



# AWAHOU SCHOOL

## POHANGINA VALLEY.

518 Pohangina Valley East Road,  
RD 14, Ashhurst.

[www.awahou.school.nz](http://www.awahou.school.nz)

[awahouoffice@awahou.school.nz](mailto:awahouoffice@awahou.school.nz)

(06) 3294 844



**"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 7, Term 1, 2018**

**16 March, 2018**

Respect Whakaute - Honesty Matatika - Effort Ngaki

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora Awahou Community,  
Creative thinking. Critical thinking. Divergent thinking. Lateral thinking. At school lately (as staff and with the students), we have been taking a look at all of the different ways we can think to problem solve and approach various situations, rather than all thinking the same or waiting to be told what to do. Dr Seuss summed it up perfectly – *"Think left and think right, think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!"* We are starting to see some shifts in these skills with our students, through such initiatives as Chapter Chat and PRIDE Challenges in Maharahara, and STEAM activities and Discovery Learning in Wharite. As staff, we are having a good look at the way we structure our days and timetables, the principles of Play-Based and STEM-based learning, how and what we assess, and what our true beliefs are around how we learn at Awahou School. This is very exciting (and mentally draining!) work as we build towards creating our new Awahou School localised curriculum, *"From the River to the C's"*. There'll be more to come on this soon, including a parent information evening on this and the New Zealand Curriculum in the last week of term – so pencil this in to your calendars for Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> now. Education is in a very interesting space at present, with the recent announcement of a review of the entire system, and the upcoming collective contract negotiations with the government, and what these may bring. I hope for a quick, amicable agreement so that we can continue to provide the great education we do for our kids, with better conditions for students, teachers and Principals to be able to do this. We have managed to get through next week's first round of Paid Union Meetings without disruption to our classroom programme, however this may not necessarily be the case later on. We look forward to your support in the coming weeks. *Arohanui - Matt Schmidt,*



### THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK:

OUR JOB IS NOT TO  
PREPARE STUDENTS  
FOR SOMETHING.  
OUR JOB IS TO HELP  
STUDENTS PREPARE  
THEMSELVES FOR  
ANYTHING.  
- A.J. JOVANI -

"EDUCATION IS NOT  
THE LEARNING OF FACTS,  
BUT TRAINING THE MIND  
TO THINK."  
- ALBERT EINSTEIN

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### Teacher Only Day

On **Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** (the Wednesday after Easter) school will **not be open for instruction**, as we have a Teacher Only Day where our staff will be undertaking Understanding Behaviour and Responding Safely (UBRS) training. UBRS is about developing the skills and systems necessary for responding safely to potentially dangerous (physical, emotional and / or relational) situations. With recent changes to H&S regulations and regulations around dealing with incidents in schools, this training will be invaluable to our staff.

### Learning Conversations

This term we have set aside three days and one evening for Student / Parent / Teacher learning conversations. The purpose for these will be to discuss current achievement levels based on start of year assessments, introduce our Individual Learning as Inquiry / Reporting documents for this year, and set our learning goals for Term 2. We would love to see all parents come in for these discussions. Please see the attached timetable and send back with a range of times that could suit you.

### Head Lice

The changing of the seasons seems to have brought these little critters back to the fore! Please take the time to check your child's head for head lice and treat accordingly.

### Weetbix Tryathlon

Next Tuesday we have a team of 15 students competing in the Weetbix Tryathlon. Good luck team!

### Swimming Pool / Keys

Unfortunately, the consistently super warm weather seems to have left us now. ☹️ As a result, we will be closing the pool for the season from next Friday. We request that **all keys** be returned before the end of the term, so we can do a stocktake of keys as there have been a couple of lock changes over the last couple of years.

### Booster Seats

Did you know the legal requirement for booster seats is that any child up to 148cm and under 12 years old is required to be in a booster seat? It concerned us on our field trip yesterday that some of our kids didn't have these, and upon chatting with them, didn't have them regularly in their everyday cars either. It is also a liability for the parents who volunteer to provide transport on our trips, as if they are pulled over and children are not in a booster seat that should be, they are individually liable for any fines. This would mean we would need to pay for school buses on all of our trips, which would raise the cost significantly. Not to mention, the safety of our children is the number one reason for this law and is always our main priority! Please ensure your child has a booster seat if needed every time they travel!

## LOOKING AHEAD



**Friday March 16<sup>th</sup> – Kainui Senior Swimming Sports (Lido)**

**Monday March 21<sup>st</sup> – Teachers at NZEI Paid Union Meeting (pm). School still open.**

**Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup> – BOT meeting @ school. 7pm**

**Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup> – Weetbix Tryathlon**

**Monday March 27<sup>th</sup> - Learning Conversations**

**Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup> - Learning Conversations**

**Wednesday March 29<sup>th</sup> - Learning Conversations**

**Friday March 30<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday**

**Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Easter Monday**

**Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Easter Tuesday**

**Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Only Day**

**Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> – Parent info evening**

**Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> – Last day of term**



## THIS FORTNIGHT'S STUDENT ACHIEVERS

Well done Narnia, Kade (x2), Jed,  
Devarney, Abaden, Jake, Sam, Sophi,  
McKenzie, Ruby and Morri!



