

SHANNON SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 2nd November 2017

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A Note from Our Principal



Dear Parents/Carers

Our recent Kerekere Kapa Haka day hosted by us was a great success. A special thanks to staff, parents, students and other volunteers who helped. Also thanks to our local community members who supported our event. The weather was also on our side - one out of the blue. We have received many positive comments from those who attended.

This is the time of the year when we review our documents, programmes and staffing for the next year. At this stage the board and management are working on these. The board and I will inform you of any decisions as soon as these are available to us. It can also be a time of rumour, gossip and conjecture. Please wait until official information is shared.

With a change of government there is no doubt that there will be changes that will affect schools, teachers and students. We will need to wait to see what impact this will have on education. Next year I would like us all, as a learning community, to review our present Charter and local School Curriculum. The present substance and beliefs of the school could change with new government direction.

National Standards

The incoming new government has stated that they will remove National Standards. I see this as a positive move as it will allow schools to return to the 'official' New Zealand Curriculum with its ideals and stages of learning (and curriculum levels to be assessed against). A more holistic approach to learning than one that obsesses about literacy and numeracy results. It will permit schools to spend more time on teaching and learning in a holistic environment and less on ensuring a system of continuous literacy and numeracy assessment. A system of aspirational National Standards that begins rating many of our children as failures after being only one year at school, even though their progress in learning may be great.

Community of Learning / Kāhui Ako

A Kāhui Ako is a voluntary group of education services collaborating with each other and with the wider community to lift progress for all their learners, and can consist of early learning services, kohanga reo, schools, kura and tertiary institutions, formed around the educational pathways of their children and young people. A Kāhui Ako works in partnerships with parents, whanau, iwi, employers and others in the community to ensure student success. We are presently in the very early stages of what will be a long term strategy. As educational leader of our local Kerekere Kāhui Ako, and co-leader with Moira Howard from the Taitoko Kāhui Ako, we are presently working to establish a Stewardship Group to oversee both Communities of Learning. The Stewardship group will provide the governance for the combined Horowhenua Community of Learning and members will need to represent our various interest groups i.e. iwi, Pasifika, secondary, primary and Early Childhood. We have a function at Waiopahu College at 6pm on Thursday 16th November for board members and others interested in forming this Stewardship group. Being leader of a Community of Learning does mean that I have numerous meetings and events to attend. If you do need to meet with me please organise a suitable time through the office.

Engagement

Our children have many opportunities that other local schools don't have. Our children have the opportunity of being involved in many holistic "hands on" learning activities including dance, learning a musical instrument, gardening, cooking and art and craft. There are not many of local schools with a community garden, music room, art room, cooking facilities, staging and stage lighting, Maori immersion. Our children are certainly privileged. Generally our children are very happy and engaged in their learning.

Kind Regards
Murray Powell

Harakeke Hub

We have been presenting our speeches since the start of the term, and once again we have some fantastic topics covered and some very catchy slogans. At the start of term 3, we co-constructed criteria as a hub around what makes an effective speech. Our hub came up with three main areas that make a speech excellent:

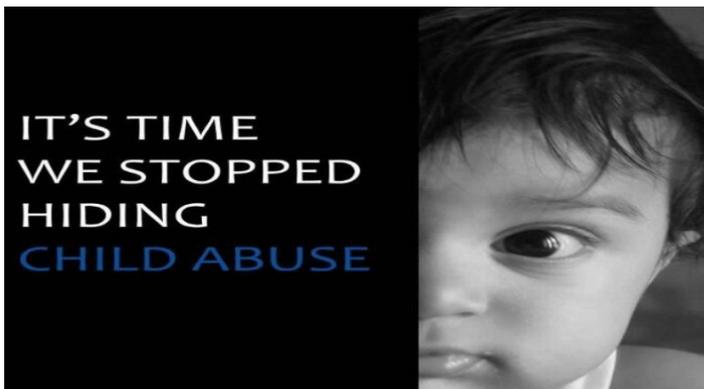
Delivery includes making eye contact, using expression and a loud, clear voice.

Content includes using a personal experience and relevant, interesting facts about your topic.

Structure is making sure your speech has an effective introduction and stating your strongest point first to hook the audience.

Our whole hub gives critical feedback based on this criteria to celebrate what we did well and think about improvements for next time.

We will be deciding as a hub on a representative to perform their speech at Kerekere Interschool Speeches on Wednesday 8th November.



"There is no excuse for child abuse." - Jashya Lyttle, Year 5, Speech Topic: Child Abuse

"Pollution, animal abuse and bullying all of which are popular speech topics that people my age talk about. People have to understand that they all come down to one thing, Effort. Do you stand up for what is right and tell the person to pick up their rubbish? Did you ask the person to stop when you saw them abusing an animal? Do you stand up and say something when you see someone getting bullied?" -Aaron Christensen, Year 8, Speech Topic: Effort

"Compulsive Hoarding is a mental disorder where one feels compelled to buy something they don't necessarily need. As they continue to do this, their house ends up getting filled with random junk. However the owner can't throw anything away because she or he has now got an emotional tie to it." -Eden Braddock, Year 8, Speech Topic: Hoarding



Eric Rabbitte, Year 6, Speech Topic: Quit Smoking

Keep an eye out for fundraising newsletters coming out in the next couple of weeks from the Year 8's. They are fundraising for their trip at the end of the term.

Notices

CHRISTMAS GROCERY RAFFLE



The school will be running a Christmas Grocery Raffle again this year. We ask that each child brings 1 or 2 non-perishable items into the School Office. Once the items are all in, each family will receive 5 tickets to sell. If you are able to sell more, that is great! Please support this school fundraiser.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES

- Wednesday **8th November** - Kerekere Schools Speeches - Rotary Foxton.
- Thursday **9th November** - Shannon School Ag Day.
- Tuesday **14th November** - Junior Tabloid Sports (Postponement date 22nd November).
- Friday **17th November** - Group Finals Day in Levin for Ag Day Competitors.
- Friday **24th November** - Kerekere Junior Tabloid Sports - St Marys Foxton.
- Wednesday **29th November** - Shannon School Variety Show. Matinee performance at 1.30pm.
- Thursday **30th November** - Shannon School Variety Show. Night performance at 6.00pm.
- Thursday **7th December** - Year 8 Trip.
- Wednesday **13th December** - End of Year Assembly / Year 8 Graduation 6.30pm
- Thursday **14th December** - Last day of Term 4. School finishes at 1.00pm.

As you can see, we have some exciting school events this term. We will update you if there is any changes.

Please remember that all school accounts are due for payment by the end of Term 4.
Account balances will be sent home in the next few weeks.



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Thanks to Jason and the team at Konica Minolta Palmerston North for printing our newsletters!