

FOXTON BEACH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE 2021

Dear Parents

Welcome to Week 6 of Term 2

It is normally this time of the term that we look over the attendance for the term and make contact with parents whose children dip below the 85% attendance rate. I was really surprised to look over some data that the Ministry of Education sent out recently. It showed that our Year 4 to 8 attendance rate is really high compared to schools in the greater Wellington area. There is still some work that needs to be done with the Year 1 to 3 students though.

There has been a bit of talk in the media recently about how bad the attendance rates throughout New Zealand are. I would like to take the opportunity to remind parents that when children are at school on a regular basis they have much more success than those who are not. When children miss days of school regularly they miss large chunks of teaching which puts them under more stress as they are a bit lost. It is also difficult for children to establish relationships with teachers and other students when they are having too many days away from school.

I have also noticed a worrying trend this year of children turning up to school quite late. It is important that the children are at school before 8:55am as when they come in late and the teachers are already teaching, it can't be expected that the teacher stops taking a group just to get one person on track. This is really hard on children as they are quite often confused about what they should be doing.

House Sports

I would like to thank our school leaders who have been running the soccer competition that Team Tarānui have been competing in at lunchtime. Some of the games have been really close and I have seen quite a bit of determination to win the game for their house. The leaders have set everything up ready to start the games. They have refereed the games and managed subs etc.

Building Update

We have been given the date of Friday the 16th of July as the completion date for the remodel of the junior block. We will be asking for some help in the second week of the holidays to move everything back to where it should be and then the junior and senior teachers will have the rest of the week to set their classrooms up.

It will be great to have our school hall back as we have a school production to get underway and I know that Home and School have a few fundraisers up their sleeves as well

Uniform

We have stocks of uniforms for sale at the school office, which includes Canterbury track pants. Eftpos is available for purchases.

Scooters

We collect up any scooters that have been left behind at the end of the day and store them in our staffroom overnight. We seem to have a few that haven't found their owners yet. If your child is missing their scooter, please come into the office to claim them.

Hamish Stuart
Principal

Team Kotare

Last Wednesday Janette from Swimming New Zealand came in to teach us about how to stay safe in the water. She showed us pictures of water safety in action. We learnt how important it is to wear correctly sized life jackets, and signal for help by putting one arm up (not waving). And to always have an adult watch us in the water.

Below are some photos of Room 1's lesson with Eli and Anna showing us the life jackets and the safety features on them.



Team Tarānui

Last week we had a special visit from Janette from Swimming New Zealand to talk to our children about water safety. It was great that our children already had so much prior knowledge to discuss, but they also learnt some new knowledge about life jackets and many other aspects of water safety. Thanks Janette!



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We have been reading and writing some excellent narrative stories.

Check out Boston's amazing character description after learning a story about Turongo and Māhinarangi (a Ngāti Raukawa story):

Turongo is a fierce and brave man. He will do anything for his village and family even if he has to sacrifice himself. Turongo has dazzling brown eyes, blue clothes and some patches of dirt. His skin is rough and wrinkly because of all his hard work that he does.

Come in and check out our beautiful artwork that our tamariki have done with Mrs McDonald - this is a display that our children are really proud of.

Kuaka Hub

Over the past few weeks, Kuaka Hub has engaged in some awesome learning opportunities! We have started an art focus on pointillism, which will be based upon a New Zealand landscape, tying in with our Kiwiana theme. Pointillism is a style of art based on using a variety of different-sized dots to create the image.

We are also working on locating and identifying a range of New Zealand landmarks.

Kuaka Hub has recently completed some basic-facts maths testing. It was great to see all of the progress our students are making in this area! They will now form new basic facts goals to focus on before the next test.

We have also had a recent literacy focus on grammar and the role of different word types, including singular and plural and collective nouns, and abstract and technical nouns.

Great job Kuaka Hub!