

Newsletter

Issue 8

8 June 2017



Alistair Luke

Principal



As term two reaches and passes the halfway stage, there is much to celebrate and look forward to.

A number of our students, mainly from year 7 and 8, participated in two exciting outdoor events recently. The Opoutere School Adventure Race and the Tough Guy and Gal Challenge test the endurance, strategy and a willingness to get dirty of all competitors. Congratulations to all students who took on the challenge of these two events.

Also taking on a challenge are the students who are travelling to play rugby. Our 4th Grade combined team had its first win at the weekend, as did our combined First XV. Both of these teams feature a mixture of our players and those from Mercury Bay Area School. A huge thank you to the parents and helpers who are providing travel assistance to allow these students to play rugby.

Looking back over the last two weeks, there have been a number of other opportunities for students to get involved in the wider contexts of school life. The Stage Challenge group provided an outstanding public performance of their 2017 entry on Monday night. These students, ably guided and assisted by Mrs Burns, Mr Murray, and a number of parent and community helpers, have worked tirelessly to prepare our entry. The "big show" is in Tauranga on Friday 16th of June. We wish the students and staff involved every success as they head into this event.

Looking forward, the year 7 and 8 students are heading off to MERC next week for their annual camp and today syndicate one is off to the Wentworth Valley to look at habitats. Once again, neither of these experiences would be possible with-

out the support of parents who give their time and energy to provide opportunities.

Another exciting event on the horizon is the community Matariki celebration scheduled for the 2nd of July at Williamson Park. This community event is a combined planning effort with involvement from all the schools and Early Childhood providers in the area as well as the Marae Committee. Watch out for further details about this event over the next few weeks.

We have the pleasure this week of welcoming Mr Eugene Du Preez to Whangamata Area School. Mr Du Preez has taken over from Mr Rainey as the music teacher and brings a wealth of musical knowledge to the role. Mr Wynn has resigned his position as Outdoor Education Teacher. Mr Wynn has done a fantastic job of building the Outdoor Education programme over a number of years but has decided it is time to explore some options outside of teaching. Mr Wynn will remain until a replacement is appointed. We thank him for his contribution to this exciting curriculum area.

Have a great fortnight and good luck braving the cold.

Contact
information: office@whangamata.school.nz

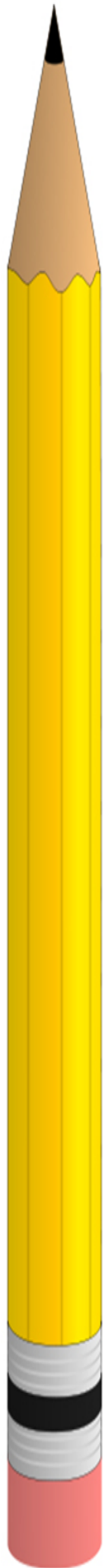
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07 865 8557

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www.whangamata.school.nz



Year 1—6

Tena koutou,

Week 6 has arrived. I am always amazed at how quickly the term races by. I am pleased to say that the weather has been playing its part with the trips that we have had out of school. The Estuary trip to study our foreshore was fantastic. A super low tide and a beautiful day. Today three classes have gone to work up in the Wentworth Valley. Once again, we have a beautiful winter's day. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers that make these trips possible.

Yesterday Mrs Stewart took a large group of year 5-8 to Ngaruawhia for the Tough Guy Tough Gal Challenge. Congratulations to all those who entered. There were some great photos posted on the school facebook page. The conditions were very muddy. Congratulations to Jamie Jacobs who was the first across the line for Whangamata Area School. Every competitor got a medal to show that they had

completed the challenge.

Mr Pipe and his trade students have made extensions to our gardens. This will raise the garden beds higher and give us more soil room to produce greater crops. One of these gardens is going to be a herb garden to supply the food tech room.

Teachers are currently carrying out some assessment in preparation for reports that are due out at the end of the term .

HEADLICE: Unfortunately they seem to be in abundance at the moment. Please take the time to check your children's head and treat if it is required. If you are having any difficulties with this, please let me know and I can arrange for a Health Nurse to come and visit.

Regards ***Sue Brookes***

Sue Brookes

Deputy Principal

Yr 1-6



Ukulele Beginners Class

Ukulele beginner class starts next Monday 3-30pm in Room 3. No need to have your own ukulele but if you do have one bring it so I can tune it for you. Mrs Spencer

A sore throat can lead to rheumatic fever if it's left untreated. Rheumatic fever is very serious and can cause heart damage.

Every time your child has a sore throat it could be serious. Don't ignore, take them to a doctor or nurse straight away to get it checked. Call **Healthline** on **0800 611 116** to find out more.



**SORE
THROATS**
↓
**RHEUMATIC
FEVER**
↓
**HEART
DAMAGE**

Find your nearest sore throat clinic rheumaticfever.health.govt.nz/sore-throats/clinics

Hi there, winter is now upon us and I have had reports from Waikato District Health Board, Population Health Service that the incidences of Rheumatic Fever illness is rising in the Waikato region. Here is some information for you from the Population Health website, about rheumatic fever, where to find more information, and the places you can drop in to get a throat swab if you or your child have a sore throat.

Rheumatic fever is a serious but preventable illness. It mainly affects Māori and Pacific children and young people (aged 4 to 19 years). Rheumatic fever can start with a sore throat caused by a 'strep throat' - a bacterial infection called Group A Streptococcus (GAS). If the strep throat is not treated it may lead to rheumatic fever.

