



AWAHOU SCHOOL

POHANGINA VALLEY.

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"To meet the educational needs of the Pohangina Valley community by fostering individual excellence in a dynamic and caring environment."

EXCELLENT LEARNING FOR A GLOBAL FUTURE

Week 3, Term 1, 2017

15 February, 2017

Respect Whakaute - Honesty Matatika - Effort Ngaki

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora Awahou Community,
Many thanks to those of you who braved the 'not so summery' conditions to come along to our Meet the Teacher Evening and community barbeque last Wednesday evening. It was great to see a mix of familiar faces, and some new faces as well. There were some very good discussion points raised as I explained some of the new initiatives and directions our school is heading in. I have had some feedback (which is always welcomed) regarding concerns that with all of this 'new stuff' we were neglecting some of the core elements of teaching, in particular the '3 R's of Reading, Writing and 'Rithmetic'. This has been a timely heads up for me to ensure I reassure you that our key 'traditional' areas of academic focus in these areas are still at the core of all of our teaching. My apologies if the message being received is that technology, thinking skills, questioning etc is **all** we are focusing on. Of course, as a school the core elements of Reading, Writing (including punctuation, grammar, spelling) and Mathematics still make up the backbone of what we teach. Perhaps I take it for granted that you are aware of this. The context these are taught in, and the methods used, may differ at times in line with what current research and evidence shows us, however they are still the fundamentals of learning. We teach these alongside and within the skills we need to develop in our children to ensure they are adaptive, resilient, and problem solvers ready to tackle life's challenges. At no time have I meant to indicate we don't 'teach' reading, writing, aspects of spelling, grammar, punctuation etc – however the way we teach them may not always be the way they have always been taught. As indicated on Wednesday, I stand by every decision we make knowing it is what is best for our number one resource – our kids, and every decision is supported by research and evidence. *Arohanui, Matt Schmidt – Principal*



Happy Valentines from Wharite!

Virtue of the week:

TRUST

Trust is believing in someone or something. It is having confidence that the right thing will happen without trying to control it or make it happen. Trust is being sure, down deep, that there is some good in everything that happens.

"For what has been – thanks! For what shall be – trust."

Dag Hammarskjöld

SCHOOL NOTICES

Spelling Programmes

At this week's staff meeting we looked at our assessment schedule and what information we need to gather from our students to identify our learning 'gaps' and goals for the year. One contentious area is always spelling. This year Wharite's spelling programme will include the Essential Lists and Maharahara's will be based around Schonell's Spelling programme. **What you will see:** spelling lists based around words children are spelling incorrectly in their writing, words relevant to current learning topics, and 'top ups' from the Essential Lists or Schonell Lists. You will also see a range of spelling activities during the week and words coming home, for children to practice with parents and / or siblings and opportunities to use their weekly words in writing tasks. **What you won't necessarily see:** spelling lists with columns ruled to be 'signed off' every night and checked by teachers, weekly 'tests' of spelling lists.

Reading 'Decodables'

Tied in with improving our student's abilities in Writing, and the link to Spelling and Reading, we have ordered a substantial resource based around 'Decodable' books. Decodable books are reading exercises. They offer children an opportunity to practice the phonic knowledge and skills they have learned within a controlled text. Like when children are taught maths, they need to practise what they have been taught, in order to internalise the new learning and to develop automaticity. Decodable books focus on a target phoneme (sound) or grapheme (spelling) that the children practice when reading. The first books in the scheme will have simple words but as the children progress, the words will get more complex and will look similar to other reading books. The difference is that they are learning a specific part of the phonic code. We look forward to seeing great results from this programme!

School Opening Hours

A friendly reminder that school is not open before 8am. If you arrive before 8 and are waiting with your children, please ensure they are not on the playground or around the buildings before the first staff member arrives. This is important with regards to our Health & Safety procedures.

Parent Volunteers

This year we are lucky enough to have a great group of parent volunteers regularly helping us already. A big thanks to Peta and Ally, who are helping with work in the classrooms and Hamish, for fixing the barbeque for me last week after it attacked me! Also, a big welcome to Miss Edmond's partner, Lordly, who you may have seen helping out in Wharite and who is doing some great work with some of our

LOOKING AHEAD



Wednesday February 15th – Friends of Awahou Meeting. 3.30pm @ school.

Friday February 17th – Bush School

Wednesday March 1st – HPV vaccinations (Year 8 students)

Friday March 3rd / 17th / 24th / 31st – Bush School

Thursday March 2 – Awahou Swimming Sports

Wednesday March 8 – Junior Tabloids (Mt Biggs)

Friday March 10 – Kainui Senior Swimming Sports (Lido)

Tuesday March 21 – Weetbix Tryathlon

Friday April 7 – Year 8 Art Extension (Newbury)

Thursday April 13th – Last day of term

Friday April 14th – Good Friday



STUDENT ACHIEVERS



Congratulations to:

Miss Edmond: Riley Craven, for fantastic effort with Writing and Reading.

Miss Barr: Sarah White, for constantly pushing herself to achieve at a high level and exceed potential.

Mr Schmidt: Ben Hocken, for a confident, focused, and positive start to the year.

Tom Scott, for great role modeling in Wharite.



