

Tena koutou e hoa ma – Greetings everyone

At the moment there are several important issues being debated in education. The one that is most prominent in the headlines is the National Standards debate. I thought I would share my perspective on this issue while at the same time encouraging you to add your voice to the debate because there are implications for how schools may have to operate in the future.

At face value, the idea of standards seems to be a very good thing – and they are –it would be just plain bad practice if we didn’t have high standards of expectation for our children coupled with plans and processes that help them to achieve those standards. But as we look deeper into what schools are required to do to implement the National Standards I find that here are areas for concern, not the least of which is the fact that every country that has implemented this type of strategy has firstly failed to achieve what it has set out to achieve for its children, and secondly the school curriculum becomes heavily focussed on the standards at the expense of the rich and deep learning that occurs in other subjects such as the Arts, Health and Physical Education, Outdoor Education, Technology, Science, Social Studies and the such like. There are also other risks associated with the implementation of National Standards but I think these risks can be minimised if we are careful about how we go about setting up the system.

In my opinion there needs to be a trial period, using a selection of New Zealand Schools to see if we can set up something that actually achieves what it sets out to achieve. What is happening at the moment is no more than an experiment with our children that might or might not work and I don’t think that is how we have acted in the past to have at our doorstep, one of the best education systems in the world.

School Camp

We can now confirm the dates for our camp, which will be held from Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th March.

Thank You

A big ‘thank you’ goes to Action World who donated their large trampoline to the school for the children to use. Thanks also to the team at Carters for transporting it to the school. Another ‘thank you’ goes out to Daryl and Shelley Honey for taking the children and staff across to Russell today on the Happy Ferry. We really appreciate all that you do for the school.

Snake and Lizard

This is just a reminder that on the 23rd February the whole school will travel over to Kerikeri to attend a performance at the Centre called ‘Snake and Lizard’. The performance costs \$5 per child and the transport will cost about \$9. However, the PTA will help with some of the cost and we will help with some as well. **We will need to ask you for a small contribution of \$4 for each child please.**

Music Tuition

Music lessons have begun again. If you haven’t already done so, please complete the slip below and return it to school to let us know you want to continue with the tuition. New students are welcome – the cost is the same as last term (\$7 for guitar and recorder lessons with children in groups of three and \$14 for piano lessons on an individual basis.) Because we have to employ our tutor based on the number of students participating, we will invoice you at the beginning of each term so you can get the fees to us as quickly as you can. We won’t be able to make adjustments if students are absent, however we will make sure that catch-ups are done if that becomes necessary.

Swimming sports

We will hold our swimming sports on the 10th March with the postponement date being the 12th March. More details soon.

Walking Bus

Are there any willing parents who are able to start a “walking bus” from Waitangi to school? We need at least three adults who would be willing to walk with the group, picking up any others on the way and getting them to school. Please contact the office if you are able and willing to do this.

Lunch time Sports

Are there any parents who could come into school once or twice a week and take an organised game or run some sport activity? We are looking for more community and parental involvement in the school and this would be a fantastic way to become more involved in your child’s schooling and sport. Please contact the office if you would be able to offer something.

PTA News

Organisation is well underway for our school gala. Over the next week or so, each class will be planting seeds to sell seedlings at a plant stall. Each child is asked to bring to school a suitable container for this, eg. ice cream, yoghurt containers, etc. **Any donations of seeds would be greatly appreciated. These will be needed at school next week.**

Other areas you can help:

- Plant cuttings that can also be sold at our plant stall.
- Bring surplus fruit or vegetables to be sold on the day, eg. watermelon, sweetcorn.
- Let us know if you or a friend has a horse that can be used for pony rides on the day.
- Bring grocery items for our annual grocery raffle, to be drawn on the day.
- Bring any QUALITY GOODS able to be sold at our white elephant stall, eg. toys, clothes, electrical goods. These can be dropped off at Room O for storage.

Please contact the school if you are able to help out with any of the above.

Many thanks,
Karen Younger

Date	Event
20 th February	Opua Regatta and Gala Day from 9.00am
21 st February	Mayoral Challenge Bike Ride Kerikeri
23 rd February	Snake and Lizard Performance at the Centre
10 th March	Paihia School swimming sports (postpone 12 th March)
14 th March	Kids Triathlon Onerahi
19 th March	SBOI Interschool Swimming Sports (BOI College Pool)
24 th – 26 th March	School Camp at Urupukapuka Island

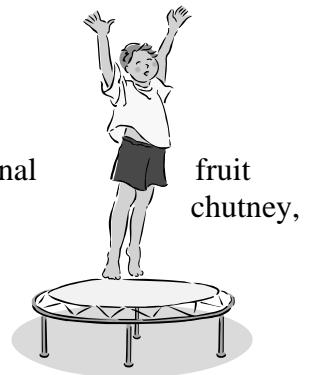
David Rogers
Principal

PAIHIA AFC Soccer Registration today

Thursday 18th February @ Paihia School 4-6pm
Players wanted 5 – 17 years

BAY OF ISLANDS FARMER’S MARKET

Paihia Village Green, every Thursday evening until 1 April, 3.30pm – 7.30pm – fresh seasonal and veges, direct from the grower, cheese, macadamia nuts, bread, locally roasted coffee, jam, cookies, cakes, plants and flowers and much more.



I would like my child(ren) to have music lessons and agree to the fees as outlined below.

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(Name of child/ren)		(Instrument)			
Instrument	Term One (6 lessons)	Term Two (10 lessons)	Term Three (10 lessons)	Term Four (8 lessons)	Total
Piano	\$84	\$140	\$140	\$96	\$460
Guitar	\$42	\$70	\$70	\$48	\$230
Recorder	\$42	\$70	\$70	\$48	\$230

Signature of Parent/Caregiver.....