



# 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 1, Term 4, 2018**

**18 October, 2018**

Respect Whakaute - Honesty Matatika - Effort Ngaki

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora Awahou Community,  
Where has the year gone?! Term 4 yet again and as I head into my final term as Principal at Awahou School it has obviously been a very reflective time for me looking back at what we have achieved over the last 3 and a bit years. It's a lot!! As you'll read about below, last week Naomi, Toni and I, thanks to the BOT, were lucky enough to attend the uLearn Teachers Conference in Auckland. This conference is very focused on current education approaches and issues and how to prepare for the future. We listened to a wide range of keynote speakers and breakout presentations and I came away with a strong sense of pride and affirmation as to what we are achieving / have achieved at Awahou School and the direction the school is heading in. I am super confident that our BOT will continue this direction as they look to appoint the next Principal and I look forward to seeing where Awahou School is in another 3 years time.

As I'm sure most of you are aware, Term 3 was a term that presented a number of challenges to us as a school, both on a school level, and a personal level for some staff members. The staff at Awahou School are totally committed to providing a leading edge education to our students, and this has never wavered. In twenty years of education I have observed it has always been a challenge for teachers who are such a big part of children's lives and active members of school communities, to be given the respect and courtesy of being allowed a private life outside of the school setting. As we do with the kids, we are taking a fresh approach that it is now a new term, with a new start, and we are focused on making it a great, fun filled, and exciting term for all of us – students, staff and families. It is a super busy term as you will see from the calendar on the last page, with lots of fun events. As a staff, we are committed to ensuring we continue the high level of education we always have, right up until the last day of term – with lots of fun, laughter and great memories to be created.

Nāku noa, nā , *Matt Schmidt, Principal*



*Mrs Young excited to be at uLearn 2018!*

### THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK:

Great minds discuss ideas.  
Average minds discuss events.  
Small minds discuss people.  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

When you make a choice,  
you change the future.

Deepak Chopra

#### Term 4 Calendar

This term, as always, promises to be a super busy one! The final page of this newsletter is a calendar with all of the event dates for this term...so far! Please place this on your fridge or somewhere prominent to keep up to date with all of the happenings.

#### Camps

This term has camps happening for both classes. Maharahara are off to Papamoa for the week of November 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. All parents **should** have received finalised information this week. If you haven't please ask your children to show you! Wharite will be going on a day trip to Wellington Zoo on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> followed by a sleepover here at school. More information on this camp will come home soon.

#### Sunhats

In accordance with our SunSmart Schools policy, Term 4 is a sunhat term. Children are expected to wear their **school hats** outside at all times. If they do not have them, they will be required to play in the shaded areas at break time. If you do not have a school hat, or have lost yours, these are available from the office for \$10.

#### Pet Day

Pet Day is happening on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November. You should all have received information and entry forms for this in the last week if last term. If you did not, please let us know asap so we can send one home. We're particularly looking forward to the parent section that is replacing the calves! Entries are due in to school by **next Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**.

#### Athletics

This term our main sports focus is Athletics. Our school Athletics day will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, with the Kainui champions for qualifying Maharahara students on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November at the Massey track.

#### Prizegiving / Trophies

School Prizegiving this year will be the evening of Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December. More information will come home closer to the time. **If all trophies from 2017 could be return by the end of week 3 at the latest it would be much appreciated.**

#### School Photos

Get the hair gel, fancy clothes and mirrors ready – school photos are next week! Due to a change of circumstances for the photographer, these will now be over two days. The **class and group photos will be on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October**, with the **individual and family photos taking place on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October**.

#### 2019 School Year and Staffing

The final day of school for this year will be Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. We will finish at 2pm on this day. The first day of the 2019 school year will be Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at this stage. If the new Principal decides to change this date we will let you know before the end of the year. (There is a 6 day window in which schools can decide when to open.) Unfortunately, with a large cohort of students leaving at the end of this year, our staffing component may be less next year, meaning the BOT is not in a position be able to offer the current number of hours to Mrs Young, meaning Mrs Young is not likely to be here next year when her contract expires in December. What this will look like for next year is yet to be confirmed. Rest assured you will know as soon as we do!

## ULearn Conference 2018

In the second week of the holidays all three teaching staff members attend the uLearn Conference in Auckland. This is a huge conference of 2000 attendees, addressing current issues in education, current trends in education and future and innovative teaching practice. We all found this conference extremely valuable. At times our thinking was challenged, however at other times it was very affirming to see how 'on point' and ahead of the game Awahou School is with our teaching approaches. As a result of sharing our practice in some of the breakout sessions, we have had contact from schools as far as Auckland and Timaru wanting to come and see what we do!

When we returned from conference I also found the following article, which I have shared on our school Facebook page: [https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=11926730&fbclid=IwAR17kkY\\_bBJ0MT6fO5is2CnVq87YBxW\\_q0AdG31UWs3xand98N9n-k\\_cv\\_w](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11926730&fbclid=IwAR17kkY_bBJ0MT6fO5is2CnVq87YBxW_q0AdG31UWs3xand98N9n-k_cv_w)

According to an international study, New Zealand's education system has been ranked top of the world for 'educating for the future'. When reading this article and the line, *"The index highlights a widespread need for holistic educational techniques such as project-based learning, where students grapple with a subject (often of their own choosing) in great depth and with reference to several academic disciplines,"* I feel a real sense of pride in what we have achieved over the last 3 years and the current direction our classrooms are heading in. It also makes me appreciate what amazing teachers we have even more!

One of the really scary topics addressed through conference was the notion of 'big data' being used to dictate what our children are learning, what we are buying, how we are living etc through the use of analytics of our online behaviours and habits, and these being collected by big corporations to shape the future of society, and how we think and act. This is something I am looking further into!



# AWAHOU SCHOOL

# PET DAY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd 2018

5.00pm

Come and join us for a fun evening for the whole community - food stalls, raffles, fun stalls for the kids, the great Awahou Family WheelBarrow race, pets and crafts!

All are welcome - come along and support your local school and community. We'd love to see you there!



## **TERM 4 CALENDAR**



**Wednesday, 24th October - Kainui Speech Finals (Seniors)**

**Wednesday 24th October / Thursday 25th October – School Photos**

**Monday 5th – Friday 9th November – Senior Camp (Papamoa)**

**Friday 23rd November – Pet Day & Gala Evening**

**Tuesday 27th November – School Athletics**

**Thursday 29th November – Kainui Athletics @ Massey (Seniors)**

**Monday 3rd December – Teacher Only Day (school not open for instruction)**

**Thursday 6th / Friday 7th December – Junior camp (Day trip to Wellington zoo, sleepover at school)**

**Thursday 13th December – School Prizegiving (evening)**

**Tuesday 18th December – School Water Fight! (afternoon)**

**Wednesday 19th December – Last day of school year**

**Monday 4th February – First day of 2019 school year**