

Tuesday 15th December 2020

Term 4 Week 10

# EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

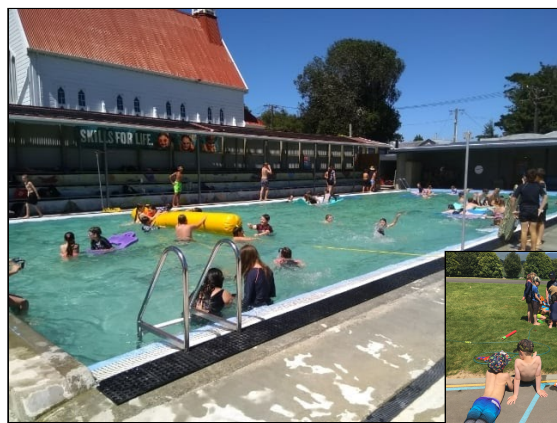
Phone: 375 8191 or 022 368 1830 Email: [office@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:office@eketahuna.school.nz) Website [www.eketahuna.school.nz](http://www.eketahuna.school.nz)

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

This is the last newsletter of the year - and what a very fantastic year it has been! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing involvement in our wonderful school. I wish you the very warmest Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays. See you back at school in 2021!



## A WONDERFUL EKETAHUNA FUN DAY!!



The students had a wonderful time at the pool in town and at their Teddy Bear picnic at school today. Lots of great summer activities. A lovely way to end our year - and in the SUN! A huge thanks to Ryan & Lisa Seator for kindly organising the town pool for our senior students! An amazing FUN DAY!



## LEADERS AT ST CUTHBERTS LUNCH

Our leaders were amazing helpers at the Christmas Lunch - polite, courteous and hard working! They also managed to entertain the diners with a waiata!



## OUTDOOR HOCKEY SUCCESS

Congratulations go to our U7 Outdoor Hockey Team who won the competition! Well done Joseph McNamara, Maisyn Parr, Emmanuel McNamara, Toby White, Zyana Crudis, Halo Crudis, Ramona Paul and Jaylah Keedwell. A big thank you to their coach Skye White.



## BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Great to see more work happening in the lovely Butterfly Garden. The students from Haamua moved a huge pile of top soil, kindly donated by Mark Rowden, was carefully shifted to an area behind a retaining wall at the garden edge.



## LOST PROPERTY TO BE COLLECTED

PLEASE COME IN AND HAVE A LOOK THROUGH THE HUGE AMOUNT OF LOST PROPERTY, WHICH WILL BE LAID OUT ON THE HALL VERANDAH. LOTS OF CLOTHES WHICH ALL NEED TO BE COLLECTED. THANK YOU.



## STATIONARY LISTS FOR 2021:

CLASS STATIONERY LISTS WILL AGAIN BE ONLINE AT: [myschool.co.nz](http://myschool.co.nz) SIMPLY SEARCH FOR OUR SCHOOL, SELECT YOUR CHILD'S CLASS LISTS & FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON THE WEBSITE. CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES.





### EKETAHUNA SCHOOL PRIZEGIVING 2020

It was lovely to see everyone at our school hall last Thursday last night, celebrating the successes our children, and the school, have had in 2020. It was great finishing the term, all together, in such a positive way after such a challenging year. A huge congratulations to all the winners of our major awards! Tino Pai!

### CLASS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE, EFFORT & EXAMPLE:

HUKANUI (Rm 1): Ashaia O'Keeffe, Olivia Capes, Lexi Mitchell & Brodie Braddick

RONGOMAI (Rm 2): Brooke Duffy & Heidi Hanson

HĀMUA (Rm 3): Lana Hanson & Mack Duffy

NIREAHA (Rm 5): Mollie Mackisack & Nancy Duffy

PŪTARA (Rm 6): Jackson Wells & Carmen Bidois

### EKETAHUNA SCHOOL CUPS & TROPHIES:

Junior			
Effort		1 - 3	Maxwell Crudis
Sportsperson		1 - 3	Emmanuel McNamara
Academic		1 - 3	Toby White
Intermediate			
Effort		4 - 6	Emma Drysdale
Sportsperson	M & T Duffy Cup	4 - 6	Aurora Mitchell-Jensen
Academic		4 - 6	Brent Knight
Senior			
Effort	Webster Cup	1 - 3	Indy Burton-Foley
Sportsperson		4 - 6	Scott Duffy
Academic	Bevan Reichenbach Cup	7 & 8	Harrison Mackisack
SPECIAL SENIOR AWARDS			
Values		8	Meila Mithell-Hopa
Arts		8	Stella Governor
Technology	Woodhouse Family Cup	8	Harrison Mackisack
Sportsmanship	Mike Monaghan Cup	8	Harry Dickson

### FAREWELL TO OUR AMAZING YEAR 8 STUDENTS

We are so proud of our amazing Year 8 students and wish them well as they head off to colleges next year. They have been wonderful role models and will be missed around school. Tararua College: Indy Burton-Foley, M-Jay Carrington, Anthony Dennison, Stella Governor, Kris Highet, LeeRay King, Harrison Mackisack, John McGill, Hannah Mikoz, Lilly Samson, Kiara Potangaora-Carter, Jacob Read & Blake Rolfe. Wairarapa College: Meila Mitchell-Hopa & Sam Willetts. Fielding High School: Harry Dickson & Scott Duffy.



We will keep updating the school Facebook page over the holidays, so keep an eye out!  
Nga mihi and Koa Kirihimete,  
Melinda & the Eketahuna School Team.





