

Kia ora whānau

Oh my goodness, what a full-on week it has been here, with loads of fun for the children outside of the norm!

This started on Friday night when the PTA held an extremely popular **disco** and raised over \$1,500, which will go towards Learning Assistants within the school. The children had a blast, the playlist had so many songs to sing and dance along to (it was LOUD in there!), and there were glow toys and treats galore. I am sure there were some very hyped-up and/or exhausted children at pick-up time!

This week we have held our biannual **Book Fair**, and this is being so well supported. The books and bits and pieces for sale are at such good prices, and there are many happy children leaving the hall with a new book under their arm. There are three more chances for you to purchase your books, as the Book Fair finishes after school on Friday, so be in quick to avoid disappointment. Thirty percent of the sales comes back to the school in the form of a voucher for us to spend on new library books. So, we are not only getting more books into homes, but also into our lovely little library.

Today we have had our **Book Character Dress-Up Day**. I always love this day as the staff get fully behind it and get dressed up alongside the children. The children are so excited to see the staff dressed up, but also to see each other joining in as their favourite characters. Even though it was wet, we managed to hold a wonderfully colourful parade in the hall.

Tomorrow sees over 80 of our Year 4–8 students heading to the **Ruataniwha Kapa Haka Festival** at the Ōhoka School Hall. These students have been practising for this for most of the year, and so it will be a wonderful chance for them to showcase their skills. I am always so excited, and proud, to see them on stage representing our school so well.

Next week we start our **water safety lessons**, which means we will be travelling in groups by bus to Dudley Pool for a 25-minute lesson. Year 0–6 have eight lessons over the two weeks, with Year 7 and 8 having three lessons next week. This is a huge undertaking, but such an important part of our school year. New Zealand is surrounded by water, so it is great to be able to give our tamariki some skills to help them keep safe in the water.

A huge thank you to the MainPower Sports Trust and the Aotearoa Gaming Trust for supporting this and making it free for your child to attend.

Teachers do need support at the pool, particularly with the changing rooms, so if you are able to come and help out, we would be very grateful. Your child's teacher should have sent out the time that your child is swimming. If you have not heard yet, then please get in touch with them.

Learning Conferences

We are very sorry that there was a technical glitch for many of you when the booking sheet was first sent out. Thanks to those who came and told us as this meant Tanya had time to resend this. These need booking by tomorrow so if you haven't done so yet then please go online tonight and book in.

Alternatively you can ring Tanya to book a slot for you.



WE ARE COLLECTING GLASSES FOR RECYCLING

The School Council is collecting used spectacles, sunglasses, prescription glasses and non prescription glasses. Childrens glasses especially needed. All glasses collected are cleaned up and sent to the Pacific Islands.

Drop off in the box in Totara/ Ms Meehan's room
between 8th and 24th September.

Drop Off Zone

Please use this as it is intended - a drop and go zone. I understand that you may need to jump out and open the gate for your child but it is not a place you can park and come into school. It is super frustrating for those who want to pull into the drop off zone only to find it full with empty cars. This in turn creates a hazard as cars are backed up on what is a very busy road and also are having to let their children get out without the safety of the zone. If you need to park and are finding it hard to get a spot on the road then please park at the centaph area and use the road crossing which is patrolled by Lisa every morning from 8.30am

- 8.55am.

Calendar of Events

- 7th - 11th September Scholastic Book Fair and READATHON
- 10th September - Dress up Book Character Day (change of day)
- 11th September - Ruataniwha Kapa Haka Festival
- 14th - 25th September Water Safety Lessons
- 14th September - Learning Conferences
- 21st September - Learning Conferences
- 23rd September Quad School Speech Finals
- 25th September - Raffle drawn for Ford Ranger
- 25th September - 11th October - Term 3 School Holidays
- 26th October SCHOOL CLOSED - Labour Day
- 6th November - Gumboot Friday
- 13th November Canterbury Show Day Holiday
- 25th November Tūhono Kapa Haka Competition
- 9th December Year 8 Leavers Dinner
- 11th December - Hotdogs/Non Uniform Day - Christmas
- 14th December - Whole School Prizegiving
- 16th December - Last Day of Term 4 (note change of day)
- 1st February Whānau hui
- 2nd February School Opens For Instruction
- 8th February - Monday-ised Waitangi Day Holiday