



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 10, Term 2, 2018

6 May, 2018

Respect Whakaute - Honesty Matatika - Effort Ngaki

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora Awahou Community,
Another amazingly busy term winds down and it's reflection time again! This term has been HUGE! From a number of cluster events and EOTC opportunities, to some big changes in our classroom programmes and content delivery, I'm sure all of the staff and students will sleep very well over the next couple of weeks! Yet again (as always it would seem), we are at a very stage in education in New Zealand. As you may be aware, last week teachers and Principals had Union meetings to vote on the current collective bargaining contract that has been offered by the Ministry of Education, responding with a pretty overwhelming 'NO' to the offer. As often is the case in these matters, there is some ill-informed opinions being spouted by various media outlets, in particular trying to make this about 'moaning teachers wanting more money'. There is a lot more to it than this! We want your children to benefit from a world class education system, propped up by teachers who feel valued, energised, positive and loving the job they do. At present, this is not always the case. Currently there is a 40% drop in the number of teacher trainees in NZ. When you measure this against the number of teachers due to retire in the next 5 years, we are heading for a crisis. We NEED to attract more people to our profession, and a salary that reflects the hours, commitment, training and workload of our teachers is just one (yet important piece of the puzzle). We need more teachers to teach our children, yet we also need more resourcing available to run our schools, and support for students with learning needs. This is about the future of our country – our children – and ensuring all conditions are set so that they can benefit from the education they deserve. *Kua tae te wā – It's time.* I encourage you to show your support in whatever way possible to not just our teachers, but all teachers. I am privileged to see every day just how hard Naomi & Toni work for our school, and the love, sacrifice, passion and commitment they show to our students. They're worth the fight!

Nāku noa, nā, *Matt Schmidt, Principal*



Thank you for supporting our teachers

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK:



The object of teaching a child is to enable him to get along without his teacher.
~ Elbert Hubbard

SCHOOL NOTICES

Enrolment News

A big welcome to Elena Bristow and her family, who joined us in Year 3 this week. Welcome to the Pohangina Valley! We have had 5 new enrolments this term, with another 4 due to start next term.

School Values

With a number of new students starting / who have started at our school this year it is timely for us to revisit our school values to ensure we are “walking the walk as well as talking the talk”. Currently we have 3 school values of Honesty (Matatika), Effort (Ngaki) and Respect (Whakaute). At the beginning of next term we will be revisiting these in detail again with the children and sharing these with the community as well, to ensure all are aware of our expectations for the children at school. As we develop our new curriculum behind the scenes, these may change, or be added to. Watch this space!

Parent Contact Information

On two occasions this term we had to shut the school early for severe weather issues. In doing so, we have identified that some students have out of date contact details where there have been changes of phone number, places of employment etc. At the start of next term we will send home form to ensure we have the correct information. If your information changes, **please** let us know asap.

Newsletters

You may have noticed that there have not been many newsletters this term. This has been a conscious decision / experiment to see just how valued and necessary our newsletter were. Interestingly enough, there has been no mention of this from our school community. In today's day and age, where school information is shared digitally via our Facebook page, school website and email, the 'traditional' newsletter is not necessarily needed. (Apart from lining the bottom of school bags of course!)

In line with this, school 'newsletters' will now come home three times per term – at the beginning of term to highlight what is ahead, mid-term to highlight what's been happening and end of term, to summarise and look ahead. Informative newsletters for events etc will still come home on an as needed basis. Student celebrations will continue to be posted on our Facebook page and website. If you would like your email address added to our email group for notifications, please flick me an email on awahouprincipal@awahou.school.nz

Staffing changes

Sadly, over the holidays we farewell Louise from her position as Cleaner / Groundsperson / After School Programme facilitator. We thank Louise for the time, effort and commitment she has put into these roles and wish her all the best for her new role.

Victoria Sage will now be taking on the cleaning role after school alongside her office administration role, with Vicki Pask taking on the role of the second After School Discovery programme teacher, with Caroline running the programme Monday – Thursday.

Student successes

Congratulations to Ruby Dykman, who this week was one of 600 primary students across New Zealand presented with a Young Leaders award in association with Westpac and the Sir Peter Blake Trust. We are very proud of you, Ruby! Congratulations also to Nathan Drury, Tom & Charlie Scott, and Jed Jackson for winning Robotics Challenges at FAHS!

LOOKING AHEAD



Friday July 6th – End of Term 2

Monday 23rd July – Term 3 begins

Tuesday afternoons – Robotics Club at FAHS

Friday 3rd August – Term 3 Electives begin

Monday 6th August – Kainui Netball

Wednesday 15th August – Teacher strike action (tbc)

Monday 20th August – Kainui Soccer

Monday 3rd September – Kainui Basketball

Wednesday 12th September – Kainui Junior Dance



THANKS LOUISE! ☺



**GOOD
LUCK
&
DON'T
BE
A
STRANGER!**

REPORTING & ASSESSMENT

Our teachers have been working hard to go through each child's individual Hāpai Matauranga Learning Journey document to ensure there is evidence of your child's work, links to goals and reflections ready for you to look over during the holiday break. Your child has also been self-reflecting on his / her progress and learning.

