

Date 28th May 2020

Term 2 Week 7

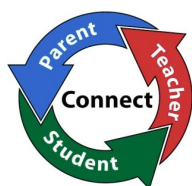
EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Preparing today's child for tomorrow's world - Whakakaha ngā tamariki mo apopo

Phone: 375 8191 or 022 368 1830 Email: office@eketahuna.school.nz Website www.eketahuna.school.nz

Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te kura Eketāhuna,

It has been another awesome week here at school, with lots of fantastic teaching and learning in our great class rooms. We have had a variety of fun activities to keep the children engaged as they transition into 'schooling on site'. It has been colder this week as we head towards winter, so please be vigilant in checking your children are feeling well before sending them to school and that they are wrapped up warm, ready for a fantastic day on site. kia ora koutou katoa.



REPORTING TO PARENTS IN 2020

With the Covid -19 Pandemic and school closure, our planned parent and teacher meetings for Term 1 were cancelled. This has given us an opportunity to review the system for 2020 and plan for the rest of the year. Continuing the relationships developed over the lockdown is vital, as is the recognition that parents will now also have a better picture of their children as learners. To this end we would like to have the traditional 'mid year' reporting and 'end of year' reporting as meetings. Prior to these meetings, a simplified report would be sent home so parents have a chance to read their child's report and start to consider what they would like to discuss when they do have their meeting with teachers. We would send home forms to book a meeting time as usual, but may add an optional section for parents to note points for more clarification so teachers are better prepared during the meeting. With the interruption to our on site learning with Covid-19 and there being only 7 weeks of 'in class' time this term, our 'mid year reports will be coming home at the start of Term 3, closely followed by meeting dates. Our Term 4 reporting would be a similar format. We are also looking to offer meetings on site and via Zoom . . . we will keep you updated as we go through this term.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY & FUN DAY

Our school cross country is going to be held on **Wednesday 9th June**, with Thursday 10th June as our postponement date. This year will be extra exciting as we are holding the event at the wonderful Eketahuna Golf Club! We are still in the planning stage, which is being guided by the Alert Level 2 regulations, but we will have a fantastic day, and are already training with the students in preparation of the run! At this stage we ask that you please note the dates and watch for more information to follow.



SCHOOL INVESTMENT PACKAGE

The staff, and our Board of Trustees, have been discussing the \$85,000 funding made available to schools across New Zealand in December, 2019. The capital investment of \$693.00 per student was a one-off cash injection to allow schools to focus on a variety of projects not necessarily covered in the existing 10 Year Property Plan (10YPP). Projects under consideration include extending the confidence course to include some high level skill playground activities, creating a concrete 'back board' for students to use for ball skill practice, major landscaping around the school, and a multi purpose storage shed for playground equipment, sports resources, skateboard ramps and all the safety gear that must be worn during skating. Exciting times for the school are ahead!

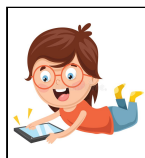
ATTENDANCE & BUSES FROM SCHOOL

IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT COMING TO SCHOOL PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE BEFORE 9AM TO LET THEM KNOW. A REMINDER TO ALSO NOTIFY THE OFFICE BEFORE 2:30PM IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT GOING HOME ON THEIR USUAL BUS.



DIGITAL USER AGREEMENT

LAST WEEK WE SENT HOME DIGITAL USER AGREEMENTS TO BE READ AND SIGNED. WE HAVE HAD LOTS OF THE AGREEMENTS RETURNED BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY TO COME IN. PLEASE SIGN THE FORMS AND RETURN THEM TO DENISE, IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU!



LOST PROPERTY

WE HAVE ONLY BEEN BACK ON SITE FOR ONE WEEK AND WE ALREADY HAVE A PILE IN THE LOST PROPERTY BIN! PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT THAT COMES TO SCHOOL IS CLEARLY NAMED AS IT WILL HELP US RETURN ITEMS TO STUDENTS AND CUT DOWN ON LOST PROPERTY. THANKS!



CELEBRATING MATARIKI

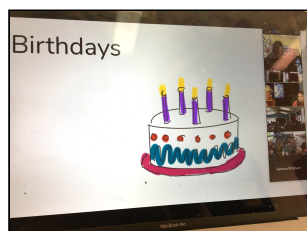
Matariki signals the Māori New Year. It is a time of renewal and celebration in New Zealand. Our children will be studying Matariki and its meaning this term and we hope as the Covid-19 Alert Level restrictions ease that we will be able to hold several art & craft afternoons with parents, and grandparents, invited to help students in classes. We also hope to have a 'celebration day', where we can come together - we will keep you updated on our plans.

