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### From the Principal

#### Kia Ora Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2012. It has been another successful year for our school as we continue to build on the previous year's gains. There have been many highlights and, of course, times of sadness, with the car accident at the beginning of the year involving our families and the passing of Ethan last term. Throughout these times the strength, courage and resolve of our children, families and staff have helped everyone to get through the tough times. The Te Horo School motto has never been more appropriate "Ma te mahi kihai te korero - Actions speak louder than words".

- ✦ Thank you to everyone for your support over the year. In particular I would like to thank our amazing **teachers, teacher aides and support staff** for all their work, energy and commitment.
- ✦ Thank you to the **BOT** for continuing to provide excellent governance and support. The focus is on raising student achievement and ensuring the school is resourced and the environment is conducive to learning, being safe and having fun.
- ✦ Thank you to the **Home and School** for your sensational fundraising efforts. Your events (Paddy's Mart, mid-year dance, high tea, garden trail and Christmas carols) are professionally run and loads of fun. We are extremely fortunate to have such a vibrant and committed group which is the envy of many schools.
- ✦ Thank you to the **wider community** which continues to support us in so many ways. Thank you to our **amazing children** who turn up to school each day with smiles on their faces ready to learn. Our **kids** are still "kids" which is refreshing. They enjoy school, want to be here, are nice to each other and generally make the most of the many opportunities available.

#### Christmas Carols

Thank you to **Mrs Johnson, Mrs Colledge and Wendy Tunley** who took more than 80 children to Coastlands to sing carols on Monday morning. The kids sang their little hearts out. Thank you to everyone who went along to support and who helped with transport.

Thank you to the **Home and School** for running another successful Christmas Carols afternoon on Friday. Once again it was a chilled-out and relaxed evening. It was nice to hear our children, friends, mums and local hot bands, Malted Milk and Henpicked, performing. Thank you again to **Santa** who made an appearance on the local fire truck driven by Andrew Faith.

#### Farewells

We bid a fond farewell and wish good luck to all our leaving **students and families**. We have enjoyed having you at our school, thank you for your many contributions and wish you the very

Mission Statement: *Our children, Our community, Our future.*

best for the future. Farewell to the following staff who are also leaving: **Penelope Christoffel, Jayne Lilley-Carter, Rob Pollock, Rocky Terita and Tara Rountree**. Thank you for all your work and assistance to our children over the year(s). We will miss you and wish you well.

### **Annual Targets/Portfolios**

You would have received your child's portfolio on Friday. We hope it was informative of the progress made by your child as well as a time for celebrating their learning journey over the year. If you have any questions please speak to their teacher.

The staff have now completed the analysis of our annual targets which are set against the National Standards. Our school-wide goals for 2012 were:

For 85% of students to be achieving at or above the National Standards for maths. **We achieved 86%**

For 90% of students to be achieving at or above the National Standards for reading. **We achieved 93%**

For 80% of students to be achieving at or above the National Standards for writing. **We achieved 84%**

These results are heartening and indicate once again that our school is achieving to a high standard. Please drop into the office to read the full assessment reports which were prepared by Mrs Allcock and Mrs McHugo.

### **New Staff**

Next year we welcome **Leonie Patterson** as our librarian. Leonie has worked at Johnsonville School for several years and is an experienced librarian and teacher aide.

### **Room 2 and 4 Trips**

Last Friday Rooms 2 and 4 went on exciting trips to Otaki Forks and Raumati Beach. All children had a great time! Thank you to everyone who helped.

### **Jewellery**

Thank you to **Tara Rountree** who has been the co-ordinator for the jewellery fundraiser which the Home and School have run this year. Many mums and nanas are now wearing funky original jewellery made by our children. This has raised almost \$700!

### **BYOD**

A number of families have begun buying devices for their children. As reported in the information which went out to families, our research has informed us that **netbooks** (smaller laptops) are the cheapest and most effective devices for learning and carrying to and from school. Students at Kapiti College endorsed this view time and time again when we spoke to them. All pupils using the same type of PC, not ipads, phones etc, will allow the teachers to operate a classroom where everything is similar. A range of devices such as netbooks, tablets, laptops, smart phones, ipads etc could provide too many hassles for teachers and children.