During this break we would love to see you all log in to your child's document and leave some feedback and reflections as well.

When we return in Term 3, all of the 'Mid-year Summaries' will be completed and ready by the end of Week 1, to give you a summary of progress and achievement so far, and reset goals for the remainder of the year.

If you have forgotten how to access your child's document, either get them to show you how, or flick us an email and we can guide you through how to do this. We are really leading the way in this form of reporting and assessment and both the teachers and students do value your input and feedback on their work and goals.

FRIENDS OF AWAHOU – WILD FOOD FEAST – SATURDAY AUGUST 18

The Wild Food Feast is very near and this year the tickets sold out in record time! (Only a matter of hours!)

The FoA team are now hard at work sorting all the finer details for the evening and collecting prizes for raffles and auction. If you are wanting to donate a prize, or know of somebody who might, please let us know at school asap.

We also have a number of sheets posted up on the wall opposite the office at school for helpers before on and after the evening itself. We are looking for helpers in the following areas: Friday Set Up, Wait Staff, Bar Staff, Kitchen Staff and Sunday Clean Up. If you're available to help in any of these areas, please pop your name up on one of these sheets or flick us an email to let us know.

This hugely popular event is a great fundraiser every year and all proceeds go towards our kids in the form of extra teacher hours to enable our ratios, teacher aide support and learning resources. All help is greatly appreciated!



**WILD FOOD
FEAST 2018**

18 AUGUST | 5.30pm

CAMP RANGI WOODS POHANGINA



BOT MINUTES 17th MAY, 2018

Meeting opened at 7.05pm

Present:

Alistair Beveridge (Chair), Billie Rountree, Monique Ekdahl, Matt Schmidt, Naomi Young, Toni Barr

Apologies:

Todd White

Declarations of Interest:

None

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Matters arising: None

Motion: The notes be accepted as a true and accurate record. Moved Alistair. Carried

Correspondence In/Out:

Nil

Portfolio Updates:

• **Chair**

- Congratulations to Matt/Billie on the great audit report for 2017
- Agreed to gift Shane Carroll and his partner free tickets to the Wildfood Feast as a thank you for all they have done for the school

• **Principal/Personnel**

- Roll has increased by 4, with another 2 students joining tomorrow
- Two requests have been received from other schools in the area wanting to visit the school to see play-based learning in action
- Victoria has agreed to work an extra 4 hours per week
- Seesaw is being well used by parents
- The photocopier contract expires next year, and Matt has started seeking quotes for a replacement

Motion: That Awahou School moves its banking from its current provider to ASB. Moved Matt, Seconded Billie, Carried

Motion: That Awahou School applies to NZCT for funding to purchase basketball hoops to replace the existing broken ones. Moved Matt, Seconded Alistair, Carried

• **Finance**

- Billie has simplified the BOT accounts, reducing the number of accounts to 3 (board funds, depreciation, and painting/maintenance)
- From the most recent monthly financial report there are no items of significance, expenditure remains on budget, and the accounts are in a good financial position for this time of year

- EdServices explained that our depreciation account is used for maintenance of 5YA works
- After School programme continues to cover its costs

• **Property**

- Septic system replacement now completed
- Work on house mostly completed
- Treescapes have completed clearing vegetation from around the powerlines
- Sick room gully trap overflow issue fixed for free by Clearflow
- Trees along the playground and water tank boundaries need to be trimmed
- Gardens alongside school building walls need to be checked to ensure the species planted are appropriate, and remove any that are not
- Property Maintenance Services visited the school and prepared a list of work they will undertake
- The wire rope bridge in the playground needs tightening

• **Health and Safety**

- One major (unavoidable) incident related was discussed – all appropriate actions taken
- Matt to update FarmIQ with incidents
- Matt to replace smoke alarm battery in Maharahara

• **Community engagement**

- Parent information evening well attended and received
- Facebook still receiving plenty of feedback
- New students continue to enrol
- A book fair is underway, and will be advertised in Pohangina, Ashhurst and at Hiwinui School
- Planning underway for cross-country and WildFood Feast

Motion: That the portfolio updates are accepted. Moved Al, Carried

Policy - School Docs

- The planned policy reviews for term 2 initiated discussion around the vetting processes in places for non-teaching staff/helpers/visitors. Matt explained the formal police vetting process, and the fact it takes at least 3 months, which is meaning schools are missing out on opportunities or having to operate 'illegally'. There was a discussion on whether we should have an informal process while we wait for the formal process to be completed. Matt agreed to give this some thought.

General Business

- Matt/Naomi wanting to lift the focus on robotics, so will be attending Manchester School's programme and will be approaching local banks for assistance purchasing robotics kits.

Next meeting: Thursday 21 June

Meeting closed 8:30pm