- * Bring your togs to school every day!
- * Don't forget to check us out on Facebook to keep up date with everything happening at school
- * Every Friday is 'Wheels Day' at school – all sorts of wheels welcomed – bikes, scooters, skateboards, even unicycles! Riders **must** have a helmet on.
- * Bush School starts this week! Confirmed logistical information will come home tomorrow.
- * We are collecting 'Yummy!' apple stickers and any toothpaste / toothbrush / oral care waste again this year, so drop them into school or ask for a sticker collection sheet. Our plan is to send them all at the end of this year to maximise the rewards on offer.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY CLOSURES / DELAYS DUE TO BRIDGE INSPECTIONS

Rangitikei District Council (RDC) and Manawatu District Council (MDC) have appointed MWH NZ Ltd to undertake detailed inspections of a number of bridges in our region, including the Pohangina Valley. The inspections are planned to take place 13-18 February inclusive, between the hours of 7am and 7pm.

The inspections will require a specialist truck, which will park on the bridge in the live lane and lift a man in a cage over the side to inspect the substructure of the bridge at close quarters.

For two lane bridges, there will only be momentary delays, while workers direct traffic across the bridge in the open lane only.

For one lane bridges, there may be longer delays. The length of the delay will depend upon the size and complexity of the bridge. Shorter bridges may be closed for 30-45 minutes, while longer and more complex bridges may be closed for up to 1.5 hours.

Please note that times, dates and locations may be subject due to weather conditions or other factors beyond the worker's control.

Should you require any further information, please contact Jim Mestyanel at 323 0000.

Pohangina Bridges Affected:

Road Name	Bridge no.	Bridge name	No. of lanes	Inspection date	Approx time
Makoura Road	S129B	S129B	Single	17.02.2017 (Friday)	Mid AM
Pohangina Valley East	S205	S205	Single	17.02.2017 (Friday)	Late AM
Pohangina Valley East	S209	S209	Single	17.02.2017 (Friday)	Early PM
Pohangina Valley East	S210	S210	Single	17.02.2017 (Friday)	Mid PM

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Awahou School Playgroup

Our awesome Playgroup is running again this year on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9.30am – 12pm. Come along and join in with our wonderful community and **extremely** well resourced group. We'd love to see you there!

AWAHOU MUSIQHUB LESSONS 2017

Want to learn: guitar, ukulele, drums or how to sing this year ?

Develop new skills, confidence, AND have fun with friends. Performance and recording opportunities provided. Nervous beginners welcome! Call/Text Craig on (027) 7722877. Find us on FaceBook under Musiqhub Manawatu or go to www.musiqhub.co.nz

Weetbix Tryathlon

This year's Weetbix triathlon is happening at Ongley Park on Tuesday, March 21st. Last year we had a strong school contingent and despite sub-zero temperatures and monsoon season arriving, it was a fun day! If you are entering and want to be part of our school team, let us know and we'll send you an entry form. Alternatively you can enter online and register with our school there.

Tough Guy / Gal Challenge

2017 is well underway and it is time to start planning for the ITM Junior Tough Guy and Gal events! Event Promotions is extremely excited to have these events back again for another year. Children have the choice to either enter through their school or they can enter individually via the link below. This event is a great opportunity for kids to push themselves out of their comfort zones in a control and safe environment. The Junior Tough Guy and Gal events are just like the adult Tough Guy and Gal events just tailored for children at primary and intermediate school. Check out the link below for more details:

<http://www.eventpromotions.co.nz/events/junior-tough-guy-and-gal-challenge/event-information/>

We would love to enter school teams again this year. If you're interested, please email Matt at awahouprincipal@awahou.school.nz

Newspaper wanted

We need lots of newspaper at school for Art this year. Once you've read your newspapers (not the glossy brochures), please send them into school so we can stockpile.



Newsletter Proofreader Wanted!

Do you have a spare hour on Wednesday mornings (or around 11.30pm on Tuesday nights when I finish writing it?!). My resident newsletter proofreader is no longer with us, so I need somebody to cast his or her eye over the newsletter before it is published on Wednesday mornings in time for the afternoon's school meeting. If you can help, flick me an email. I can either email the draft to you or you can pop in and do it in person! As the writer of the newsletter it's often easy for my mind to fill in words I have missed, as I know what I'm trying to say and by late Tuesday evenings my eyes are getting heavy!

Run, Ride & Slide Triathlon

The Run, Ride 'n' Slide Kids Triathlon is back for 2017!

When: 16 March

Where: Timona Park, Feilding.

When: First race starts at 5pm \$2 entry

Course distances

Ages 4-6: Run 300m, Ride 500m lap & slip and slide

Ages 7-9: Run 700m, Ride 1km & slip and slide

Ages 10-12: Run 1.1km, Ride 1.5km & slip and slide

Pre-Register online at sportmanawatu.org.nz and pay on the day, or register on the day.

If we have a number of entries, we can look at travelling together as a school group.

KidsCan fundraiser

Over Easter this year, Mt Biggs Principal, Raewyn Marshall, and her daughter Sheree (Mr Schmidt's old flatmate!), are driving Raewyn's very old Mini from Kaitia to Bluff in the Pork Pie Charity Run. They are fundraising for KidsCan.

If you'd like to make make a donation to this great cause, go to givealittle.co.nz, search "Twos Trouble" and donate. Good luck Mrs Marshall!

Support & Donate

www.givealittle.co.nz



Raewyn & Sheree

"Two's Trouble"