



Whangārei Heads School Newsletter

Term 3 - Week 2 - August 2, 2024

KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU,

I know you are now all aware of the passing of our amazing Josh Gwilliam in a tragic car accident on Monday.

Josh has been a highly valued member of the Whangarei Heads School community since moving into the area approximately 6 years ago; as a parent, friend, and as a member of our Board of Trustees.

Josh served on the Board of Trustees from 2019 until stepping down at the start of this year. During that time he oversaw a number of property projects and then took on the position of co-chair of the Board from 2021-2023.

Josh was a true gentleman in every respect, with a big heart and delightful sense of humour. He had a generosity of spirit that came from his faith, and he is often described by those who were blessed to know him as being "the kindest man on earth".

I really valued his support and wisdom as I took on the role of Tumuaki of Whangarei Heads School in 2022. He is sadly missed and we as a community wish to send our deepest love and support to his whanau during this time.

I have never been so proud of our kaimahi (staff) as I was this week as they rallied around to support one another in their grief and yet still continue to teach and enjoy our 100 days of learning on Tuesday. You guys are amazing!

Josh's funeral is scheduled to be on Monday. We will remain open and there is no expectation for you to collect your children. We will run a whanau group programme with some staff and allow those who need to go to the Funeral to do so. Some parent volunteers may be used to support staff. Thanks everyone for your understanding and support.

Kelly

Coming Events:

Week 3 - Aug 5-9

Aug 6 - Mathex 2024

& Board Meeting 6PM

Aug 7 - Karearea Mud Run

Aug 8 - WBHS Open Evening

Week 4 - Aug 12-16

NZ Math Week

Aug 14 - WGHS Interviews @ PBS

Week 5 - Aug 19-23

Aug 21 - School Cross Country

Whanau Sharing Assemblies

Fridays - 2.10PM



"Kua whetūrangitia koe e Josh"

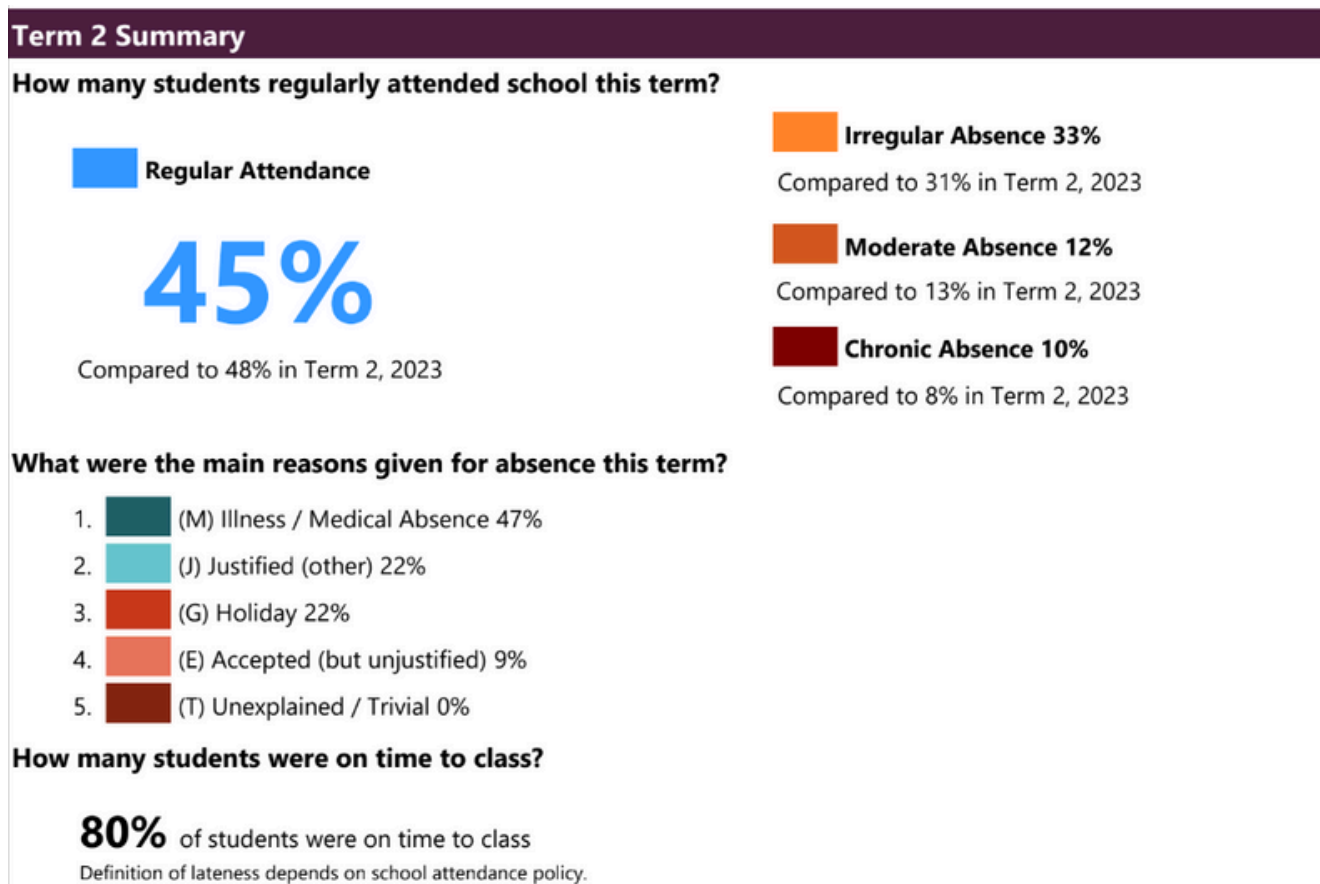
Return, take your place amongst the stars along with your ancestors that adorn the sky.