Usually, strep throat gets better on its own. But in some people an autoimmune response (where the body attacks its own tissues) is caused and the heart, joints (ankles, wrists, knees, elbows), brain and skin can become inflamed and swollen. If a child or young person gets rheumatic fever they become very unwell, causing them to have severe tiredness, breathlessness and low energy. In some cases it can lead to serious heart problems causing rheumatic heart disease, where the heart valves become damaged and heart operations are needed.

Helpful websites for more information –

- www.waikatodhb.health.nz/public-health-advice/a-z-of-public-health-topics
- rheumaticfever.health.govt.nz/
- www.kidshealth.org.nz/

Sore throat clinics in Whangamata

Whangamata Medical Centre	8:30 - 5:00 Mon to Fri & 9:00 - 12.30 Sat	07 865 8032	103 Lincoln Road, Whangamata
Whangamata Pathlab	8:00 - 4:15 Mon to Fri	07 865 7691	102 Lincoln Road, Whangamata

Stay warm, dry and healthy

Tracey Hilt WDHB Public
Health Nurse : (021) 241 7800





School Community Officer

June 2017

Online Safety For Parents

This month I would like to discuss Cyber Safety. In my role of School Community Officer I look after 35 schools, and over the last 3 years I have been contacted by almost every school for assistance with cyber safety related issues. The issues range from relatively minor concerns around unwanted texts, to young people obtaining sexually explicit images of their friends and posting them on line. The age of some children involved is alarmingly young, and in many serious cases there are strong indicators that the child has had access to pornography, which may be considered psychological abuse when viewed by a person under the age of 18.

The problem is not going to go away and criminals are in our area. The rule of optimism means we think the baddies are in Nigeria and we doubt our children would be at risk, however, they are.

Make family and friends aware of what you will and won't allow when posting photos online – and leave the personal information out. You wouldn't ask your child to go to the supermarket and give a stranger a photo of them sitting on their bed, so why would it happen online? And it is – a lot! This draws the wrong type of person to you, and just like adults, if the friendship/relationship breaks down, your image could be used to destroy your reputation, and future. Predators troll the internet for images with clues to a potential victim's location and identity. A photo posted of a child in school uniform, or a sport's team uniform may be enough to start a connection. Declaring vulnerability to strangers is motivation for the offender, for example if a child has had a fight with dad, the predator will become the confidant and listen and agree with the child. They will find common ground and this is the process of grooming.

Online requires the same parental oversight as the physical world. We may be tempted to tell children to get in the real world when they are on their devices, but our children have grown up with the internet and it is 'The Real World' to them. It is all they have known. Make sure your child can talk to you about anything, and consider your response because if you have the wrong response your child will not talk to you about problems. It is up to parenting relationships and values to protect the child, regardless of whether it is the Internet of physical world.

Netsafe is an excellent source of information for all internet users. Check out these 10 things to think about at <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/online-safety-for-parents/>

1. Set expectations
2. Understand what they do online
3. If you don't understand it, try it
4. Set a good example
5. Teach them the basics
6. Setting up social media
7. Give them the tools they need
8. Online bullying
9. What about 'sexting'
10. What if something does happen?

This calendar was correct at time of print.

For confirmation on any items please check with your child's teacher or the

TERM 2 CALENDAR		
6	5	QUEENS BIRTHDAY – School closed
	6	Wintec Presentation
	7	Wintec Block Course / Year 5 -8 Junior Tough Guy/Gal
	8	Wintec Block Course
	9	Wintec Block Course
7	12	Year 7/8 Camp – (ALL WEEK – returning Friday 16 June)
	13	Victoria Uni here at school
	14	
	15	Stage Challenge / Yr 10 OE bush survival
	16	Stage Challenge / Yr 9-13 Assembly / Yr 10 OE bush survival
8	19	Yr 12 – 13 Heli Tramp / Yr 1 – 6 Assembly / Students Against Drink Driv- ing visitor at school
	20	Yr 12 – 13 Heli Tramp
	21	Yr 12 – 13 Heli Tramp
	22	
	23 Sat 24	Whangamata Netball Club Ball
9	26	Yr 1 – 6 Matariki Week (ALL WEEK) / L1 Sport Science Jump Fit / Wintec Maori/Pasifika
	27	Height Safety Course (Gateway)
	28	
	29	L3 Sport Science Jump Fit
	30	Yr 1-6 Reports issued / Yr 9 – 13 Assembly
10	3 July	Yr 1 – 6 Assembly
	4	Yr 1 – 6 Parent interviews / Height Safety Course
	5	Yr 1 – 6 Parent interviews
	6	SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY
	7	FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY



Matariki
Whangamata

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Matariki is a time to gather with family and friends.
To REFLECT on the past, CELEBRATE the present,
and PLAN for the future.

**SUNDAY 2ND JULY 2017
FROM 3PM UNTIL 7PM
@ WILLIAMSON PARK**

Come wrapped up warm, bring a picnic blanket to enjoy hot kai outdoors
with whanau, while watching performances and enjoying free activities.

WATCH

Kapa Haka
Performances from
local schools and
early childhood
centers


JOIN IN

FREE ACTIVITIES
Flax weaving / korowai
and kite making / rock
painting / ti rakau
and more

ENJOY

Low cost dinner
and dessert stalls
+ Hangi
(presale tickets
only)*

* Hangi tickets \$15pp - Meat and Vegetables + Steamed Pudding
Limited tickets - Available from Whanga Books / Coastal News /
Opoutere School / Whangamata Area School



Titiro whakamuri - Kokiri whakamua
Look back and reflect so that
you can move forward