

# Newsletter

Issue 13 25 August  
2016



## Principal Preece's Piece (or Ross's ramblings)



Well Spring has sprung and doesn't everybody feel so much better for that! It's interesting that it only takes a little sun and warmth for everybody to feel better about life and school. Roll on summer.

I am constantly amazed with just how many opportunities our students have to learn outside of the standard classroom. Last week our year 13 Biology students had 2 days at the Auckland Zoo as part of their studies. At the same time a group of year 12 Outdoor Ed students were undertaking a 3 day bush survival exercise. This included an 'extraction' via helicopter! Both of these trips help students with their NCEA credits, because they have to demonstrate their understanding and learning, not just the old system of 'rote learning' for exams. Speaking of exams!!! If you have a child doing NCEA then they will have practice exams on September 6-8. Nearly all pupils will have at least 1 paper to attempt. Please support us to support your child to do some study in preparation for

these!

We now only have 8 school weeks until the end of the academic year, so the pressure is on especially for those students who are 'borderline'. The 2 subjects that will really feel the pinch are NCEA Art and Photography both of whom have their folios due to be finished by October 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have a child doing either or both of these subjects then the next school holidays will be their final chance to complete these major assessments.

We have recently established relationships with schools in Taiwan. There is now the opportunity for our students and their students to have a cultural exchange. The proposal would be that a Taiwan pupil comes to us in Term 1 and stay with a family with a child of the same age. Our children would then go to Taiwan in Term 2 and live with the child they hosted and their family. It would be a true exchange with no fees or levies. It's estimated that the term in Taiwan would cost \$1500 for

airfares + spending. If you and your family might be interested in this then please send me an email direct to express an interest! There are several local schools investigating this option.

Our 7/8s are away on their camp soon. Well done to all the families as everyone is attending and a regular automatic payment takes the stress out of finding the money for any school activity. My thanks to Mrs Judd for all her support to ensure that no-one missed out! Again there is an oversupply of parents wanting to attend this camp!

Finally just another reminder that **WAS will be shut on September 13<sup>th</sup>**. There is a Paid Union Meeting in Thames on that day. This is so teachers can be informed about funding changes being proposed and so that both Unions can get an accurate feel for their members wishes. My thanks for your support in this matter.

....Cheers RP

**Reminder: No lunch orders are taken on Mondays. This day is set aside for fundraising only.**

**Subway orders Tuesday—Friday and Sushi on Thursdays only**

Contact information:	Email: <a href="mailto:office@whangamata.school.nz">office@whangamata.school.nz</a>	Phone 07 865 8557	Website: <a href="http://www.whangamata.school.nz">www.whangamata.school.nz</a>
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# Year 1—6

Sue Brookes

Assistant Principal Yr 1-6



Tena koutou,

I can't believe how quickly the term is going. Everyone has been enjoying the spell of fine weather of late. It has taken quite a while for the fields to dry out.

The classes were really engaged in the Olympics. It is good to see all the hard work pay off for so many.

We have a few events coming up. A small group of athletes are going to compete in the Waihi/Hauraki Gym Sport Festival on Monday 26th

August. Other students are training for the Thames Valley Primary School Cross Country that is being held in Whitianga on September 7<sup>th</sup>. There is also the Touch tournament coming up. Good luck to everyone involved in these events.

On Wednesday Room 3 went on a visit to Andy Murray's farm. The children were really excited about the visit. A big thanks to Andy for making this visit possible and thanks to the

outstanding parent support.

Mrs Spencer and Mrs Hope are training a group of dancers to do the Maypole dance. This is part of the opening ceremony for Brits At the Beach.

There are a lot of nasty bugs about at the moment: coughs, colds, stomach bugs and chicken pox. Please keep your children home if they are unwell.

