

# FOXTON BEACH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY 23RD MARCH 2022

Welcome to Week 8 of Term 1 2022

As we continue to navigate the covid environment we are slowly starting to see our numbers climbing in the classrooms as children and staff are coming back from isolating. I'm pleased to see them return and get straight back into things. A couple of children have mentioned to me that it is great being back at school as they missed their friends and school. I think that sometimes we don't give our children enough credit for being as resilient as they are. This is the third year of interruptions to their learning and now they just slip into distance learning as if it is another day.

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. We should hear soon from the Government about what they are going to do around mandates and the traffic light system. We are keen to see what these changes will mean for schools as we want to have you back in our classrooms and doing the things that parents have been able to do as part of bringing up their children.

We are now registered as critical workers which means that if there is a positive case in the household, staff can test each day before coming to work and if they are negative they are able to work. This will mean that we will be able to ensure continuity of teaching across the school.

Children need to stay off school until they are not showing any signs of illness.

As I have mentioned before, I really want to thank parents for the way you have communicated with us and have kept us fully informed of positive cases within the household and when children will be back at school. In these situations, communication is key.

## **Staffing Update:**

At the start of this year I changed the makeup of our senior leadership team. I have appointed Rebecca Lock as our Assistant Principal. She supports Felicity Apperley in her role as the Deputy Principal.

Rebecca has shown a lot of leadership within our school for a number of years and she has shown this leadership in her role working across schools in the Horowhenua. She is well respected by many teachers and Principals across the Horowhenua and I am sure she will do an amazing job.

## **Some Developments Around The School:**

Now that our major building work is completed within the junior block we have started on some work to tidy things up a bit around the school too. We have undertaken some earthworks in front of the junior block and we are in the process of regrassing this. Over the holidays we will be using Recreational Services to rip up our gardens and undertake a major replanting of the gardens with hardy, low maintenance plants which will enhance the look of the school.

The Board has also decided to invest in solar panels. These will go on the new roof of the junior block and during the lifespan of the units we will get quite a return on the initial investment as the excess power generated goes back into the grid.

We are still waiting for Lee Builders to finish off a toilet area at the end of the junior block and there will be some major fencing work around the bottom field to take place if the Ministry of Education can ever find a supplier and a contractor to do the work.

## **Teacher Only Day:**

We had a very successful Teacher Only Day with Liz Kane. We were looking at the impact that structured literacy can have right across the school. The junior teachers have been using this approach for a few years and we are now seeing these students move through the school and we want to keep this momentum happening. Thank you for keeping your children at home on that day. I know it means a disruption with work etc, but it was the only day that we could secure her to come in and work with us.

## Board of Trustees Update:

At our first Board meeting for the year, the officers were elected as follows:

Presiding Member (BOT chair) - Katie Clark

Treasurer - Janelle Perreau-Judd

Property/Health and Safety - Matt Salt

Community Liaison - Amy Nicklin

Staff Rep - Rebecca Van der Zwan

Parent Representative - Mike Moses

Secretary - Sue Price

I look forward to working with the Board as we look towards the elections that are going to be held in September. If you think you might be interested in standing for the Board at the next election, feel free to approach one of the current Board members or myself to see what it's all about. More information will follow.

Hamish Stuart  
Principal

## Team Kotare

This term is absolutely flying. What a lot of learning we have been doing in Team Kotare! Please remember to bring your warm school jerseys each day.

It was fantastic to have our Professional Learning day last week around our Structured Literacy we are already using here in Team Kotare. Each student within the hub is taught the specific sounds they need at their individual level. This Thursday we will have a writing post which will go onto Seesaw for you to look at.



We had a really good Hikoi last week with the whole school walking to our designated safe space. First we practiced being turtles if there was an earthquake, then we quickly made our way to have the roll taken and we were off. Awesome effort everyone!

Congratulations to our certificate recipients this week.



## Team Tarānui

### Art With Arjan

We had a fantastic time learning all about the Dutch artist Leon Van Den Eijkel. Arjan from de Molen came and told us all about his art and showed us some great examples. We entered an art competition using Leon's techniques. Arjan came to help judge and he brought along some amazing prizes. Congratulations to Cruz, Sophie H, Kobie Wiremu, Nash, Maycee and Maia. Well done to everyone. We now have an amazing colourful art display in the class.



### Award Winners Week 7

Congratulations to the following students who received certificates at our class assembly on Friday: Kobie, Bobby, Sophie S, Lucas F, Arlia, Skyla, Bjorn, Keesha and Maycee. Tino pai rawa atu!

### Footsteps

We have been so lucky this week to have Max and Matt from Footsteps. Footsteps is a programme that uses technology to get children active. Our kids were buzzing after their sessions. It was awesome to see the fair play and support of each other during this. Ka rawe!



### Writing

We have been writing to entertain others this term, mostly through narratives. Some features we have really worked hard on are hooking the reader in with an exciting beginning, adding interesting details and using lots of WOW words.

Please make sure you leave a comment on your child's Seesaw writing post this week.

### Reminders:

- It is a bit colder most mornings now, so please make sure school jerseys are here and make sure it is **named**.
- We still have a large number of students who don't have **headphones**. Please make sure you have a pair, as they are so important for some learning tasks.
- Homework is due every **Friday**. Please support your children to complete this and check in if you have any questions about it.
- **Drink bottles** are a must! Please ensure your child has one. They can fill them up at school.

## Kuaka Hub

The Kuaka Hub has created some awesome work recently. Our reading groups have used the Padlet app to complete their weekly reading tasks. This app allows them to record their answers, add digital content like images and diagrams, and even record their answers verbally. Great effort team to present your work using this presentation method!

Kuaka Hub has also worked on a variety of mapping tasks to improve their knowledge of NZ geography. Our students created digital snapshots of where they were born and raised that have been attached to our map of NZ in class. This activity showed the variety of different backgrounds and heritage we have in the Kuaka Hub! Great effort team!