- \* Learning Conversation booking slips
- \* School is closed over Easter Friday, Monday, Tuesday (standard closure for all schools) AND Wednesday for Teacher Only Day.
- \* Please return Swimming Pool keys

### FRIENDS OF AWAHOU!

#### FRIENDS OF AWAHOU NEED YOU!

Our amazing fundraising group, Friends of Awahou, are having our first meeting of the year this Friday, March 16 at 3.15pm at school.

Through the amazing efforts of this group we are able to top up teacher salaries to maintain our great student:teacher ratios, provide resources and learning support for children, and subsidise our school camps, through events such as Kainui Cross Country, Wild Food Feast and Pet Day / Gala.

Without this group we would not be able to provide the awesome and varied learning opportunities we do at Awahou School, but we need new members as our demographics change and families leave our school after their time with us. Many hands make light work! So come along Friday and see what it's all about. Or if you can't make it Friday, but are available to help this year, please email [awahoufoa@gmail.com](mailto:awahoufoa@gmail.com) to let us know.

Thanks!



# SPORTS / COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Get Richie to Awahou School!



### Get Richie to land at your local school!

I've just nominated my local primary school for a chance to win an awesome Fonterra Milk for Schools delivery from Richie McCaw by helicopter! Nominate your school too.

FONTERRA.COM

## HELEN KING GRANTS ADVISOR AND EDUCATOR

## GRANT WORKSHOPS

### Getting to Grips with Grant Applications.

A great workshop for:  
Organisations in the not-for-profit sector including early childhood education providers, schools, sports clubs and other community organisations.

This introductory workshop will give those new to the process a good grounding and offer 'old hands' a fresh perspective.

#### Focuses on:

- Getting the procedures and documents you need in place to make great applications.
- Local funders and how to pick the right ones for your needs.
- Writing effective covering letters and filling in forms.
- Increasing confidence in the funding application process.



#### Date, Time and Venue:

**Palmerston North Daytime:**  
Thursday 15th March, 10am-12:30pm.  
The Lounge, Wesley Broadway Methodist Church, 264 Broadway Avenue, Palmerston North.

**Ashhurst Evening:**  
Wednesday 9th May 7pm-9:30pm  
Venue TBC

**\$25 per person including materials.**

Supporting Manawatu, Tararua and Horowhenua based community organisations in making successful grant applications through education, consultation and grant writing services.

[gingerchopper@gmail.com](mailto:gingerchopper@gmail.com)

0279184855

Facebook: Helen King, Grants Advisor and Educator

Please email or call for workshop enrolments.



Awahou School

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Check out our new look website –  
[www.awahou.school.nz](http://www.awahou.school.nz)

## POHANGINA COMMUNITY HALL

You can now book the Pohangina Community by 2 methods, either via the email [pohanginahall@outlook.co.nz](mailto:pohanginahall@outlook.co.nz) or by going to [pohanginahall.simplybook.me](http://pohanginahall.simplybook.me). The latter is an online booking system where you can check availability etc.

### Pohangina Valley Sunday School Dates:

Sun 25th Feb at Komako at 10.00am  
Sun 4th March at Pohangina at 10.30am (no adult service)  
Sun 11th March at Komako at 10.30am  
Sun 18th March at Pohangina at 10.00am  
Sun 25th March at Komako at 10.30am

For now, on the first Sunday of each month at Pohangina church, the Sunday school will still run for the children. This will include a story etc and music for their age group. Parents are welcome to stay or you can drop your child/ren off at 10.30am and pick up at 11.30am. There will be no adult service on this day.

If you want to know more please contact Barb Hyde at [barbhyde@gmail.com](mailto:barbhyde@gmail.com)

Looking for something to do on March 17? See below for fun, entertaining evening! See Alison Drury (Nathan's mum) if you're interested in a ticket. Suitable for all ages.



## Mt Biggs School & Community

# Car Boot Garage Sale

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March

11am – 2pm

(if wet postponed to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March)

707 Sandon Road, RD9, Feilding

Only \$5 a Boot Site

Time for an Autumn Clean...then book a site  
Want to grab a bargain...then come along  
Contact Louise 3293646 or 021 0627952 for more  
information & to book a site.

Sausage sizzle, slices & drinks for sale  
Clothes, toys, wooden items, kitchen appliances, games,  
books and bric-a-brac, something for everyone