Enjoy the onset of summer

Regards **Sue Brookes**

## Yr 1—8 Assembly Awards

<b>Room 9 Harekeke</b> Ava Sheppard / Jake Matetaka / Neena Hersom	<b>Room 3 Kaponga</b> Koopā Pickett-Heemi/ Savana Woodhouse / Te Paea Te Aho
<b>Room 4 Manuka</b> Indie Leach / Lara Woolley	<b>Room 5 Kowhai</b> Jacob Mars / Rudy Lopes
<b>Room 6 Pohutukawa</b> Shania Holmes / Seb Gleeson	<b>Room 7 Rimu</b> Izzy Milne / Mollie-Rose Robinson
<b>Room 20 Totara</b> Taryn Woolley	<b>Rm 8B</b> Seb Resink / Ben Milne / Talia Thompson/ Jimmy Watt
<b>Yr 7/8 MJ</b> Isaac Cunningham / Travis Ogg	<b>Yr 7/8 IF</b> Holly Taikato, / Aria Matthew



# News and Views from the Middle Ages

Maryanne Judd  
HOD Yr 7/8



## Camp

The Year 7 & 8 Camp at Totara Springs, Matamata draws closer!! Camp is now less than 2 weeks away, taking place from Monday September 5th - Thursday September 8th 2016. You can expect many more newsletters in the coming days with more information.

Thank you to all the families who have **now** paid the **camp fees**. Camp fees or financial arrangements are to be finalised **ASAP**. Fees were due on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**, unless alternative arrangements have been made. We have suggested since the beginning of the year that making regular payments will ensure families avoid any financial hardship close to camp time.

## Persuasive/Argumentative Writing

Students are enjoying learning about the elements of *persuasive/ argumentative writing*. Topics are generating lots of different perspectives and rich discussions in class. Students are developing an understanding of how writing can influence or change another's thoughts or actions. They are beginning to recognise the persuasive nature of the marketing they are exposed to through television, the Internet and other media.

## Home Learning

We encourage you to take an interest and provide support for your child when completing their Home Learning. The goal is for students to begin to take some responsibility for their own learning and become involved in self-motivated study and research. The quality of some of the student's home learning is impressive. This home learning is rewarded and celebrated in appropriate ways.

# *Of Secondary Importance:*

## *Year 9-13*

*Alistair Luke HOD*  
*English*



Whilst the momentum of the academic year continues to gather force, a number of our students are continuing to excel or participate in experiences outside the classroom.

The swim season is starting to fire up again with the New Zealand Secondary School Swimming Championships coming up from the 9th-11th of September. We will be represented at these by Callum Fulton, Jayde Hanner, and Tayla Taupaki. This is an outstanding level of representation for an area school and we wish these students well. Further to this Callum has qualified for the New Zealand Age Group Swimming Championships in October in the 1500m freestyle.

Our Senior and Junior Basketball teams continue to compete weekly in Tauranga and the playoffs are just around the corner for these highly successful teams. On Friday we have 20 senior students heading to Rotorua to compete in the Tough Guy and Gal Challenge, an offroad mud race that is not for the faint hearted.

To complete the theme of activities outside the classroom for this week, Mr Wynn has provided the following report and photos from the recent three day Outdoor Education Tramp:

The level 2/3 Outdoor Education students were down in the Pureora's for a their tramping, camping and navigation assessment during the weekend. The first night was spent in Waihaha Hut then we pushed down the track for a chilly night at Te Aui-ti falks where were were extracted by Helicopter on Sunday. It was great to get these students away from their phones for a few days and they impressed both myself and Mr Murray with their camp craft and positive attitudes. What a great way to get credits in the outdoors!



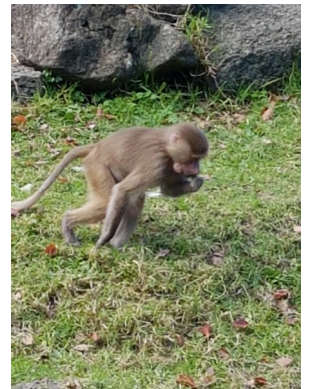


# Year 13 Biology Trip

Every year I have the pleasure of taking the students that are studying Level 3 Biology to Auckland. The students are there to learn about human evolution and then be able to apply this knowledge to their external exam in November.

