

Kia ora tatou.

So far, it's been a month of hui (and hooley!) Hui first: our school adopted "*Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui*" as our whakatauki (proverb) because of the strong positive life messages it gives our kids: "Be strong, aim high, be courageous (steadfast) in life." It strongly supports our motto "*Ora i te akoranga - Living the learning*" - a belief we try genuinely to adhere to; irrespective of the politics and conflicting ideologies that seem to constantly infect NZ Ed.

Congratulations to every parent and caregiver who has booked a start of year discussion time with their child's teacher and / or attended a group meeting. By committing to these events, you are role-modelling for your kids "*Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui*" in action. Thank you - these are powerful seeds you are planting.

In addition to the start of the year conversations; well over seventy parents and caregivers met and participated in the first round of hui for families of our tamariki Maori. The kaupapa for these sessions is to encourage the adults to share some of their own experiences and learning as they were growing up - some powerful stories were shared. (As a side note: our teaching staff have gone through the exact same process as well. It's amazing what new stuff you learn about people - even those with whom you've worked for years!)

The underlying intention behind what we are doing is to combine the knowledge and understanding of our families with the knowledge and understanding of our school; and work together to further develop and improve what and how we "do" education for our kids. We are far more effective when we work together and understanding different backgrounds and experiences is a great place to start. Thank you for your commitment - watch this space.

We are very fortunate to have the services of Ruth Snowden to work with us as our facilitator in this process. Based out of the University of Auckland; we are able to "afford" to use Ruth's expertise (this year and next) as a result of successfully putting a proposal to the Ministry of Education for professional learning and development (PLD) funding. We made our case around the concept of 'cultural responsiveness' - in keeping with the government's focus on raising Maori achievement.

Adding Ruth's expertise and commitment to that which we already have as a school and a community; and working to improve and refine what happens for kids here: is truly a 'win-win' situation. Whatever we learn, develop, and put into action will benefit all Waverley Park kids. Tumeke indeed!

## And the 'hooley'...

The good news is that, courtesy of the Ministry of Education, the hall roof and heating / ventilation systems are being redesigned and replaced - something we are very appreciative of. So far - so good. However, the process to date has been moderately entertaining to watch; the number of experts involved seems to grow at the rate of a kid's science fair experiment. For instance...

Engineers seem to be a tad like Mallard ducks in that they travel in pairs. We've been visited by two to do the fire report; two for the access report; two for heating and ventilation; and two for structural. When the man overseeing this project said last year "We'll have the top off it early in term one" ...I thought he meant this year's term one...

Upside though: out of all the hooley these inspections will generate; we should get a better and waterproof hall! Certainly, the heat and ventilation guys were onto it - cheers, lads!

## EFTPOS is available!

Courtesy of a generous 'anonymous' benefactor (thanks Kathy Ngeru), you can now pay your school related payments by EFTPOS (and you are more than welcome to pay other people's too...)

A Waverley Park "gran" for a few years yet, Kathy offered to donate to our school by covering the rental costs associated with an EFTPOS terminal. So we have accepted her very kind offer - initially on a trial basis. So - please support Kathy's support by using it. Thanks - we appreciate your ....support...

How to

call us: 217 9332  
txt us: 022 3179332  
FB message us: <http://goo.gl/ljlqac>  
pay us online: 12 3154 0103559 00

## Mufti day...

Next Friday 24 March; a gold coin please - koha for a family going through a tough time. Kia ora mai.

## WPPA Easter raffle...

It's our annual Easter Raffle time! We would appreciate if each family could donate a small Easter item to become part of a prize hamper. Cards of tickets are coming home today and **all must be returned, sold or unsold, by Friday 31 March**. More cards are available from the office.

## School Accounts...

Have been sent home this week. Payment can be made direct into the school's bank account (12 3154 0103559 00) or by eftpos now that we have that available. If you have any queries about your account, please contact the office.

## Thursday April 13 is our night...

## What else is happening?

### March

28 Phoenix Zone athletics

### April

03 Board of Trustees - 7.00pm

08 Southland Athletic Championships

13 ILT Sing Out - "Out of the Box": 7.00pm at the Civic

13 Term 1 ends - 3.00pm

## Clever proof that...

... 42% of all statistics are made up on the spot - funny though.

It's election year and boards of trustees need your help...

<http://betterfunding.org.nz/> to find out more about the funding freeze; to sign the petition and to keep up to date. Thank you.

## Hot-cross buns...

Hot cross buns are now available from the canteen - \$1.50each; original flavour; and chocolate too. Order yours next week!

## Scholastic Book orders close...

on Friday 24 March.

## Final words...

The one dollar coin met up with a twenty dollar note. "Hey, where have you been? I haven't seen you much lately," he enquired. The note boasted, "Well, I've been hanging out at the casinos, did the rounds of Wellington restaurants; went to a concert at Mt Smart; went to a couple of footy games; the mall - just the usual. Anyway - how about you?" The coin sighed, "Oh... it's just been same old same old really - church, church, church..."

Until next week - nga mihi nui.

Kerry Hawkins & staff

## HERITAGE HARVEST FESTIVAL COMING UP

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017

10am-4.30pm Saturday & Sunday

Aparima College Hall, Leader St Riverton- Gold coin entry

Come along to Riverton's annual Heritage Harvest Festival. **This year's workshops include:** Holistic poultry keeping, flax weaving, fermenting foods, willow basketry, preserving your harvest, introduction to becoming a beekeeper, forest gardening, starting your orchard with fruits and berries, harvest crafts & more! To book workshops go to <https://bookwhen.com/harvestfest17>

**Demonstrations of:** beekeeping, cheese making, felting & harvest crafts, and more! The Harvest Café will be open for heritage style morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea.

**Competitions:** Bring along and display the best of your harvest ~ **The Champion of the Harvest:** Fill a basket or a plate with things you've grown and things you have preserved. Winner is crowned "Champion of the Harvest" and receives the Harvest trophy & a prize

~ **Childrens Competitions:** 1. Make a creature out of fruits & vegetables 2. Make a garland of harvest flowers. To Enter Competitions: Bring along to the Aparima College hall after 3pm on Friday and fill in the entry form. Please pick up your entry again on Sunday afternoon.

**HARVEST FEAST - Saturday 25th March 7pm - POT LUCK MEAL & good music.** Please bring a plate of food to share, and something you like to drink. \$5pp to cover hall hire and nibbles- Riverton Primary School Hall.

For more info: <http://www.sces.org.nz/events>  
South Coast Environment Society, phone 234 8717, email [info@scs.org.nz](mailto:info@scs.org.nz)

Waverley Park School – proud to be supported by the

**ILT FOUNDATION**





