



Whangārei Heads School Newsletter

Term 2 - Week 8 - June 21, 2024

KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU,

We are all very much looking forward to our upcoming Kaitiakitanga Day next Wednesday.

School is open as usual from 9am, the Kaitiaki events begin from 11.30am. Please look at the flyer later in the newsletter for more details.

Kaitiakitanga is the Māori concept of looking after the environment. You can be a Kaitiaki - or Guardian for the environment. This kaupapa is perfect for our kura, as we value being part of our community and caring for our amazing environment; from the ngahere (native bush) surrounding our kura (school) and on Mt Manaia, to caring for our moana (ocean) or whanga (harbour).

This event coincides with Matariki, which is the Māori New Year. "For Māori, the appearance of Matariki heralds a time of remembrance, joy and peace. It is a time for communities to come together and celebrate." from Te Ara (The Encyclopedia of NZ)

We will begin our special day with a celebration of waiata with the whole school. We sent a snippet via DOJO last week, and some parents caught the end of yesterday's practice before we had to close early. We can't wait to share it with you all.

There will be some shared kai on the day, so please do RSVP via the google form sent out last week, or by contacting Courtney in the office. We need to know numbers for catering.

Then we will have some mahi or jobs to be done as part of caring for our school environment. We realise it is a work day, but hope some of you, or your whanau will be able to attend.

Coming Events:

Week 9 - Jun 24-28

Jun 24 - Year 7&8 Ball!

Jun 24-25 - Science Fair Judging

Jun 26 - Kaitiakitanga Day

Join us from 11.30AM!

Jun 28 - Matariki - Public Holiday

Week 10 - Jul 1-5

Jul 3 - Karearea Tech (Catch Up Day)

Jul 5 - Last Day of Term 2



Kelly

Our Place to Grow and Learn together
Ko tātou kura, kia tipu, kia ako ngātahi

WHS response to Power Outage

Thank you all for your support in collecting your children (and others) in a timely way on Thursday, and for keeping them home on Friday. These decisions are never easy to make, and we always try and make them being mindful of the impact it has on whanau.

MOE policy is that schools like ours (where water is supplied by pump) can only remain open for 2 hours without power and then it is considered a Health and Safety risk and we are to send the children home.

I did discuss if we could have operated a generator with my partner who is a plumber, and a local electrician, both of whom indicated that this isn't a viable option. It would require a special generator, and if a surge was to occur then it could potentially damage the pump.

The continued risk to the supply was behind the reason for remaining closed on Friday.

Listening to RNZ news at 5pm, Transpower was suggesting rolling blackouts through Friday and the weekend. We were also being asked to conserve power, to ensure the reduced supply could continue. School uses a lot of power to operate.

Then we received the following email from the MOE at 6.41pm.

No doubt it has been a very challenging time for you today with the unplanned power outage affecting all of Northland. We have received a recent update from Transpower, as below:

Transpower supply into Northland has been impacted by a failure of a 220kV tower. It will be late tomorrow at the earliest that supply to Northland can be fully restored, but it could be longer.

Because of the unusual configuration of the grid and supply to Northland, the grid may be unstable and further outages could occur until the situation is fully resolved.

Transpower cannot guarantee that supply will be uninterrupted tomorrow. If this does happen, it will take time for Transpower to bring the power back on again once it does become available.

The risk of opening, and then having to close again, seemed too great so we (along with Parua Bay School and many other rural schools locally) made the difficult decision to close. We also wanted to give you as much time as possible in order to organise care for your children.

These events are always a chance for us all to think about how to improve in emergency situations. Our internal systems worked well and we had all the information we required downloaded and ready to go. The teachers were incredible and were diligent in recording who collected all the children.

One thing I am left pondering is how challenging it got towards the end to get messages out via Dojo, and Facebook, as they wouldn't send easily. We also struggled with making calls to whanau as cell phone service at school is intermittent on a good day. I will be discussing this with Board and MOE, to see if there are any solutions as communication is essential in an emergency.

This is a timely reminder to make sure that you do receive updates from Facebook and/or Dojo and check these in an emergency. Or let us know if you don't have access to these platforms and need us to contact you via phone or txt.

Have you ensured Courtney has the up to date phone contacts for you and your emergency contacts?

It is a good time to think about your plan B. If you can't collect your children, who might?

