



Whangārei Heads School Newsletter

Term 3 - Week 4 - August 16, 2024

KIA ORA E TE WHĀNAU,

It has been a challenging fortnight in Education as our PM and Education Minister announced their new Maths Action Plan for NZ schools, Make it Count.

There has been a lot of debate in the media and across the sector around the data used to explain the need for urgency, the term "structured maths" and mention of nationwide release of textbooks in Maths. To help balance the narrative I have included the NZEI press statement later in the newsletter.

I want to reassure our community that we have a robust maths programme. This year, our teachers have been deepening their understanding of how to deliver a balanced maths programme, which includes a mix of rich problem solving tasks and explicit teaching of key math concepts. It also allows for maintenance of learned skills, developing basic facts and encouraging learners to explain their thinking. We had been trialing the refreshed Maths Curriculum and are pleased to note the new draft Curriculum released on Monday is not too different.

Our students are achieving well in maths with 76% of all students at or above expectation at mid year, and our Year 8s specifically have 78% at or above expectation. This is based on the current NZ curriculum levels.

What is most important to us is honouring our local curriculum and strategic goals based on the feedback you gave us in 2022. We will continue to prioritise, alongside learning, our environmental education programme and valuing being a community school.

It is heart warming to see the rich programmes across the school over this last fortnight; the Teina Mini Olympics (a celebration of learning about both the Olympics and different countries), Kapa Haka (preparing to host Te Whanga in Term 4) children training for Cross Country, and the incredible Visual Art pieces being created in readiness for the Art Exhibition later this term.

Thanks to our Board and whanau for your continued support of our kaiako (staff).

Coming Events:

Week 5 - Aug 19-23

Aug 21 - School Cross Country

Week 6 - Aug 26-30

Aug 26 - Northland Science Fair

Aug 28 - WPSSA Northland
Cross Country

Aug 30 - Enviro Project Day

Week 7 - Sept 2-6

Sept 4 - WPSSA Whangarei
Cross Country

Week 8 - Sept 9-13



**We wish our 16 Karearea
students all they best while
they are away at the
competition in Tauranga!**

Week 9 - Sept 16-20

Sept 19 - Art Expo Evening!

Sharing Assemblies

Hui ā kura

Fridays - 2.10PM

All Welcome!

Weed Action help us tackle the weeds!

Kate and some volunteers from Weed Action visited school last Friday to identify and educate a group of students about weeds around the school. They then spent some time in Fern Valley eradicating some of the weeds, before tackling some Wild Ginger down behind the junior classrooms and library. Thanks team, it was awesome to knock some of the weeds off!



Kaitiakitanga Art Exhibition

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 19 September

From 5pm

Following on from our Kaitiaki theme this years Art Exhibition will feature Art Pieces in our school grounds.

More details to come, but add this date to your calendar
You wont want to miss it!

Aims game netball in action!

Coach Caitlin from Raise the Bar Health and Fitness came to work with our Aims Games Netball Team and help prepare them for the upcoming competition! Thanks Caitlin!



School Cross Country Save the Date! Wednesday, Aug 21!

At **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.

**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





NZEI TE RIU ROA

13 August 2024

Open letter to parents and whānau

As teachers and school leaders, we go to work every day to support your children to succeed.

Students in our country are among the best in the world for creative thinking, achieve in the top dozen countries in reading and science and score above the average of other OECD countries in maths.¹

New Zealand teachers are sought after globally because of our skills and expertise. What we know from our own experience and the research is that every child is unique. The work of a teacher is to use a whole toolbox of skills and expertise to personalise the learning that will best meet each child's needs.

The Luxon Government is fast-tracking a new math curriculum into schools next year. However, a standardised, narrower approach to teaching and learning is not consistent with expert advice about how we improve math teaching – and could make it harder for us to meet the diverse needs of students.

The real crisis we are facing in our schools is not teaching and learning, but a crisis of funding and resourcing. A major barrier to us meeting the needs of every child currently is the lack of resourcing for learning support. This, combined with a persistent equity gap resulting from poverty, the housing crisis and transience, has a significant impact on student achievement.

At least three in 10 students who need learning support – whether that's a teacher aide or specialist support – are currently not getting it.²

We pledge to do our best to support the learning of your child and their classmates, but we ask that you support our call for funding increases in education so that there is a teacher aide in every classroom and more specialist staff to support our tamariki.