The Board is committed to this initiative and have submitted a grant application to a charity for a further 30 netbooks for the classrooms which will be offering BYOD. This, added to the computers and laptops already in the classrooms, will ensure children have access to a device.

## Dressing children

There are a number of junior children who are unable to dress themselves before and after swimming without teacher assistance. Please ensure your child practises over the holidays so they can get into and out of their togs quickly and efficiently. Thank you.

## 2013 Orientation Camp at Otaki Forks

Once again we will be holding an orientation camp for children in Years 5-8 at the start of next year. This camp (three days, two nights) makes the most of the great outdoors which is so close to us. Children stay in tents, swim, tramp, cross rivers, prepare food etc and bond as a group. The dates are **18-21st February**, during the third week of term.

## Prizegiving

We look forward to seeing you all tonight on the turf at 6:30pm. We would like children to wear their uniforms if they own them. We encourage all children to attend and aim for the evening to be approximately one hour long.

## Pool

The pool has been getting a lot of use over the past week. The temperature is into the high 20s, thanks to the pool cover which the Home and School bought earlier in the year. We have one more pool key available if you wish to purchase it for \$50. Please ensure users leave the area and changing rooms clean and tidy and that the cover is pulled back on. Enjoy!

**Because it's summer and the memories are just waiting to happen. Anon**

## Last thoughts...

The **Nevilles** have arrived in Barcelona after a stopover in Hong Kong. They are having a fabulous time and looking forward to Christmas in Paris!

Thank you to **Penelope and Mrs Thomsen** who have filled in for Mr and Mrs Neville this week. Thank you also to Penelope who has spent hours proof-reading the newsletter over the years. Happy birthday to **Mrs Barsanti** who turned 65 last Saturday.

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Enjoy the summer holiday, go camping, swim, read books, hang out with the kids, bbq, fish, sleep in, catch up with friends and family... See you all next year, 50 sleeps to go.

Ka kite ano

Craig Vidulich, Principal



# Home and School News

## THANKS AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS

It was a fantastic turnout for Christmas Carols last Friday. Thank you to all who helped to organise, run and perform. A great way to finish the year off. Home and School would like to wish everyone a fabulous Christmas with loved ones and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

## Star Students

- Room 1 **Savannah Satherley** for superb writing and settling into school so quickly.  
**Zephaniah Joe** for settling into school nicely and reading so well.
- Room 9 **Amber Connelly** for being a polite, friendly and well-mannered class member.  
**Keiran Cooper** and **Frankie Elliott** for great problem-solving at maths time.  
**Teagan McCaughey** and **Freddy Sayer** for being responsible class members.  
They are the tidy Kiwis of the class.
- Room 2 **Whole Class.** Thanks for a great year. Mr Bond, Dee and Amanda have loved working with you.
- Room 3 **Whole Class.** What a wonderful year you have all had — thank you! A special mention to **Kaden Orchard** for great learning throughout the year.
- Room 4 **Harvey Meyer** for his fantastic singing during all our Christmas carol practices. A superb effort!
- Room 5 The Panthers (**Kirsten Bedford, Paige Tholen, Nick Bushe, Donald Hall, Taylor Wallace, Charlotte Middleton and Kate Allan**) for working brilliantly as a cooperative team on our Activity Day.  
**Quinn Straker** for fully involving herself in everything at her new school with confidence and enthusiasm.  
**Donald Hall** for having an amazing term and working hard to improve his performance in all areas of the curriculum
- Room 6 **All of Year 6** for the way they conducted themselves on the City Experience camp.
- Room 7 **All of the Year 6s** who were so wonderfully willing, courageous and enthusiastic on their City Experience camp and who have worked so well to be up to date with their portfolio requirements.  
**Brittney McEwan** who organised and prepared the Year 7 Camp to Otaki Gorge by herself while the others were at life saving.
- Room 8 **Hunter Seymour** and **Eva Elliott** for their friendliness, willingness and kindness. The manner in which they approach each day and the way they relate to others makes our class a better place.