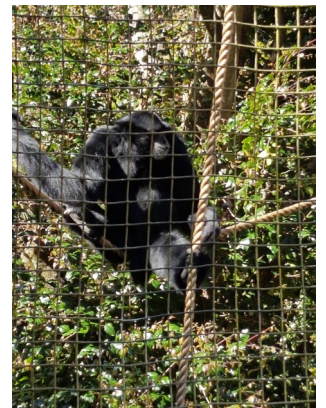


We left Whangamata about 8.30am and headed straight to the Auckland Museum. Here we were met by Ma'ara who is an Archeologist and educates students when not exploring the rest of the world. Ma'ara was able to share his knowledge of the fossil evidence that has been discovered about human evolution throughout the world. Students were able to learn more about skull changes that have occurred and also physically handle tools that were used millions of years ago. Students asked great questions and were able to answer many of Ma'ara's questions. After we left the education room students spent a few hours exploring the wonderful displays of the Auckland Museum.



We then headed to our accommodation in Queen Street and the girls (and boys!) headed to the shops for a bit of retail therapy. We all headed out for dinner and then some students enjoyed a 3D movie at Auckland Imax Theatre.

Up early and off for some breakfast at a local food hall. We then headed for Auckland Zoo where educator, Sarah spent a couple of hours sharing her knowledge around primates and trends in human evolution. This session was also very interactive and the students were able to ask questions and touch the tools and skulls on display. We all then went out to explore the amazing animal enclosures and observe primates in action. Auckland Zoo is an incredible facility that promotes sustainability and a future for our animals at risk. If you are in Auckland, take your kids, they will love it!





Bridie Pugh was selected to attend the Thames Valley Netball Emerging Talent day on Sunday 21st. She has a huge future in Netball and did really well in all the activities.

Seven seniors accompanied Bridie and helped out Miss Tupper to deliver the activities. These students included Kelsey Pugh, Kael Cornwall, Tyla Beaver, Tayla Ogg, Trinity Moore and Grace Williams who are working towards NCEA Level One PE credits by assisting others in physical activity. A great day with enjoyment, learning and helping others achieve. A big thank you for all the help

Our year 12's and International students will be on the Ski trip from 11th to the 16th September. There is a meeting for all students and parents involved on Tuesday 6th at 6pm in the library.

## *School Photos— Tuesday 30th August*

Class, sports and individual photos will be taken next Tuesday. Please make sure uniform is correct for these. Please complete the envelope and return to the school office by Monday. Any queries please contact Michele Tupper on [michellet@whangamata.co.nz](mailto:michellet@whangamata.co.nz)

## *From around the school*



Come and check out the beautiful artwork in the administration corridors. We have some very talented students attending our school





# *The “Nurses Natter”*



## Chicken Pox – Varicella Virus

Hi there, at my recent school visit, a number of staff members voiced concern that there is chicken pox in the school. So my first Natter to you is on what to expect, what to look out for and what to do regarding this very easy to catch, nasty, common childhood viral illness. Parents don't think you are immune, yes you could catch it too if you didn't have the virus or the fun of those “pox parties” when you were younger!

The virus often starts with a fever, headache, runny nose, a cough, loss of appetite and lethargy. 1-2 days later a red rash occurs often starting on the face, then spreading to the back and tummy and all over the body and it is very itchy. Within a few hours of the spot appearing, a blister forms and over time releases the liquid inside which spreads the virus to others around them very easily. The person with the virus is infectious 1-2 days before the rash appears and symptoms may not appear for 10-21 days from time of exposure, therefore in places like schools and preschools it can become quite a problem. Students with chicken pox should stay away from school while they are unwell and infectious. Drink plenty of water, and treat the symptoms. But once all the spots have caused scabs they are no longer infectious they can return as long as they are well. Chicken Pox is a serious illness and can cause nasty complications. Children have been known to need hospital care from complications of Chicken Pox and pregnant women should see their GP for advice if they come in contact with the virus.

This is a vaccine preventable illness, you can see your GP/practice nurse for a vaccination if required, and further information can be found online at [kidshealth.org.nz](http://kidshealth.org.nz) or on the Ministry of Health website. Alternatively you are welcome to contact me: 021 241 7800. Thank you .... **Tracey**.