COMING UP:

Friday 29th May - Pie orders for Home & School Fundraiser to the office

Monday 1st June - Queen's Birthday & School Closed

Wednesday 3rd June - Year 7 & 8 to Technology @ Tararua College

**CELEBRATION ZOOM ASSEMBLY:**

While we are at Alert Level 2, we are not going to have whole school assemblies in the hall. Instead we have started 'Zoom Assembly's' which each class will take a turn to host online. Last week Putara (Rm 6) held the inaugural online assembly. It was a great opportunity to share the successes children have had throughout the week. It is also a chance to see great learning that our host class shares - Putara updated us on Covid-19, along with health & safety reminders! Tomorrow's online assembly will be hosted by Nireaha students (Rm 5).

Class Awards – Star Student:

Given to a student by their teacher to acknowledge the great work done in class and related to learning throughout the week:

Room 1: Anne Kent/ Lana Hamilton
Room 2: Luke McNamara
Room 3: Lana Hanson
Room 5: Lucy Bourke
Room 6: Indy Burton Foley

Caught Being Good Award – Duffy Book:

Given to a student by their teacher in recognition of outstanding behaviour that exemplifies our school values and expectations:

Room 1: Emanuel McNamara/Renee Dennison
Room 2: Brent night
Room 3: Mac Duffy
Room 5: Lachie Duffy
Room 6: Lilly Perkovic

Principal's Award: All Eketahuna students for an amazing transition back to school - a great first week on site. Well done!!

HOME & SCHOOL MEETING

The Home & School group met on Tuesday (under Alert Level 2 Guidelines) to discuss the cancelled Golf Tournament and upcoming fundraisers. A huge thank you goes out to all the sponsors who had intended to support the school with the golf tournament, and we hope to secure the same great level of support next year - it is really appreciated! Currently the group has a 'pie fundraiser' happening so make sure you get your orders in for some of the delicious pies on offer. Get your form to the school office asap - tomorrow is the last day!

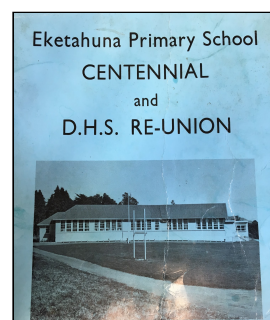
'EPIDEMICS' AT EKETAHUNA SCHOOL

With our community's determination to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges we are currently experiencing, it is interesting to look back into Eketahuna School's history and other times it has battled epidemics. Included in this newsletter is a section on just this topic from the 'Eketahuna Primary School Centennial & D.H.S Reunion' booklet from 1979 that Ali Mackisack discovered. The challenges faced over the years have always brought the community together and it has continued today - a thought provoking read indeed!

Thanks for your continued support and positivity. Have a lovely 'long weekend' and we will see you all again on Tuesday 2nd June. Stay safe and stay warm!

Nga mihi,

Melinda & the Eketahuna School Team

**EKETAHUNA SCHOOL****CHARTER 2018 - 2020****SCHOOL CHARTER & ACTION PLAN 2020**

Included with this newsletter is a summarised copy of the School Charter and Action Plan for 2020. The purpose of a charter is to set the direction for a school and identify the priorities the Board of Trustees expects the principal to be leading. The Education Act 1989 requires every school to complete a charter and a copy of the annual charter update to be sent to the Ministry of Education each year. The role of the board is to prepare and maintain the school charter. The charter is a key planning document that sets out the school's objectives and targets for the year, and establishes the mission, aims, objectives, directions and targets of the board that will give effect to the Government's National Education Guidelines and the Board's priorities.

The original School Charter and Annual Plan for 2020 can be accessed via the school web page or feel free to contact the office for a copy of the full document.



You can help your child's learning every day, by supporting and encouraging them and being excited by their learning. Here are some ideas to keep them developing their literacy and numeracy skills at home - keep checking weekly to see new suggestions . . .

PBSKids:

Hundreds of literacy games to play - top right corner has a drop down box for more games including letter, spelling & vocab games. To visit the site go to: <https://pbskids.org/games/>

Math Playground:

Full of activities for all areas of maths and guaranteed to give your 'maths brain' a real 'workout'! For all levels of the primary school and beyond. To visit the site go to: <https://www.mathplayground.com/>

Hukanui News: (Room 1)

We have had a great week again with each day following a different topic. We have particularly enjoyed the kindness theme looked at using the book, *The Rainbow Fish*. The art that the children have done has been fantastic.

