

Community Newsletter

SHANNON SCHOOL

Thursday 14th December 2017

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schools and you will now see many schools with safety fences. We are scheduled to have the start and completion of this project over the holiday period. The entrance to the school will be through the main archway gate. There will also be an entrance gate on Stafford Street and from the staff carpark.

Grounds

We have recently had some mindless vandalism to the school and pool. If you notice anything out of the ordinary please don't hesitate to phone the police.

Open Door

We are an open school and proud of our inclusive learning programmes. Our children are happy and confident learners. We have a no tolerance of bullying and we spend a lot of time in forming positive relationships. We can only deal with what we are told by your child so if they do feel bullied please encourage them to talk to the teachers in the first instance. Please feel free to come and visit us.

On site we have great facilities including an art room, music room, school gardens, a learner and deeper advanced pool, spacious grounds, Performing Arts Centre, Learning Action Centre with cooking facilities, inter-school sports programmes and digital capability. We have a high trust model in which children are allowed a high degree of autonomy and freedom. We have a holistic and innovative approach to learning based on up-to-date research about how children best learn. We encourage whanau and community members to become active members of our school community.

National Standards

The use of National Standards to judge our children has been a blunt and negative tool. After only one year at school many children have been judged as being failures yet we know it takes 3 to 4 years at school before many of our children will reach the expected National Standard levels.

Our school believes New Zealand parents will have better information about their children's learning in future following the Government's decision to scrap National Standards and require reporting to parents across the full curriculum.

Rather than being required to report only on whether children are above, at, below or well below National Standards in reading, writing and maths, schools will be free to report much richer information about your child's progress and success.

Our school believes this will have a hugely positive influence on children's learning. Several studies have shown that over time, National Standards have caused a narrowing of focus in New Zealand schools and an increase in student anxiety leading to negative impacts on children's attitudes to learning. We look forward to reporting on the full breadth of the



Year 8 2017

Our annual Year 8 trip to Wellington was last Thursday. The 13 Year 8's that attended all had a wonderful time going to Adrenaline Forest in Porirua and Daytona Lower Hutt. Thank you to everyone who contributed money through our fundraising efforts so that we could go! A special thanks to the parents who came down with us; Carol, Peanut and Dot.



We are sad to farewell our Year 8 learners from Shannon School. We wish you all the very best for high school. We know you will do us proud!!





Harakeke Hub 2017

Wow, what a busy year we have had in the Harakeke Hub! It has been important to us to build positive relationships within our hub this year and we have been working hard to ensure our hub continues to be an inclusive and positive learning environment. Our learners personalised programmes are growing and changing with them as their confidence increases in the way that they manage their learning. We have had a focus on rich, inquiry and play based tasks where we can learn in a more hands-on and engaging way. We have enjoyed using our basketball hoop and new sports gear as a part of this and many of us have found a new love for origami and art. Our chromebooks continue to be a valued learning tool and we are all great at finding and using online resources to support our learning. We will be sad to farewell our Year 8's, however we are excited to see next year's learners stepping up into leadership roles.



A Note from the Board of Trustees



E ngā mātawaka o te motu. Tēnā koutou katoa.

The Board wishes to thank William Bryant, Board Chairperson, for his commitment to the school. Bill has stood down due to his increased work load and I (Rhea Hyde) have agreed to take over as Chairperson. I wish also to thank Tamara Bal who has more recently joined the board.

It has been another very busy year for the staff and board. I wish to thank them all for their dedication in providing the best learning environment for all our tamariki. Our recent ERO visit again reported on the positive direction of the school and highlighted our cultural responsiveness and celebration of diversity. One of the major issues we have had to face is a falling roll that has particularly impacted on our financial position and staffing levels.

The sad news is that our school no longer has the number of students or funds to generate a Rumaki teacher. We remain optimistic that in the near future that our community will again be in the position to be able to provide for full te reo immersion.

The good news is that we are employing Pā Wylie Te Peeti to work as a teacher aide in our school. It is intended that Wylie will provide a Māori perspective throughout the school. As a board we are committed to providing all of our students with holistic learning in te reo and tikanga.

The board wishes to thank and acknowledge both Kelsi Te Peeti and Kristin Reilly for their contribution to the school community. It is with sadness that they are both leaving us as the school year comes to a close. We wish them well in their continuing teacher roles. They have used their respective strengths in te reo, kapa haka and dance to raise the standard within and outside the school.

Our Year Eights are off on their next big adventure – College. We trust that the learning, values and life skills they have been taught will prepare them as confident life-long learners. Whaia te matauranga, whaia te pono whaia ou koutou Rangatiratanga.

On behalf of the board we wish everyone a Happy Christmas and safe holiday break.

Kia Tau te rangimarie kia tatou katoa.
Nga mihi o te wa.

