



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 6 Term 3, 2017

30 August, 2017

Respect Whakaute - Honesty Matatika - Effort Ngaki

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora Awahou Community,
Week 6!!? As always, this has been a super busy term, filled with plenty of quality learning experiences and A LOT more to still come this term.

This time of the election cycle is always 'interesting' and I do try my best not to discuss politics at the school newsletter level, however after discussions with a number of dismayed Principals over the weekend, we have collectively decided we can't stay silent on some of the announcements made by the current government regarding their plans for education. The most concerning of them all is Education Minister Nikki Kaye's announcement of a new initiative called 'National Standards Plus'. Under this scheme, Minister Kaye has decided that children need to be 'tested' more often with tests to monitor 'progress against the standards' to be introduced termly, which parents can access via a phone app. It is highly insulting to us as a profession to infer we are not already regularly monitoring individual student progress and using this information to guide teaching and learning experiences. The last thing our teachers need is another level of summative testing to take away from valuable teaching time and providing the rich and varied learning experiences we do at Awahou School. There's an old saying, "You don't fatten a pig by constantly weighing it." The same can be said for education – you don't improve outcomes and show progress by continually testing children, as numerous research shows. As for the app to allow parents to have readily available progress information, we're already doing this with our individual learning plans set out on collaborative google docs, and it's monitoring real progress with evidence, not based on tests against a mythical 'standard. I am optimistic common sense will prevail, however I am seriously concerned for the future of our children's education and the effects on teachers.



Daffodil Day!

Virtue of the week:

Optimism

Optimism is having or showing hope for the future and expecting good things to happen. Optimism is an attitude that keeps us focused on what is good about our present situation and the future.

"An optimist is some who figures that taking a step backward after taking a step forward is not a disaster, it's more like a cha-cha" - Anon

SCHOOL NOTICES

Maharahara Camp

Student medical forms, gear lists etc are in your child's bag today. A parent evening to go over the camp details will be held on **Tuesday, September 12 at 7.00pm**, in Maharahara. A reminder that camp costs can be paid to the office now. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you need to discuss this. Parent helpers will be notified before the end of this week to ensure you have time to organise time off work etc.

Science Roadshow

On Tuesday, September 19th, the whole school will be attending a Science Roadshow at North Street School in Feilding. More info will come home soon.

Kainui Soccer

Unfortunately this did not go ahead. We are hoping to have an alternative date later in the term or early Term 4.

Kainui Basketball

On Monday, September 18th Awahou School will organise and host the inaugural cluster basketball tournament at Arena Manawatu. More details to come!

Kainui Jump Jam

Wharite will attend the Kainui cluster Jump Jam (equivalent of last year's folk dancing) at the Feilding Civic Centre on Wednesday, September 13th. We welcome parents to come along. More information will be out next week.

Daffodil Day

What a great effort from our school, with a great yellow turnout, fun activities and \$60 raised. A big well done to Evie Price, who led this fundraiser.

School Production

Mark the last Thursday evening of term in your calendars for our school production – a modern take on Snow White. This has been written from scratch by Morgan Cameron and Chelsea Hocken, so is 100% student owned! We are working hard learning our lines and learning about acting and can't wait to present this to you. Keep your ears open for costume and prop requests bound to come out soon!

LOOKING AHEAD



Odd week Thursdays – Year 8s to Tech @ Monrad Intermediate

Tuesday September 12th – Maharahara Camp Information evening

Wednesday September 13th – Kainui Jump Jam (Wharite)

Thursday September 14th – BOT meeting, 7.30m @ school

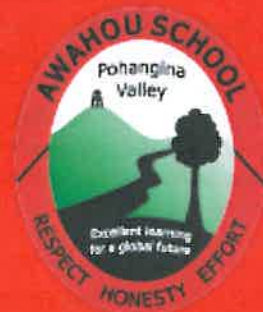
Monday September 18th – Kainui Basketball

Tuesday September 19th – Science Roadshow @ North Street School (Whole School)

Saturday September 23rd – NZ General Election (Polling booth at school)

Thursday September 29th – School Production (time tbc)

Friday September 29th – Last day of Term



STUDENT ACHIEVERS



Congratulations to our **HUGE** group of student achievers this fortnight!

