

Our Vision:
"Confident, Inspired, Achievers"

Pukerua Bay School Newsletter

Green/Gold Enviro Award Winning School

'He mihi tenei ki a koutou nga matua,
me nga kaitiaki o a tatou.

Tena koutou katoa.'



14 October 2016

Kia ora Whanau

We are back into it in full-swing this term! Below is my 'take home' message from uLearn. I have added links for further information at the bottom of this newsletter.



The teachers and I have returned from uLearn which is an intensive 4 day education conference. We rubbed shoulders with Global Leaders in education. This included [Larry Rosenstock](#), [John Couch](#), [Michael Fullan](#), [Mark Treadwell](#) and [Karen Spencer](#).

Hon Hekia Parata also spoke about the changes to the Education Act and reiterated the message from the key-note speakers.

The key message was around the future of students and a huge emphasis was placed on the rapid change that is taking place globally. Within the next 20 years, 47-81% of jobs as we currently understand them will be under threat from technology. This includes jobs that have always been considered 'safe' from automation. We also learned that we need to challenge the way that we teach so that we can provide the best education for our children.

Today's successful learners are not the ones that can memorise and recall facts. It is those who are creative and those who can collaborate with others so that they can solve authentic problems as individuals or in teams. Successful students need to be digitally and technologically fluent and be active and ethical decision makers. They need to be the Kaitiaki of our environment.

This means that our story-tellers need to be original, thought provoking and creative - not just good spellers and handwriters. Our mathematicians need to find, and creatively solve authentic problems - not just rote learn basic facts.

We need to equip our students with critical literacy so that they can predict important things (like environmental impacts). They need to be able to create and share environmental solutions so that their future world is secure.

Learners and schools need to be [inclusive](#). Our early learners need to have time to develop their identity so that they can then think about, question, and collaborate in the world that they live in.

We learned more about national standards achievement data and how this data is no longer a relevant predictor of a successful citizen. Hekia Parata agreed and said that National Standards were never intended to be 'taught to'. They need only be used as occasional checkpoints (twice yearly). This is good news given that [current brain research](#) proves that most children under 7 (especially boys) need to develop learning dispositions. If these dispositions are not fully developed before cognitive learning (reading, writing, and maths) student achievement is likely to plateau (and in most cases drop) by the time the children hit year 4 and 5.

As we embark on our future learning needs, our teachers need permission to explore these concepts. We learnt from many other schools who are embracing this with initiatives such as multi-level classroom, collaborative (team) teaching and creative educational spaces. We have also learned to 'hold our ideas lightly' and to be ready to adapt and change for the needs of our learners.

Andrew, Matt, Cat and myself were humbled by the opportunity to celebrate Pukerua Bay School. At our presentation we showcased the School Museum, the Rest home visits, Play Based learning and our Pallet constructions. Needless to say we have had many schools wanting to come and visit so that they can take some of our ideas back to their own schools.

"As soon as we start looking at our learners as data points, we are in big trouble..." Sir Ken Robinson





ICT workshops

Amanda O'Connell from Core Education has been in this week and will be again next week to work with classes using our eLearning tools to enhance deeper learning. This week she worked in Rua and Toru and the children learned how to use a tool called Lenso. Amanda was extremely impressed with our students and said that they were an inspiring bunch to work with.





ASB MoneyWise

The wonderful Vane was also in this week delivering the ASB GetWise programme.

This is a financial literacy programme. The children learned a variety of things ranging from the differences between needs and wants to credit cards and dealing with debt. There is more information on this programme [here](#).



2017 Class placements

We are in the process of looking at what the school will look like next year in terms of classes, numbers, funding, teachers and so forth. We have building projects pending which will make changes to the Wairaka block and we are considering moving the teaching spaces around to suit the needs of our learners. By **WEEK 5** we will put out a statement and this will outline if the year group your child is in is likely to be split. I will then be available for appointments (or email) where you can come in and give us any information you think that we might need when considering the place for your child. Once this information is collated the teachers will work in their teams to make up the classes. These will then be posted for your information in the last week of school.

PLEASE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REQUESTS FROM WEEK 5.

Ministry of Education Meeting and Charter 10 November

On 10 November at 7pm the Board of Trustees and a representative Ministry of Education will be holding a consultation meeting at school. The MOE will be discussing the options associated with the population increase in Northern Porirua and will be seeking your feedback on the following options:

Option 1 - Build a new primary school in Paremata

Option 2 - Have Aotea College start at year 7 and decapitate all or some northern Porirua primary schools (**including Pukerua Bay**) which means we would no longer be able to have year 7-8s.

This has huge implications for our school so your attendance at this meeting is very important.

The BoT will also be conducting a charter consultation. This is where we set goals, visions, and dreams for our children. The BoT will then collate this information and create our strategic plan. Again, it is important that you have your say as it directly affects your child's education.

Staffing for Term 4

I would like to welcome Matt Hutchinson to Pukerua Bay School.

To reduce the ratios in the Rawhiti block we have employed Matt for this term.

Matt will be working in Rawhiti with Jacqui and Pip.

Matt is an extremely experienced senior leader and teacher.

Matt has huge strengths in numeracy and has worked alongside numeracy experts such as Associate Professor Roberta (Bobbie) Hunter.

We are looking forward to sharing and gaining best practice from him while he is with us.



We welcome back Ananda who is returning this term to work alongside students in Raroa on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Ananda is also used for relieving around the school when we need him.

Reports

Reports will be out to families on the **2nd of December** this year. These reports will include your child's progress against the New Zealand Curriculum and National Standards.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!

Kia pai tō mutunga wiki

Tara Taylor-Jorgensen
Principal

Important dates:

Football kids NZ at school - 18 October

Disco - 28 October

Labour Day - 24 October

Parumoana Cricket - 1 November

Year 0-4 Swimming - 14 - 17 and 21 -24 November

Hearing/Vision - 10 November

Reports - 2 December

Leavers dinner - 07 December

Leavers assembly - 14 December

Waikanae pools - 15 December

Last day - 16 December 12pm finish

Assemblies (Friday Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8)