



From the Principal

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

Week 2 is upon us already. The learning is well underway in all of the classrooms and I have enjoyed popping in throughout the day to talk to the students and to see what is going on. The students in **Room 2** have been learning about measuring. They looked at a 'you tube' clip on the tallest man in the world' and have compared this giant to the smallest man. Yesterday morning I was invited to lie on the ground to see if I was longer or shorter than the wingspan of an albatross -3 metres!

We have introduced a morning hui (meeting/catch up) which lasts for approximately 5 minutes each day. It is nice to bring the school together to start the day, discuss notices, celebrate successes, introduce new students etc. The hui helps to further build school culture which is essential-particularly at a small school. I have been extremely impressed by the positive culture that exists at Te Horo School in the classrooms, staffroom, playground and community-great stuff!

National Standards and the NZ Curriculum

These two items have dominated NZ Education recently. The curriculum has been touted as 'world leading and visionary' by many. The curriculum gives a clear message to schools to engage with their communities and develop learning programmes to suit the needs of the students. There is a **focus on literacy and numeracy**, particularly in years 1-6. There are other exciting inclusions such as an emphasis on **values** and a **vision** for students – to be 'confident, connected life long learners'. Schools are encouraged to explore modern technologies, their local environment as well as the wider world. There are 8 exciting learning areas; Mathematics & Statistics, English, Social Science (Studies), Science, Technology, Health and PE, Learning Languages and The Arts.

Formative assessment, inquiry learning and using pedagogy (research) to inform teachers of best practice are all included. I could go on...

On the other hand the **National Standards** debate has raged in the media, homes and staff rooms. The standards aim to raise student achievement and improve the quality of reporting to parents.

I have heard and read a lot of discussion in the media by so called experts; who claim that National Standards will improve achievement outcomes for students. This must be a goal for all schools and parents. However there are concerns about how the information may be used i.e. league tables that are made public as in the United Kingdom, and that it has been rushed into schools. There are also calls to trial the standards for the first year. Other concerns are that it may narrow the curriculum and place too much of an emphasis on testing, in particular numeracy and literacy. A further concern is that schools may use the information in the national standards as a test rather than guidelines.

On the flip side parents have every right to receive clear, concise and accurate reporting on the progress of their children. The standards do provide expectations or targets which can be used to guide teachers as to the progress of their students. This is a brief overview and I encourage you to gather accurate information by talking to the teachers, going online or reading the newspapers. Stay tuned!!!

Line Dancing

Line dancing has returned to Te Horo School. Our line dance guru, Mrs Smith, has rolled out the sound system and had the entire school moving in synch to country music. It's a lot of fun!!!

Cybersafety Internet Forms

Next week we will be sending home with all children a Cybersafety Internet Form. Cybersafety is the safe and responsible use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Please take the time to read it through, discuss the key points with your children and have them sign the agreement before returning it to school. The form is from Netsafe and the Ministry of Education. It is a requirement for staff to also sign the agreement.

Final thoughts....

'Do not confine your children to your own learning for they were born in another time.' Hebrew Proverb

School News

First Contact Evening

'First Contact' evenings will again be used this year. The purpose of this contact is to establish a rapport between parents and teachers and open dialogue that will enhance and support the education of the child and help parents to become familiar with the programmes and culture of each classroom. The teachers would like parents/caregivers to complete an individual questionnaire for **each** child and return it to the school by: **Friday 12 February**, via the clown's mouth please. We hope that you all take this opportunity to attend this 'First Contact' evening on **Wednesday 17th February starting at 5:00pm and finishing at 7:00pm.**

Please come along for a BYO picnic and catch up for the beginning of the year. Staff will be available to answer any questions that you may have. Time can be arranged with class teachers if more formal meetings are required. The swimming pool will be open.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Parents who have preordered the new school uniforms will have the opportunity to try these on your child on Mondays and Thursdays after school starting at 3:00pm in Room 6. Parents who have not ordered and would like to are most welcome to come along and try on and order. Many thanks to Shelly FitzGerald for taking over the role.

