



AWAHOU SCHOOL

POHANGINA VALLEY.

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"To meet the educational needs of the Pohangina Valley community by fostering individual excellence in a dynamic and caring environment."

EXCELLENT LEARNING FOR A GLOBAL FUTURE

Week 10, Term 2, 2018

3 August, 2018

Respect Whakaute - Honesty Matatika - Effort Ngaki

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora Awahou Community,
Welcome back to Term 3 and what is likely to be another jam packed term full of exciting learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. We can't believe how quickly this year is flying by!! Firstly, a reminder that from this term you will receive only three newsletters like this in paper form – beginning, middle and end of term. Other information will be posted regularly on our Facebook page, website and via email.

The hot topic in education at present is, unsurprisingly, the decision that has been made regarding teachers taking industrial action on Wednesday, August 15th. This is to protest the current offers that have been made to Primary Teachers and Principals in the latest round of contract negotiations for our new collective agreement that expired earlier in the year. All of our teaching staff are union members and will therefore be on strike and not at school. As such, the Board of Trustees have chosen to close the school, as there will be no teaching staff available to look after the children. We appreciate this is an inconvenience and disruption for our whanau, but would appreciate your support for our teaching staff with this strike action. Teachers have not taken strike action since 1994, which shows the significance of this action. So why are teachers striking?

* More resources (staff and money) to support children with additional learning and behaviour needs. There are a growing number of children who require additional support to meet their personal needs and schools do not have access to sufficient resourcing to properly support all learners.

* Getting more people training to be teachers and to keep them teaching (recruitment and retention). Between 2010 and 2016, teacher training has dropped by 40%, while the number of children enrolling in schools continues to grow. The teacher shortage is across all of New Zealand, including the Manawatu.

* A pay increase for teachers to try and attract more people into teaching and to keep teachers teaching.

This was not a decision we took lightly, however we appreciate your support. Nāku noa, nā , **Matt Schmidt, Principal**



Thank you for supporting our teachers

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK:



SCHOOL NOTICES

Enrolment News

So far this term we have had three new students enrol with us, all New Entrants in Wharite!

A huge Awahou School welcome to Jade, Tobias-Xavier and Edward, and your whanau. We hope you've enjoyed your start with us here at Awahou and look forward to working with you and your families.

School Values

As mentioned in the last newsletter, this term we are having a big push on our school values of Honesty, Effort and Respect, and ensuring we are walking the walk with these as well as talking the talk. Next time you're at school, check out the 'bucket filling' display in the foyer. Watch this space for a video explaining the concept soon!

Email communication

If you would like your email address added to our email group for notifications, please flick me an email on awahouprincipal@awahou.school.nz

Office Hours

With Victoria now taking on the cleaning role after school as well, there has been a change in the hours the office is 'manned' (can I say 'manned' these days?). Victoria will now be at school every day, but starting at midday.

It is still important you email or phone in any absences as soon as possible in the mornings.

Grant successes

As you may have seen in some of our recent Facebook posts, we have had a number of successful grant applications approved this year. A HUGE thank you must go out to Helen King, who we employ to complete these applications for us. We have had 3 grants approved so far this year – the new bark spread on the playground, a new portable sound system for school events, and two new 'Airtime Hoops' Basketball systems to be installed at our school. This represents close to \$10,000 of successful grant applications. And we still have more to apply for!! Currently we are looking at replacing our dated air conditioners / heat pumps in the class rooms. Fingers crossed for more success. If you are a part of an organisation who relies on grants, we highly recommend investing in Helen's services!

Wild Food Feast

Only two weeks to go until the Wild Food feast and we need you! We're still after plenty of helpers on the weekend, whether it's helping with prep, wait staff, kitchen hands, clean up the next day - we need you! There are a number of sign-up sheets on the wall outside the office, or you can flick us an email here at school. If you're helping on the night, please ensure you realise that you WILL need to be there until at least midnight until the event finishes. It's hard yakka – but it's great fun! We're still looking out for great prizes for our auctions and raffles. If you can contribute, please let us know asap!

Head Lice

We've had a heads up that there may be a few of these nasty critters doing the rounds again. Please check your child's hair when you get a chance and take the appropriate action to rid them of these annoying little creatures! If you need advice on how to do this, flick us an email and we can send some information home.

LOOKING AHEAD



Friday July 6th – End of Term 2

Monday 23rd July – Term 3 begins

Tuesday afternoons fortnightly (odd weeks) – Robotics Club at FAHS

Friday 3rd August – Term 3 Electives begin

Monday 6th August – Kainui Netball

Wednesday 15th August – Teacher strike action (School Closed)

Monday 20th August – Kainui Soccer

Monday 3rd September – Kainui Basketball

Wednesday 12th September – Kainui Junior Dance

Friday 28th September – End of Term 3



STUDENT ACHIEVERS! ☺

Congratulations to our Week 1 student achievers:

Cayenne, Vadaesha, Damien and Vienna.



Welcome to Awahou School Edward, Jade and Tobias-Xavier!



REPORTING & ASSESSMENT

Our teachers have been working hard to go through each child's individual Hāpai Matauranga Learning Journey document to ensure there is evidence of your child's work, links to goals and reflections. Your child has also been self-reflecting on his / her progress and learning. Your child's mid-year summary, feedback on the first two terms, and goals for Term 3 will be completed by the end of week 3. Please log in to your child's document to see these if you have not already. Your feedback and comments are valued by your children. In Week 5, we will open the school for an evening for you to come in and check your child's document and leave feedback if you have been unable to do this at home. If you would like a paper copy of the one page mid-year summary, please flick us an email and we will get this done for you.

FRIENDS OF AWAHOU – WILD FOOD FEAST – SATURDAY AUGUST 18

The Wild Food Feast is very near and this year the tickets sold out in record time! (Only a matter of hours!)

The FoA team are now hard at work sorting all the finer details for the evening and collecting prizes for raffles and auction. If you are wanting to donate a prize, or know of somebody who might, please let us know at school asap.

We also have a number of sheets posted up on the wall opposite the office at school for helpers before on and after the evening itself. We are looking for helpers in the following areas: Friday Set Up, Wait Staff, Bar Staff, Kitchen Staff and Sunday Clean Up. If you're available to help in any of these areas, please pop your name up on one of these sheets or flick us an email to let us know.

This hugely popular event is a great fundraiser every year and all proceeds go towards our kids in the form of extra teacher hours to enable our ratios, teacher aide support and learning resources. All help is greatly appreciated!



WILD FOOD FEAST 2018

18 AUGUST | 5.30pm

CAMP RANGI WOODS POHANGINA



2018 INDUSTRIAL ACTION – WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15th

We would love to hear your messages of support for our teachers and the difficult decision we have made to take this industrial action. PLEASE flick us an email at awahouprincipal@awahou.school.nz with a message of support for our teachers about what you appreciate about them and the job they do! We'd love to make a display of your thoughts!



IT'S TIME YOUR CHILDREN HAD THE EDUCATION THEY DESERVE

You send your children to school to help set them up for life. Yet, schools are facing a teacher shortage crisis, with a 40% drop in people training to be teachers; and a growing number of school-aged children. Schools are struggling to find enough staff to teach our children.

There is also a desperate need for more support for children with additional learning needs. There just aren't enough teachers to give your kids the education they deserve.

WHAT WE ARE CAMPAIGNING FOR?

- * More teachers – so your kids can get more attention
- * More resources/staff to support children with additional learning needs
- * A pay jolt to salaries for teachers to address the teacher shortage – so that your children will have a teacher in the future.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Let your teachers know you support them and join in campaign activities at your local school.