KAITIAKITANGA & MATARIKI

Working Bee & Celebration

Please join us for a celebration featuring whole-school waiata, Matariki themed activities, a 'working bee,' and a shared lunch

Wednesday 26th June, 11:30am onwards

Shared lunch: Students will be making soup for lunch; however, we would also greatly appreciate contributions of finger food to share.

Working bee: Jobs will include water blasting, gardening, weed eating, wheelbarrowing, dismantling, tidying, raking & shovelling.

Please bring any equipment you may have to help with these jobs.

Please RSVP via the google form link



The countdown is on! Our Kaitiakitanga, Matariki, Working Bee Day is fast approaching! Thanks to all the parents that have completed the form to signal their intentions to attend on Wednesday. Please, if you haven't already, complete the short survey online to indicate if you'll attend. Any questions to Dane or Tracey please.

<https://forms.gle/YNHRy2wNU2iPnj2k6>

We hope to see you there this coming Wednesday!

A Big Thanks to some Local Businesses!

Thank you to T & T Contractors (027 448 7616) for picking up and delivering the bark chip for the carpark garden project, and to Greenfingers for giving us a great rate on Sand, Playground Bark and Compost for our upcoming Kaitiakitanga Day Working Bee!



A sad day for a local, young Bittern

But a rare opportunity for our tamariki to see one up close

A big thanks to James Bellamy (Jess and Kaia's Dad) for coming around the classes on Wednesday with a Bittern. Unfortunately it had been hit by a car, and as it was in good condition, it provided a great learning topic for the children to see and hear about. Bittern are extremely rare, with an estimated population of less than 1000. No doubt your child told you about the surprise visitor. This is an example of rich learning which can take place, that is topical and relevant to the area and the current climate, with great engagement and questions from the tamariki.



Notices from our Public Health Nurse



SORE THROATS MATTER
Te māmāe o te korokoro hei aukati rumatiki
Preventing Rheumatic Fever
Hei aukati i te kirikaa rumatiki

With winter on its way we need to be aware of tamariki getting sore throats.

For our Māori and Pacific tamariki sore throats can have long term health effects.

If your tamariki has a sore throat please get a throat swab from your Practice Nurse at your GP practice

Or

At a participating Pharmacy if your tamariki are:

Māori or Pacific aged 4-19

OR

Have a family history of Rheumatic Fever

All children are at risk of developing strep throat however, research has shown that the risk for this leading to Acute Rheumatic fever is predominantly higher in Māori and Pacific tamariki, this is the reason for the eligibility criteria in the throat swabbing programme.

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Te Tai Tokerau

Public Health Nurse

Services in Schools – what we do:

- Assess and treat sore throats
- Assess and treat minor skin infections/conditions including: impetigo, eczema, boils, scabies
- Run immunisation programmes



Happy
Birthday
to You

Luca T, Tui RL, Jack O,
Arlo B, Georgia G, Mikey,
Liv & Grace



OPEN EVENING 2024 WHANGĀREI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Wednesday 31st July, 5.30 - 7.30pm approx

Starts in the Manawahine Gym followed by guided tours with specialist staff on hand to answer any questions. A great opportunity to see our extensive range of curricular and extra curricular activities. Come along and get a feel for our special learning environment.

Lupton House will be open from 4pm for prospective boarders.

www.wghs.school.nz

 **RAISE THE BAR**
Health and Fitness

BOYS ONLY FITNESS CLASS for 9-13 year olds

An opportunity for boys to exercise in a fun, safe, non-judgmental environment

WHEN: Thursdays 3.45pm - 4.30pm

WHERE: Raise The Bar Health & Fitness

COST: \$6/child per session

To express interest please contact Caitlin at Raise The Bar Health and Fitness on Facebook or on 021 207 2641

*Classes will begin Thursday 15th February



school holiday program

futsal...but so much more

Monday 8th - Friday 12th July
8:30 - 4:00pm

details & registration

www.northlandfutsalacademy.co.nz
futsal@northlandfootball.net



REGISTER HERE
www.rc4kids.co.nz



KIDS RUGBY CAMP



JULY 8- 9TH
NORTHLAND RUGBY

136 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, PARAHAKE, WHANGĀREI

\$40 PER DAY

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME FUN

Join us for an unforgettable sports holiday programme!

Boys & girls ages 7 - 13

All abilities welcome

Overall sport skill development

Team building

Rippa games

TIME:

DROP OFF FROM 8:30AM

START TIME 9AM

FINISH 2:30PM

PICK UP BY 3PM



@rc4kidsnz

www.rc4kids.co.nz