WORLD MATHS DAY

World Maths Day is being held on 3rd March this year. Te Horo school has been registered to take part and we will be attempting to answer as many maths questions as we can in a day online using the Mathletics programme. Registered students will receive a username and password to enable them to practise at home and at school before the event. The website is www.worldmathsday.com. Please encourage your child to take part as we are considering purchasing this programme at school.

STATIONERY

Thank you to all the parents who got their orders in quickly this week. Unfortunately some children are waiting on backordered items. We apologise for the inconvenience but all should be sorted, hopefully, by the end of this week. Many thanks to Shelly FitzGerald and her team for helping out with this big job. We will look at having packs next year so the orders come all made up.

POOL KEYS

It has been decided to issue pool keys to Te Horo school parents this season for \$30.00 with a \$10 refundable deposit at the end of the season. If you would like a key please call into the School Office. Special thanks goes to Andy Cooper who has assisted Mike with the upkeep of the pool, applying chemicals and vacuuming when Mike has been unable to do it.

SWIMMING PROGRAMME

This is going very well, and the pool has been a welcome respite with the hot weather we have been having. Many thanks to the parents who are coming in and assisting the teachers with the swimming programme, this is much appreciated.

ROOM 8 ORIENTATION CAMP

Please return forms and payment as soon as possible for the Room 8 camp to Otaki Forks. Many thanks.

Haruatai swimming

As part of the Physical Education programme all children in Years 4-7 will be swimming at the Haruatai Pool in Otaki on Wednesday 3rd, Friday 5th, Wednesday 10th and Friday 12th of March from 1:30pm-2:30pm. Swimming sports will then be held at Haruatai on Wednesday 17th at 1:00pm. The cost to cover buses and hiring the pool will be \$11:00 per child. A separate notice will be sent home shortly.

Otaki Winter Launch

MINX News OTAKI WINTER LAUNCH Tuesday 23rd February starting at 6:00pm at the Te Horo Community Hall

This evening to raise funds for one of our Minx co workers, **Fiona Gray**. Fiona suffered a cycling accident in November and is unable to return to work for a long long time. Fiona lives in Te Horo and has 4 lovely girls, Lani,, Alex, Isla and Devon. Devon has been granted a scholarship to Japan for 9 months later on this year which all needs to be funded by her. If we can put some of our funds raised towards this that would be great for the family. More donations are welcome for a silent auction. Fiona was a teacher aide at Te Horo School last year, and we all very sad to hear about her accident.

From the Home and School

Hello to everybody
Now that your children are all settling back into school, you are probably wondering when the Home and School committee will be up and running again! So to put your minds at rest - we are having our first meeting on Tuesday 16 February at 7.30pm. The meeting following that will be our AGM scheduled for March 16th. So do come along and join us, we are a fun group and hard working. The meeting is held in the staffroom 7:30pm, all welcome. If you would like to know anything else please feel free to contact me: Jacqui Simpson on 364 6134.

Coming Events

17 February	Parent Open Night	5-7:00pm
23-25 February	Room 8 Orientation Camp	Otaki Gorge
1 March	Term 1 show Power of One	1:20-2:05pm in the school hall
3 March	Haruatai swimming	1:10-2:30pm
	World Maths Day	
5 March	Haruatai swimming	1:10-2:30pm
10 March	Haruatai swimming	1:10-2:30pm
12 March	Haruatai swimming	1:10-2:30pm
17 March	Senior Swimming Sports at Haruatai	12:40-2:30pm
25 March	Theme Day-Beach	
30 March	Club X Country	
1st April	pp date for Club X Country	

TERM ONE ENDS!

Term 1 2010

First Contact Information Sheet

The classroom teachers would like to gather information from parents and caregivers about your child to help with their education and development. Please take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire and return it to school by Friday 12 February. Thank you!!