Remember!

* Maharahara Camp fees now payable to the office

* Keep Thursday evening, September 29th free for our school production!

* Maharahara camp information evening – Tuesday September 12th, 7pm @ school.

TERM 3 HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR (STILL HALF A TERM TO GO!)



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Planned Power Outage

This Friday (September 1st) we have been notified that there is a planned power outage for the day whilst they work on the transformer directly outside our school. School **will not** be affected in any way, as the power company will be providing a generator to enable us to have power for the day. So it's business as usual on Friday!

Mount Biggs School's "It's in the Bag" fundraiser. September 2nd, Civic Centre, Feilding
Join us for a fun filled night and the chance to win some fantastic prizes. Based on the Selwyn Togood's TV Show of the Eighties "It's in the Bag"- everyone attending has the chance to be a winner. Supper is included with all tickets. \$30 a ticket. There will be a cash bar and raffles. Doors open at 6:45pm, show starts at 7:30pm. Tickets and further information available at Mount Biggs School Office, Sandon Road, Feilding.
Phone: 06-329 3646 or Feilding Paper Plus - Phone: 06 323 4058

Netball Success!

A huge congratulations to all of our Netball girls who have had great success in their various combined teams in Netball Manawatu competitions of late. All of our girls have shown great improvement and I have had many comments from coaches and parents of other schools as to how well they fitted in and what great kids they were.

A special mention to Catherine, Morgan and Chelsea, whose Awahou/Colyton team ending up winning their grade on Monday night to be crowned A4 champions! Great effort girls!

Another special mention to McKenzie Cameron, whose Awahou/Colyton team in the Saturday morning Feilding competition have won three straight, with McKenzie named player of the day last week.

HIGHLAND HOME SPRING CAMP

October Kids Camp 9 to 12 years

Theme - Spring Time

Sunday 1 October to Friday 6 October 17

Arrive 5pm (including tea) Depart Friday 11am

Early Bird price \$185 – after 18 Sept \$205 OSCAR funding available

Contact Eloise 027 5378144

TOTALLY VETS 2018 CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A GoPro HERO SESSION!



13 pictures will be chosen with
three great prizes up for grabs!

To be in-to-win, your photo must be received by
29 September 2017

Entry forms may be obtained from your nearest Totally Vets
branch or can be downloaded from our website
www.totallyvets.co.nz



1st PRIZE

A GoPro HERO
Session package
PLUS a \$200 donation
to your school

2nd PRIZE

\$150 for you
PLUS a \$150 donation
to your school

3rd PRIZE

\$100 for you
PLUS a \$100 donation
to your school

Competition is open to
school children from
primary and intermediate
schools in the Totally Vets
area.

Photos to be farm or
animal themed.

Entries should be uploaded as jpg files
in a maximum of 20MB and label as
landscape view.

Entries can be submitted in three ways:
a. Email to Gopro@totallyvets.co.nz
b. Send in a memory stick and upload to
Kings Store, totallyvets Ltd
PO Box 4090
Manawatu West Centre
Palmerston North 4640
c. Scan in a memory stick and drop in to
your closest Totally Vets branch.

Terms and conditions apply.
See entry for full details.

Fermented Vegetable Workshops

Saturday September 16th

9am and 1pm. Ashhurst

Bookings essential

Learn about fermented foods in a hands-on 3 hour
workshop. You'll find out why they're great for your
body, how to get started making them, and get to
take your own jar home to start you on your journey.



Limited space. \$10 per person.

Book online at www.recap.org.nz

RECAP

AWAPUNI 06 356 5011
FEILDING 06 321 6161
TAUMARUNUI 07 895 8899

www.totallyvets.co.nz