This week we have begun training for Cross Country, look out for information about this, as the event will take a different format this year.

Next week we will begin our Matariki topic with lots of exciting things to look forward to.

As ever please contact us if you have any queries.

Thanks Jess & Jo

Rongomai News: (Room 2)

Hi everyone. I hope you have had a great week. We have had a very busy week. Cross Country practice has started. Please make sure your child has suitable footwear to run in. They also need a named water bottle. In class we have been working on our basic facts and learning about nouns. Look out for a maths game that children have been working on. They will be bringing home a new game each week to play and practise at home with their family. Look out for it next week. Spelling is underway and each child has spelling words to practise at home. Next week we will begin our Matariki Topic.

If you have any concerns please feel free to contact me on my school email address. Have a great week.

Roseanne

Hamua News: (Room 3) *We've had a busy week!***Maths**

We have been working further on writing and understanding fractions of shapes, and started working on fractions of numbers too.

Art

*We have finished our "windows into our lockdown" art, and are painting pictures this week related to Shaun Tan's *The Red Tree* - about resilience, and finding hope in a dark world. Here it is on 'You Tube': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrmMFFpKxgw>*

Literacy

We are working on developing our narrative writing skills, by carefully planning characters, settings, and events in order.

PE

We have been practising running skills and playing running games in preparation for cross country.

A highlight in the week is today - we had our special Movie Day treat - thanks Melinda!

Carol

Nireaha News: (Room 5)

We're very much back into the swing of working together and the four blocks we now have, are well favoured by most, within our room. Our first block has a general maths theme; the second block's got a writing base; the third's reading and the last block has a strong inquiry, future-focussed, innovative / creative studies bent..

We are flexible though, as at this age a more integrated, modern learning approach needs to be factored in, facilitated and fostered. That can mean that topic based, inquiry programming is built into any block. There's scope also, that ensures both independent and socially robust work habits are developing - as after all, student success is more than just an academic profile.

The first half of each block has a solid teaching base, followed by that room to work independently, before heading into break time. When that independent work evolves, it allows scope for 1:1 teacher-student time for targeted and even more personalised teaching. Alongside, group work and peer-to-peer collaboration's woven in also. All's working well!

Many thanks, Jo & Barb.

Putara News: (Room 6)

Kia ora, whānau

We have had an extremely busy week of learning and fun. In writing, the focus has been on nouns. We are exploring proper, common, collective and abstract nouns. I have been really impressed with the positive nature of all the children.

Elvis Presley, Mickey Mouse - proper noun

Dog, flower, car, pen - common noun

A pride of lions - collective noun

The boy was full of pride - abstract noun

There has been an in-depth focus on basic facts during mathematics this week. We have been pushing basic facts hard!

This has been great in terms of getting children back into some challenging learning.

In short, we are doing a lot of explicit, focused learning. Have a great weekend, everybody!!

Dean

EARTHQUAKES AND EPIDEMICS:

1934 seems to have been a year filled with problems for the teaching staff, for apart from earthquakes and the very severe gale of August the 16th the school was closed early for the August holidays because of a measles and influenza epidemic. The attendance fell to below half and it was impossible under the conditions to carry on with the work of the school satisfactorily.

More epidemics occurred in 1935, chicken pox in the autumn and mumps, in July. Both these epidemics seriously affected the attendance and caused much concern to the staff.

A national outbreak of Infantile Paralysis in December 1936 caused the school to close early for the summer holidays and activities such as the children's Fancy Dress Ball and School Garden Party had to be cancelled. On 19th of April 1937 the school was again closed because of the Infantile Paralysis outbreak and it was decided that it should not reopen until after the term holidays.

1941 saw epidemics of Whooping cough, Mumps and Ringworm which caused sharp drops in attendances during the first half of the year and made things difficult for the staff. In 1945 an epidemic of measles again reduced the attendance of pupils, particularly in the Primary Department and a further outbreak of Infantile Paralysis in December 1947 caused the school to close early for the summer vacation, as a precautionary measure.

These days modern medicine has greatly reduced the incidence of epidemics in schools.

BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE

We are now beginning to hit the cold and flu season and are reminding every child to bring a named water bottle to school each day.

The drinking fountains will remain closed.

Teachers will be able to organise the refilling of water bottles in classes when they are empty.

THANK YOU

HOME & SCHOOL PIE FUNDRAISER

Orders to be in by Friday 29th May



NB Pies will be delivered to school on Wednesday 10th after 11am.

Thanks for your support!