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

Attendance:

One essential part of all children being able to achieve to their highest potential is to attend school regularly.

The MOE generate a termly report on all schools attendance and it is their aim to have 80% of children attend 90% of the time. (regular attendance). This is a snapshot of our Term 2 attendance: from the MOE Report



We certainly do not want to encourage children to come to school when they are sick - being away for medical reasons is an accepted absence.

Staying home because your child is tired, or having a day off to go to town, celebrate a birthday, visit a family friend are all unjustified reasons to be absent. This accounts for 9% of our Term 2 absences.

However our biggest issue in our attendance is the number of families that take holidays in term time. This is an unjustified absence under MOE policy. 22% of the whanau who were absent in Term 2 were away on holiday. Staff are commenting on how many children are away and for a significant length of time, which does impact on their learning and progress.

To date we have had 40 children absent for a holiday within term time. That is a huge proportion of our school. Almost a quarter or 25% of students have missed school this year for a holiday.

I know that not all learning happens in the classroom and there is huge worth in visiting and connecting with other cultures around the world. I also know that this is especially important for those whanau who come from overseas; it is essential that you go home and reconnect with your culture and language. I also know that prices escalate significantly when planning a holiday within the term breaks.

I am not sure we can do anything to address this issue, except ask you to please be mindful of the impact on learning when you remove students from school for holidays in term time.

Exciting news on Property!

We have more Property work to come. During the term break I was sent an email from MOE Property confirming our Supplementary Request for additional property works:

1. Stage 2 of the Car Park - improving the turn around bay and parking on Whangarei Heads School Road and creating a clear bus stop
2. Admin Block and additional classroom - adding the additional classroom beside Korora (in current admin space) and then extending the office area making it "fit for purpose". We are keeping as much of the original classroom as we can, and the new exterior will be in keeping with traditional.
3. Reclad of the exterior Tui and Piwakawaka classroom block

This is in addition to the planned work to remove some walls next to Ruru class, opening up the office spaces to be break out spaces for this classroom.

At the moment most of these plans are in the concept phase - once something is more permanent I will share with you all.

Whangarei Heads School

Complaints Procedure



Make a time to meet with the class teacher to discuss your concern.



If you don't feel you were "heard" or the matter wasn't resolved then contact:

Tracey Morgan (DP) - if the child or staff member is in Piwakawaka, Tui or Ruru
Tineke Maunder - if the child or staff member is in Korora, Kotare, or Karearea



If you don't feel you were "heard" or the matter wasn't resolved then contact Kelly Mercer - Principal



If your concern hasn't been resolved by the previous steps then a formal complaint can be made to the Board.

You can find the steps for making a Formal Complaint on School Docs or contact Courtney at the office to send you a copy of the process.