## *School Holiday Camps*

Kauaeranga Valley Christian Camp— (OSCAR Approved School Holiday Camps)

For children aged 6—12 years. Details and registration form are available on the website [http://www.kvcc.org.nz/page/Holiday\\_Camps/](http://www.kvcc.org.nz/page/Holiday_Camps/) or phone David & Sue Hodge (Camp Managers) 07 868 8348

Whangamata Equestrian group would like to  
invite you to a family fun day & fundraiser  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August



**Time:** From 10:30am

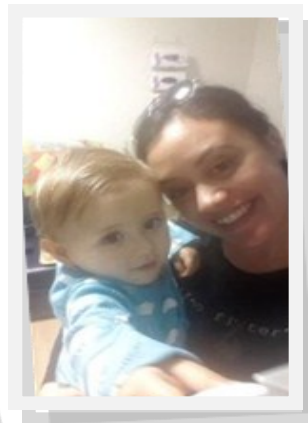
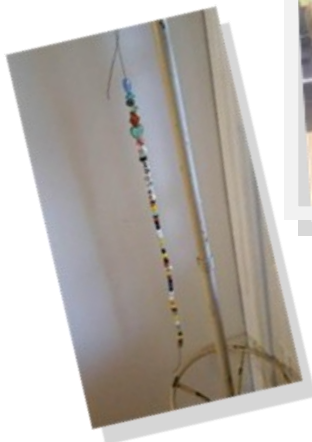
**Where:** Equestrian grounds, Mayfair Ave Whangamata

*On the 14th of July 2016 ten month old Mason Allan was diagnosed with Bilateral Wilms cancer. Wilms is a cancer of the kidneys. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment at Starship hospital to shrink his tumours and it is hoped that they can be reduced by 60% so he can have an operation to likely remove one of his kidneys and partial removal of the other.*

Come along and enjoy some time with your family to support Mason and his family during his cancer treatment journey.

*(Cash sales only – so bring along your spare change for a worthy cause. All proceeds from the fundraiser will be forwarded to Mason's family)*

- ⇒ **Pony rides**
- ⇒ **Sausage sizzle**
- ⇒ **Candy floss**
- ⇒ **Bake sale**
- ⇒ **Games**
- ⇒ **Bouncy castle**
- ⇒ **Face painting**





<b>TERM 3 CALENDAR</b>		
<b>Wk</b>	<b>Sun 21</b>	Scholastic surfing day back up / heli tramp return
<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	WCST Budget Class
	<b>23</b>	
	<b>24</b>	Waikato University Visitor
	<b>25</b>	
	<b>26</b>	Tough Guy tough Girl challenge Yr 9 – 13 Assembly
	<b>Sat 27</b>	AUT open day
<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	Sausage sizzle/bake sale Waihi Gymsport festival Yr 2 - 8
	<b>30</b>	Mates and Dates year 12 Rongohia Te Hau <b>SCHOOL PHOTOS DAY</b>
	<b>31</b>	Rongohia Te Hau
	<b>1 Sept</b>	Opoutere parents 2017
	<b>2</b>	Mates and dates year 12 Yr 10 Outdoor Ed day
<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Year 7-8 camp week</b>
	<b>6</b>	Senior exams
	<b>7</b>	Senior exams Thames valley Primary School Cross Country
	<b>8</b>	Senior Exams
	<b>9</b>	Full School Assembly Mates and Dates Year 12 NZ Secondary School Swim champs Thames Valley Primary Schools Cross country back up
	<b>Sat 10</b>	NZSS Swim champs
	<b>Sun 11</b>	NZSS Swim champs Ski Trip year 12 until Thursday 15th
<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	Ski trip year 12
	<b>13</b>	Ski trip year 12 Tairua parents 2017
	<b>14</b>	Wintec block course Yr 9-10 Drama performance ski trip year 12
	<b>15</b>	Wintec block course ski trip year 12
	<b>16</b>	Heli tramp back up weekend Wintec block course Heli Tramp 3 day
<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	
	<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b>	Thames Valley Primary Schools Touch tournament
	<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b>	<b>Last day term 3</b> Loud Shirt Day Mates and Dates year 12 11-13 Reports issued 9-13 Assembly LAST DAY TERM 3

This calendar was correct at time of printing. For confirmation on any of these entries please contact the teacher involved or the school office