If you'd like to know more about these issues, or ways you can support your child's learning, please talk to their teacher. You know your child best, and as partners we can work together to ensure your child experiences success.

Ngā mihi

¹ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/520056/nz-teens-score-highly-for-creative-thinking>

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/pisa-2022-results-volume-i-and-ii-country-notes_ed6fbcc5-en/new-zealand_33941739-en.html#:~:text=The%20Programme%20for%20International%20Student,in%20mathematics%2C%20reading%20and%20science

² <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/Issue-Specific-release/Highest-Needs-Review-Cover-Sheet-CAB-Pack-Annex.pdf>

Tuakana Mini Olympics

Today it was our Tuakana classes turn to compete in the mini Olympics in their Whanau groups. The pressure was on to see who could fling the jandal with the greatest finesse, who could leap the highest in the high jump, which whanau group could run the fastest in the relay, and who could break it down like Raygun in the Break Dancing challenge.



Heads Jiu-Jitsu Kids Do It Again!

This time of year is pretty busy on the Brazilian jiu-jitsu competition calendar and last week Beni, Conor, Gemma and Mila took part in the NZ Grappler North Island Championship.

Well done team for these amazing results and a big thank you for the way you represent your community with your kind and respectful sportsmanship, it's great to see.



Medals Awarded:

Beni - silver (gi) and bronze (no-gi)
Conor - gold (gi) and silver (no-gi)
Gemma - gold (no-gi) and silver (gi)
Mila - double gold (gi and no-gi)

Coach Marcos

For information about classes
contact Marcos on 021 02458413
and follow the team on Insta:
heads_bjj or Facebook: headsbjj



**Tegan, Tamar,
Finn R, Savanah,
Jack T, Cruz,
Taha, Niko B
& Hunter K**

Let's Talk Literacy!

Tui teacher, Sara Robinson, will be holding a Literacy talk for all parents and caregivers in the Piwakawaka and Tui Classes. Families who will be joining us before the end of the year are also encouraged to come along!

Save the Date! Thursday, August 27 at 2.15PM

Please sign in at the office first

Come along and learn about our reading programme, and how you can support your tamariki at home!



Northland Schools Surf Champs!

Northland Surfing Association along with the Northland Scholastics team will be running a Primary ages Surf event at Sandy Bay. The event is an introduction to competitive surf competitions and is open to all abilities.

"We will be helping surfers interested in surfing to participate in a surf comp.

We are using the event to fundraise for the Scholastics teams trip to Dunedin to compete at the Scholastics Nationals in October."

Venue : Sandy Bay, Tūtūkākā

Date: Saturday 31st August or Sunday 1st September-
weather conditions will dictate the best option, to be confirmed 26th August.

Time : 9am event briefing

Divisions: Yr 6 and below mixed, Yr7-8 Boys, Yr 7-8 Girls

All abilities welcome

Entry forms available from Northland Surfing Association Facebook page.

Sunday only entry is available.

\$35 entry, \$50 entry plus tee-shirt

Spot prizes, Prizes for Division winners, Food



NORTHLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL SURFING CHAMPS 2024

Hosted by the Northland Scholastics surf team.
Fundraiser for the 2024 Dunedin Scholastics competition.
Entry forms available from Northland Surfing Facebook page.



facebook.com/northlandsurfing



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:



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.

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

Date	Hub Locations	Term 3 2024, Weeks 1 to 5
Wednesday 21 Aug	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
Date	Hub Locations	Term 3 2024, Weeks 6 to 10
Wednesday 28 Aug	Bream Bay Community Trust (10.00 am to 12.30 pm) 9 Takutai Place, Ruakākā	
Thursday 29 Aug	Te Kura o Otangarei School, William Jones Drive, Otangarei	
Thursday 5 Sep	Children's Lighthouse Playgroup, 20 George Street, Hikurangi	
Wednesday 11 Sep	St John Ōtāmatea Ambulance Hall 172 Hurdall Street East, Maungaturoto	
Thursday 12 Sep	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
Wednesday 18 Sep	Whānau Focus Centre, 61 Victoria Street, Dargaville	
	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Thursday 19 Sep	Ngunguru School (9.00 am - 10.30 am) Te Maika Road	

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