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**Hukanui News: (Room 1)**

Thank you for all your help and support this year. We have loved teaching your children. Enjoy the holidays and stay safe. Jess & Jo



**Rongomai News: (Room 2)**

Have a great break and Christmas with your family. Thanks for all your support over the year - your kids are awesome!



**Hamua News: (Room 3)**

Thanks for all your support - happy summer holidays!



**Nireaha News: (Room 5)**

Thanks for being a stunning team in class - and behind the scenes (parents and caregivers), throughout the year. You've been a stunning crew to work with!

Bye Jo & Barb



**Putara News: (Room 6)**

Have a very happy holiday from Pūtarā. It's been a great term. Thank you for your support. See you next year! Dean



**SCHOOL CLOSURES @ 12PM**

**WE WILL HAVE OUR LAST SCHOOL ASSEMBLY  
TOMORROW AT 11:15PM. ALL WELCOME!**



**WE FINISH WEDNESDAY 16TH AT 12PM  
ALL BUSES WILL BE RUNNING**

**COMING UP 2021:**

**THURSDAY 4TH FEBRUARY - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL  
MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY - WAITANGI DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)  
TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY - SWIMMING LESSONS START  
TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY - HOME & SCHOOL MEETING @ 7PM  
WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY - TECHNOLOGY FOR YR 7 & 8  
FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY - SCHOOL POWHIRI**



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**HAVE A LOVELY HOLIDAY AND WE WILL SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR...**





#### RONGOMAI & THEIR KINDNESS

Students in Rongomai (Rm 2) spent time this week creating lovely treat jars for the Tararua Food Bank. All the jars have sweets and the packaging was designed by the class. The cute 'christmas' label was designed by Heidi Hanson. A very kind and generous action. Well done!

#### NIREAHA MEET THEIR EPALS FROM SOLWAY

Our students had an amazing day in Masterton meeting their Epals from Solway School and participating in water safety activities together. A definite highlight of the year. Big thanks to Jo Gibson for organising the day out and all the parents who went along to help. Awesome!



### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRIZEGIVING SPEECH 2020**

Kiaora koutou Eketahuna Whanau,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, and a very warm welcome to you all. A special welcome to our school leavers of 2020 and their families. Year 8's this is your last prizegiving at Eketahuna school, and for some of our families this the end of a long association with the school.

2020 has been turbulent for everyone and the Eketahuna school staff have certainly had a busy year dealing with the impact of COVID – this meant managing going into Lockdown, and implementing Alert level requirements, providing home schooling support, in many cases this meant our staff hand delivered materials to families throughout the area. All this turmoil also meant a lot of the scheduled school sporting and cultural events were either postponed or cancelled but this was dealt with efficiently by Melinda and her team and also by the children themselves, who have rolled with the punches and demonstrated great resilience and adaptability.

Despite COVID, it has been a productive and successful year for Eketahuna school and I would like to thank Melinda for her leadership of the school and the extra workload she has had to take on. I know you thought there couldn't be any more 'firsts' in your leadership role but COVID has provided one of the biggest challenges yet. Melinda, on behalf of the Board, we sincerely thank you for navigating us through this tricky year. You certainly make the job much easier for the Board with your solutions based approach, to whatever is thrown at us, always keeping the Eketahuna children at the heart of your decision making.



Behind you, continues to be a great team who have risen to the year's challenges without missing a beat. I thank you all, you are a truly talented group of people and your commitment is outstanding.

We are in the lucky position to be retaining all our wonderful teaching staff going into 2021 which will give us the ability to be up and running from day 1 next year.

A big thank you also to all our school support staff and school helpers that move behind the scenes giving the children those little extras and keep our school looking so great. Our school is a great place to be thanks to your hard work.

We wish all our staff a wonderful holiday and hope you all enjoy a well deserved break.

A big thank you to the home and school committee who are as always a motivated group willing to go the extra mile for our children and have continued to raise funds that go towards helping support our children. Their fundraising efforts have been severely disrupted this year with the main events being cancelled by COVID but they did a fantastic job with the Spring Show this year and have continued with their efforts where best they could. We really appreciate the work you do.

As part of our three year plan we have continued with our strong focus on building teacher capability and a strong collaborative staff which links to our goals of raising student achievement in a safe, positive, inclusive environment. We have again seen good progress this year with teachers collaborating to develop better their practice and reporting on student achievement. Staff and board members recently had a very successful day working together to develop our localised curriculum which we will start implementing in 2021. We will continue to build on this over the next few years to ensure that Eketahuna school provides the best opportunities for every child.

As always your input is a crucial part of this process and we thank you for participating in any of the opportunities we provide to get feedback from our school community, the information you provide is essential to how we shape the future of our school.

My final thank you goes to our Board of Trustees, you too are a dedicated and supportive group who have the very best interests of our Eketahuna children at heart. 2021 will be our final year at Eketahuna so I will be handing the Chairperson role over and looking for a replacement for the Board. I know there are plenty of you out there who are passionate and capable of continuing this work so please consider putting yourself forward for a role.

In closing I would like to acknowledge our school leavers by wishing them all the very best for their move into secondary school. You are a great bunch of kids who have been fantastic role models to our younger students. We hope you have enjoyed the opportunities Eketahuna School has offered you and we thank you for your contribution to our school. When you head off and start college there will be plenty of opportunities - different sports, cultural and academic activities to try. We hope that your time at Eketahuna School has given you the confidence and enthusiasm to make the most of these opportunities - push yourselves outside of your comfort zones, persevere, stand tall, step forward. You will be missed from Eketahuna School - but you will always be a part of Eketahuna. All the very best for the next stage in your lives from us all.

I wish you all a very Merry Xmas and happy and safe holiday.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

Maree Redington