

Kia ora tatou.

With a glib "I've been talking with people at a few barbecues and they tell me they want National Standards": Anne Tolley, then the Minister of Education sought to justify their introduction. There was no research at the time to show that National Standards worked for kids - and there still isn't. Despite this: National are now promoting "National Standards Plus" - with maybe extra whiteners and hexachlorophene to boot - AND you'll be able to get the results direct to your phone! Be still my racing heart!

Perhaps this time, they've been chatting to people at cocktail soirees - the kind of people who have people to provide the day to day care for their kids. The kind far too busy to talk to their kids schools - the kind for whom "phone" rates right up with "intravenous drip" in keeping them alive...

The Ministry of Education has spent millions developing a "Progress and Consistency Tool" (PaCT). It is actually a pretty good suite of processes for doing exactly what it was designed for but - so far - it hasn't been compulsory for schools to use it. Many schools have refused to engage with it - Waverley Park is one of those schools - and here is why.

The political long game is for the use of PaCT to be compulsory - to show kids' progress against the National Standards. In short: it will effectively be NZ's version of standardized testing - every kid will be measured by it: results able to be linked to determine the "value added" by the teacher responsible for each child (Hello - 'performance pay'?).

Overseas jurisdictions to have pursued this path all have the same problems; including the never-ending struggle to find teachers willing to work with the kids who struggle to meet the standards.

National Standards haven't worked - anywhere - ever. What does work, is good teaching underpinned by good home-school-student relationships; and lots and lots of discussion - at home and at school and ...

...here's what that can look like:

On Wednesday, Cynthia Bell asked her class to write about what they would do if they had a magic wand. That was the only instruction. Alexis (just turned six) wrote: "If Mrs Bell gave the magic wand to me, I wish for me to be the guvarnit (government) so I'll give money to other people."

Hine - just turned seven - wrote: "Oooh, there is a magic wand, but, but, what's the password? It could be cats and dogs, no, that wouldn't work. How about snails and spiders? No, not that either. Ah ha! Bibbity, bobbity boo, yes! Now I know what I want. I want enough money to give to homeless people that are sick, because they need a home and I want to be helpful, so then they can feel better."

The thinking and awareness behind these pieces of writing is impressive and quite deep on many levels; and it's anything but standardised. Any questions?

School Class Photos...

are going to be taken on Thursday 21 September. Please note this date on your calendars.

Kia ora whanau- kapa...

Your attendance and contributions to this week's hui is appreciated - thank you. We look forward to what happens next.

WPPA W'update



Kings Seed Fundraiser: Congratulations and well done **ALEXIS BOWES** for selling the most seeds. Thank you everyone that supported this fundraiser, your support means that we can provide some seeds and resources to the classes wanting to have a go at some gardening at school. Don't forget to show us your seeds/plants progress over the next few months on our fb page for some cool spot prizes.

Sausage Sizzle: We're having a 'Choice As' sizzle on Wednesday 13 September. The 'Choice As' sizzle is a healthier option of sausage sizzle promoted by Healthy Families Southland using a better choice in sausage, bread and sauce. It's still only \$2.00 so give it a go!

Canteen: Canteen is back to busy as usual today with our new menu. Drop an order in the money box in the office or make an order with our canteen lady on Friday.

Lost Property: Lost property is chocka full - please check in the basket (in the covered area by the hall) if you have any missing items. There looks to be a few jackets in there. Don't forget to like Waverley Park Parents Association Facebook page.

- Cheers, Carley J

Touch in term 4...

If your child is interested in playing touch after school on Wednesdays in Term 4, please ensure they have returned their permission slips and payment to the school office by next **Wednesday 6th September**. If you require further information, or your child has not brought home a touch notice, please see Fiona in Room 4.

Reminders...

- Please remember to contact the office with **the reason** for your child's absence. Failure to do this will mean your child is marked as Truant. A text is sufficient.
- **Emergency Contact Details:** please advise the office when you change your phone, address, alternative contact details etc.

Enrolling for 2018...

We are in the business of working out our organization for next year. Key to this is getting a clear picture of who's coming and who's going...and this is where you come in. Please tell us if you know that

- your family is leaving
- your family is enrolling new students
- friends and neighbours intending to enrol

In terms of the enrolment zone; we are still limited to enrolling new in-zone families only.

Advertising on our newsletters...

If you know of anyone that may be interested in advertising on the back of our newsletter covers for the next year then we are again looking for sponsors as we are about to get them reprinted in the next few weeks. For any information regarding cost then please contact Sharyon @ I-Cue on 2183350

Coming up....

September

- 18 Board of Trustees - 7.00pm
- 21 School Photos
- 29 Loud Shirt Day (Mufti)
- Term 3 ends - 3.00pm

October

- 16 term 4 starts - so does swimming

Really??

The guy had handed the young teller at his bank a withdrawal slip for \$400 and said, "I'd like it in large notes, please."

She looked slightly puzzled as she said, "I'm sorry sir, all the notes are the same size!"

In Trinidad a steak and kidney pie costs \$2.50. The same pie costs \$3.75 in Jamaica and \$4.00 in the Bahamas. These are today's "Pie Rates of the Caribbean".



Nga manaakitanga, whanau - thank you for a big week. Kerry Hawkins & staff.

How to

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

ACTIVITY IS AWESOME

School age children need one hour of physical activity every day even on wet cold days.

Sit less, move more

- Limit screen time to less than two hours
- Be active as a family in the weekend
- Park further from school or shops.
- If the journey is <2km leave the car at home
- Keep a bag of equipment handy for outings e.g. frisbee or ball

Boredom busting indoor activities:

- **Indoor obstacle course** use chairs, blankets or pillows
- **Skipping** with ropes or jumping using elastics
- **Music** - freeze / musical statues
- **Hide and seek** for small indoor spaces the seeker uses a blind fold
- **Target shoot** throw newspaper balls or rolled up socks into a laundry basket
- **Indoor hopscotch** use pieces of paper to hop onto
- **Catch bubbles** in yoghurt pots/plastic cups
- **Turbo charge story time** - choose a word that will be repeated often in a story. Jump up and turn around when the word is read.
- **Animal charades** - names of animals are placed in a bowl. Take turns choosing and acting out the animals actions till others guess (in silence is more challenging!)

www.myfamily.kiwi/activities

Start Your Journey

Become a Host Family

Welcome another part of the world into your home. Let your children learn about how students in other countries live and look on the world.

Right now, we are looking for a family to host our exchange student, a lovely Italian boy who arrived in New Zealand in July 2017 to spend a school year here.

He is excited to be here and to embark on the adventure of his life, but to make this happen we need your help!!

If you feel that you would like to host a student from another country, and contribute to a successful exchange year by sharing your home and traditions, your interests and commitment, then please contact us.

A weekly utility allowance is paid to STS Host Families.

Host a student! Get friends for life! Take part in a new culture!

Call your local STS agent Rachel Mckeay, on 027 454 4160

What are you waiting for?

www.sts-education.co.nz
sts@stsnz.co.nz

Waverley Park School – proud to be supported by the