School Docs: <https://www.schooldocs.co.nz>
Password: Caring

School Website Refresh!

Dane has been working on behind the scenes for the last 6 months with school website provider 'Kiwischools' to update and refresh the design of our school website. It is a new fresh look. He will continue to update the back pages of the website over the coming months. He welcomes any feedback while this process is occurring around what information our website is missing, the ease of navigating etc, so if you have any comments please direct them his way. Take a look, and we hope you like it!

whangareiheads.school.nz



Te Manawa Tahī

If you have a concern about your child's language development, learning progress, social and emotional wellbeing, or behaviour, Te Manawa Tahī have specialists available so you can discuss your concerns directly with them.

This is a free service and each site will be identified by a Te Manawa Tahī sign or flag. Drop into a hub or make an appointment by phoning 0800 524 842 or emailing TT.Support@education.govt.nz.



Te Manawa Tahī
Community Timetable



WHANGAREI

All hubs are open from 9:00am until 12:00pm unless otherwise stated

Date	Hub Locations	Term 3 2024, Weeks 1 to 5
Thursday 25 Jul	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wednesday 31 Jul	Bream Bay Community Trust, 9 Takutai Place, Ruakākā	
Thursday 1 Aug	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
Thursday 8 Aug	Onerahi Community House, 130 Onerahi Road, Onerahi	
Wednesday 14 Aug	Whānau Focus Centre, 61 Victoria Street, Dargaville	
Thursday 15 Aug	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wednesday 21 Aug	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	



Hatea Hīkoi - River life by night



Save the date - Saturday 7th September, 2024.

In the heart of the Whangārei district flows the Hatea River. Come explore it with us, and see how it's inhabitants come alive under the night sky. It will be a fun and informative excursion for everyone.

Full itinerary is coming soon!!!

This event will be brought to you by Mountains to Sea, in collaboration with:



School Cross Country Save the Date!

Wednesday August 21 (Week 5)

Vinson Farm (across the road from Manaia Club)

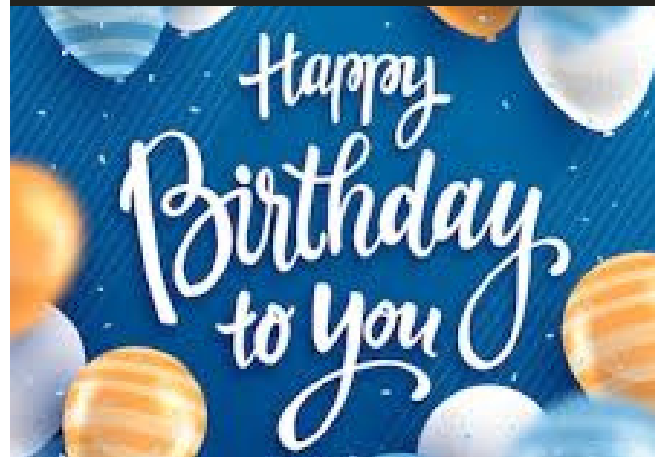
Classes have been out training, between rain showers, to prepare for our annual school cross country. We would love to have you there to join in the fun and mud. More details to come.



Accommodation Wanted

We have a family returning to the Whangarei Heads area at the end of the year who are on the hunt for short term accommodation within our school zone.

The dates they require are from November 23 to December 18. If you, or anyone you know, have a holiday home available for this family of four during this period, please contact the school office to be put in touch.



**Eli, Amarni, Lake,
Lukas, Ilio & Jayde**



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



Welcome to
our Village

Playcentre 



Our village becomes *your* village at Playcentre: fun and friendship for you and your children in endless experiences that last a lifetime.

Do you have children aged 0 – 6? Come over and check us out!
Located beside Parua Bay School, opposite Parua Bay Village Shops.
Find us on Facebook – Parua Bay or Whangarei Heads Playcentre.

Monday	9.00am - 12.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 12.30pm
Thursday	9.00am - 12.00pm
Friday	9.00am - 12.30pm

**Good for your child
and good for you**

*We offer 3 free visits
before you join*



Whangarei Heads and Parua Bay Playcentres are both running at:
1394 Whangārei Heads Road
Parua Bay
Whangarei 0174
paruabay@playcentre.org.nz
09 436 4074

“Whānau tupu ngātahi – families growing together”