# Congratulations!



## Coming Events

19 December Prizegiving 6:30pm — Community Hall if wet, school turf if fine.  
20 December **LAST DAY OF THE YEAR, FINISH 12:30PM**  
7 February 2013 Term 1  
18-21 Feb 2013 Year 5-8 orientation camp at Otaki Forks

### Term dates for 2013

Term 1 7 February—19 April  
Term 2 6 May—12 July  
Term 3 29 July—27 September  
Term 4 14 October—20 December

### Otaki Village comes alive for Christmas

Festive cheer is coming to the newly upgraded Main Street in Otaki Village tomorrow night with a big range of activities to encourage local Christmas shopping and to entertain children and adults alike. From 5pm, at Memorial Park next to the Civic Theatre, see puppeteer Anna Bailey, followed by tape artist Erica Duthie, who was at the street party in July. Local rock bands will play from about 7pm.

Other activities include carol singers outside the Memorial Hall, a fairy grotto, face painting, air castle, ferris wheel and carousel, and of course Santa on a vintage fire truck. Christmas fairies will greet children with a treat. Local producers and community groups will have Christmas stalls on the footpaths, offering liquorice, candy, gift baskets, preserves, Christmas cakes and home baking, bath balls, crafts, pottery, jewellery, chocolate, a local novelist, angels, dolls and piñatas, plants, children's toys and Avon products. Along with established Main Street businesses, the stall will offer plenty to tempt Christmas shoppers.

Children – and adults – are encouraged to come along dressed as fairies and elves. Anyone wanting a stall can contact Debbi on 06 364-6543 or [debbi@idmedia.co.nz](mailto:debbi@idmedia.co.nz)

## Slow PC ??

Complete software rebuild

Home PC \$80.00

Kids homework PC \$50.00

It's not faulty, it's clogged.

txt 027 487 1253

## SWEETMANS MOBILE TUTORING SERVICE



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Gavin Lafrentz

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## Community Notices

**THOUSANDS SIGN UP, HUNDREDS  
PERFORM, THERE CAN BE ONLY  
ONE WINNER...**

**YOU COULD BE THE ONE!**

In 2013 What Now will be touring New Zealand looking for talent and we want to see you take to the stage.

We'll be in these centres running auditions:

January 12 Westfield Riccarton, Christchurch

January 19 North City Shopping Centre, Porirua

January 22 Westfield Chartwell, Hamilton

January 26 Westfield Manukau, Auckland

January 27 Westfield West City, Auckland

Pre-registration and full details can be found at

[www.whatnow.tv](http://www.whatnow.tv)

**CAN YOU SING, DANCE, PERFORM...**

**COULD YOU BE THE ONE?**

### FIREWOOD

**PINE for NEXT YEAR**

**\$60.00 per CUBIC METRE**

**\$10 from each cube goes to  
the school**

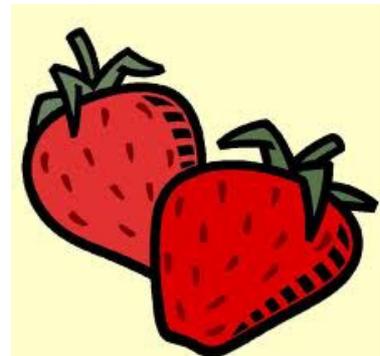
**Contact Jeremy or Steph  
063642456**

## **WINDSOR PARK**

Now open on SH1, Te Horo, for all your Christmas fresh fruit and vegetables.

*We specialise in berries*

Hours 9-5pm, 7 days a  
week. Phone 06 3643163.



### **Pony-Tales Waikanae**

Indoor riding school for children offering riding lessons, school-holiday programmes and catered pony parties, 'lots of fun for your budding equestrian'.

Our \$25.00 Introductory private lessons make a great gift.

Contact Jackie Gilmore [04 293 8161](tel:042938161) or Cathy Devenport [027 434 2162](tel:0274342162)

Email [jackgilmore@gmail.co.nz](mailto:jackgilmore@gmail.co.nz)