	ERO visit
5 <sup>th</sup> July	TK X-Factor

## Our Approach to Teaching & Learning: Innovative Learning Environment FAQs – Part 2 see the last newsletter for Part 1

### **Where are all the tables (or desks) and chairs?**

Innovative Learning Environments (ILEs) cater for the differing needs of our students. You will see furniture that is of different heights e.g. kneeling benches, tables with stools, wobble stools etc. There are designated areas to better facilitate the learning and activities that students are engaged in. Areas are created to allow for groupwork, whole class discussion, buddy work, individual quiet areas etc



### **Without a desk, won't it be bad for their posture?**

What is bad for children's posture is probably sitting at an uncomfortable desk all day in the same position. By having a wide range of furniture at different levels, children can choose what suits them best. Instead of sitting for long periods of time, children get up and move around a lot more. They work in groups, in pairs and individually. Children love having a choice of areas to work in and to find areas that help them learn best depending on what they are doing. In 2016 a survey of 150+ students about whether their new classrooms *help them to learn better* had a response of 38% strongly agree, 49% agree, and 13% neutral (0% disagree or strongly disagree)

We have also invested heavily in the ergonomic chairs from Furnware (pictured)





### **With the more open spaces – won't it be noisy?**

Naturally it would be easy to assume that more students = more noise, but this has not necessarily been the case!

ILE's are designed with new building materials and new technologies specifically to reduce noise. Our classes have been upgraded with acoustic wall linings, speaker systems, smaller "breakout spaces" etc.

Studies involving decibel readings have shown that the noise levels are no different to a single cell classroom environment.

We have also noticed far higher levels of engagement and enjoyment within these environments.



It is also important to point out that learning is social, and enhanced by discussion, collaboration and groupwork. No longer is a class working in silence said to be "highly effective" (because for many students the work is either too hard or too easy)

There are also a range of areas that students may work in now that offer quiet reflective areas, group areas, buddy areas etc

**I also encourage you to come along to one of our "Open sessions", and hear about these changes, and then to see all classes in action. The next available session is: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 9am-10.30am – Staffroom**

## **Kiwi Kids Love to Cook**

Reminder that all entry forms are due back this Friday. New forms are available via Skoolbag and the office.

## **TK Stars - 7 Gold Rugby Team**

Last week we received a lovely email from a parent of an opposition team in regards to our 7 Gold Rugby Team and their coach.

*"One of our Frankton Players is globally delayed and has other medical disabilities but the way your team and their coach acknowledged this young boy was amazing. All very inclusive and wanting everyone to have a fair go. One little boy even came up after the game and told our player how cool his running was. Amazing!"*

Well done boys, what a fantastic team! - Nixon Banks, Che Gault, Kye Gault, Harry Inder, Ezekiel Johnston, Malachi Johnston, Lars Meier, Marlow Meynell, Jamie Rutledge, Carter Watkins. **Coach** – Mike Gault and **Manager** Tricia Gault

## **Pink Shirt Day this Friday**

Across the school this term, we have been working through the Kia Kaha unit which is an anti-bullying programme.

This Friday 26 May, we're asking you to celebrate 'Pink Shirt Day' and stand up against bullying, an issue across New Zealand (and the world).

Pink Shirt Day aims to create schools, workplaces and communities where all people feel safe, valued and respected. We challenge all parents to wear pink shirts in their work places too! Even our local police constable Jacob is wearing pink vests this week.

All you got to do is wear pink!!! (no money needed). By Lauren and Nicole



# Community News

## SKIDS

A reminder that we have the sKids After School Care Programme running daily after school. This can be on a casual or more permanent basis and is currently run from the hall across the road.

They run a wide range of programmes. Check out the daily timetable below.

We have a number of students attending this programme and they really enjoy it. For further details check out their website or contact Maybelle Wenceslao, email [maybelle@skids.co.nz](mailto:maybelle@skids.co.nz)



### Te Kowhai



sKids

Ph: 022 658 1157

[waikatoenquiries@skids.co.nz](mailto:waikatoenquiries@skids.co.nz)

[www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz)

### Offering Before & After School Care plus Holiday Programmes

#### Daily Format:

3-3.30pm	Put away school bags, wash hands, afternoon tea time.
3.30-4pm	Homework Supervision - homework, reading or other quiet activity.
4-4.30pm	Free play time, outside if weather permitting.
4.30- 5pm	Special activity time.
5-5.30pm	Finishing projects and clean-up time.
5.30pm – 6pm	Small group activity until child is picked up.

#### Fees:

After School Care – Includes afternoon tea & drink

Full time – 3-6pm Monday to Friday - \$75 per week

Full time early pickup – 3-4.30pm Monday to Friday - \$60 per week

Part time full session – 3-6pm, 1-4 sessions per week - \$16 per session

Part time early pickup – 3-4.30pm, 1-4 sessions per week - \$14 per session

Casual full session – 3-6pm - \$20 per session

Casual early pickup – 3-4.30pm - \$16 per session

Discount for combined bsc and asc – full weeks only – please enquire

#### Bookings:

All our bookings are done online via Aimy – our new Parent Portal & Booking System.

Convenient online booking 24/7. Accepts credit card payments.

Quick access to all booking and invoicing information.

Register now at <http://skids.aimy.co.nz>

**Are you aged 11-14?**

### **Are you interested in Hot Air Ballooning?**

The Junior Balloonist Program run by the Waikato Hot Air Balloon Club provides a learning environment which will introduce you to:

Meteorology (The Weather)  
Navigation (Map reading)  
Air Law  
Crewing  
Leadership  
And a range of other topics related to the sport of hot air ballooning. There will be opportunities for hands on experience both on the ground and in the air.



The Junior Balloonist meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and can join in with all Club activities.

For further information contact Dave Norris (021 351 957)

[www.wakatoballoonclub.co.nz](http://www.wakatoballoonclub.co.nz)

**MAAORI NEW YEAR**

**TRADITIONAL MEALS MADE HEALTHIER!**

Add a variety of vegetables to any dish. Green leafy vegetables like spinach, puha, watercress and silverbeet are great. Cut visible fat from meat and skin from chicken when preparing dishes such as boil up and hangi.

Developed by Sport Waikato 2017

### **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.

ASB Bank Limited 56380 16785 0117

**ASB**





P.T.A.

# QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

Time: Doors open 7pm,

Quiz begins 7.30pm

Cost: \$20 per person

Venue: Te Kowhai Community Hall



6 – 8 people per team

Cash bar only- strictly NO B.Y.O.

Light supper provided

Driver available on request  
(Te Kowhai area only)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT  
THE SCHOOL OFFICE

THIS IS A GREAT NIGHT OUT, COME  
ALONG AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!