Child's Name:

Room:

What specific goals do you have for your child for 2010? (you may wish to discuss/negotiate these with your child.)

List your child's interests, hobbies and strengths

Any further comments or questions?

Signed: _____

Students of the Week



Room 1	Taylor Cull for trying her best at everything at school.
Room 3	Jayne Westerby and Hannah Bruce for settling in so well
Room 2	Jacob Callwood for having fantastic work habits. You are awesome.
Room 7	Ethan Wyman for good attitude towards all his learning.
Room 8	Lamea Wyatt/Watson. Lewis Wyatt/Watson, Mackenzie Seymour, Joshua Bruce, Jack Scrimshaw and Joshua Marshjall congratulations to these students who have taken the huge step to come from Room 5 to be in Room 8 this year and who have risen so magnificently to the challenge.
Room 5	Alex Gray for demonstrating a positive approach to all tasks, willingly helping others with their learning and having a bright and sunny disposition

Community Notices

Hoop Club Kapiti BASKETBALL COACHING PROGRAMME TERM 1 2010 From Sunday 21 February to Sunday 28 March PARAPARAUMU COLLEGE GYM SUNDAYS

5-8 year olds 9.30-10.30am 9-12 year olds 10.30-11.30am 13-16 year olds 11.30-12.30pm
ALL NEW PLAYERS WELCOME For more information contact Angelo Robinson 9040142
\$35.00 per child per term \$60.00 for 2 children from the same family or \$5.00 per session

PILATES: Improve posture and flexibility tone and sculpt the entire body. Slow and controlled movements. Monday 7-8pm, Wednesday 11:15am-12:15pm \$7 a class at Body and Soul Gym, Otaki, come and give it a go.

JUDITH FUGE DANCE SCHOOL at Otaki College. Registration is 3:30-4:30pm on Wednesday 10th February. Classes will be held on Wednesdays. Contact jfds@paradise.net.nz or phone 04 902 6573 or cellphone 021 249 6573

Otaki Taekwondo Club Start date - 1 March 2010

Junior Club, ages 5-7, Time: - 5.30pm - 6.30pm Cost Junior - \$15.00 per month (Junior cost applies to primary, intermediate and college students)

Senior Classes - 8 yrs old up to adult's, Time: - 6.45pm - 8.15pm

Senior class - \$20.00 per month

Training days are Mondays and Wednesdays at the Otaki Memorial Hall.

New members will have 2 free classes

Korean martial arts come along and learn self-defence, discipline, self-confidence and fitness.

Email - otakitaekwondo@gmail.com <<mailto:otakitaekwondo@gmail.com>>; ring Jim Babbington on 021701518 or Paula Teau 02102780389

PIANO LESSONS

Qualified piano teacher has vacancies on Friday afternoons. Close to Te Horo school. Please phone Suzanne Hearfield on 04 4724305 or 06 364 3606.

Trilogy Travel will be taking their coaches to the Martinborough Fair on Saturday 6th March and would be an ideal opportunity for mums, dads needing a little time out to join us for the day and browse through the 450 stalls and sample the great variety of food and wine venues. The cost is \$45 per person and for information on booking and pick up times please phone 04 902 5476.

Rotary Club of Kapiti will be conducting a Run for Fun day on SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2010. The run will be held at Paraparaumu Beach starting from the creek beside the Paraparaumu Boating Club, south along the sand. Up to and including 6 year olds: 7 to 10 year olds: 11 and over. Entry fee is \$3.00. You can send in your entry to the school office to be registered. You must be registered before 13 February 2010.

Otaki College is running the ministry funded After School Music Programme again this year. Registrations are on Tuesday 16th February 3:30-5:30pm, at Otaki College, Mill Road. \$30 per student for the year. Phone the college on 3648204 (ext 732) if you require more information.