

SHANNON SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 8th March 2018

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Above: A few of our keen Lego learners went down to Te Papa to visit the Lego exhibition

**Below: Kei te ako nga korero mo te Poukai me te whare karakia
We are learning about both the Poukai and the church of the marae**



A Note from Our Principal



Dear Parents/Carers

Three Way Conferences

Thank you to all parent and carers who showed up to the conferences with your child. All teachers have reported on very positive experiences for the child, parent and themselves. There are presently only a handful of children who have not had the conference with the parent. We will continue to organise a suitable time to meet. It is essential for all parents, in partnership with the school, to be part of each child's learning journey.

Thanks to those who completed and returned the Parent Questionnaire. If you have not already returned this please do so. We will send out reminders to those who haven't returned them. These surveys are already providing us with important information on who can help the school and how we, the school, can assist parents.

New Zealand Curriculum

There is often a lot of disquiet when there is change. In schools we have continued to be dictated to by governments and bureaucratic ministries. Many of the changes included *new concepts* or *experiments* such as 'Tomorrow's Schools', and more recently National Standards. All of these ideas were introduced by governments using the expertise of researchers and bureaucrats, not educators or parents.

In 2007 the government, after a wide ranging review of the direction of education in NZ, and working with a wide ranging group of representatives of all New Zealanders (including researchers, bureaucrats, educators, iwi, community groups) developed a new curriculum. The New Zealand Curriculum was seen as a visionary document and is still the envy of many other countries. Nine years ago the government changed the curriculum levels into National Standards without any input from educators or community groups. These National Standards have caused many children to be labeled failures after only one year at school, when we know that many of these children are on track, after 3 or 4 years of schooling, to reach their age-appropriate levels. With the removal of National Standards schools now have the ability to return to this document and the direction for education in this country. There will no longer need to be an obsession to improve only literacy and numeracy levels at the expense of all other learning. Schools now have permission to use the learning levels that are contained within the NZ Curriculum. There is also now the recognition that children learn at different rates and have their own individual needs. No longer will schools have to report on a collective set of 'aspirational' standards. No longer will ERO concentrate on reporting on increasing levels of improvement in National Standards. In discussion with children and adults we can discuss, in real terms, how a child is performing against expected learning levels using language that we can all understand.

In a forward to the NZ Curriculum document is a foreword by Kern Sewell, who was Secretary for Education: *The NZ Curriculum is a clear statement of what we deem important in education. It takes as its starting point a vision of our young people as lifelong learners who are confident and creative, connected and actively involved. It includes a clear set of principles on which to base curriculum decision making. It sets our values that are to be encouraged, modelled, and explored. It defines five key competencies that are critical to sustained learning and effective participation in society and that underline the emphasis on lifelong learning.*

Misinformation

It has been reported to me of negative comments being stated (verbally and in Facebook) about the school, myself and education here in Shannon School by members of our wider community who have not been in the school, or who state that they are knowledgeable educators. We have always prided ourselves on being an open and transparent school. If you have concerns, questions or would like to discuss the vision of Shannon School don't hesitate to talk to myself, or contact a board member to discuss.

Kind Regards,
Murray Powell



LEGO mania strikes Te Rito Hub!!! A group of tamariki from throughout the school had the opportunity of travelling to Te Papa to view the Lego Exhibition. While there, they also went to look around the marae and the carvings designed by Cliff Whiting who recently passed away.

Meanwhile back at school, many tamariki are enjoying building with our school Lego blocks, creating their own designs.

Pa Wylie is working with our tamariki teaching te reo Maori as well as aspects of the Maori culture. Here he is teaching our boys the haka.

Autumn is the season of harvest and our school gardens have produced an abundance of vegetables. Our Te Rito tamariki are holding "apple cucumbers". The children enjoyed eating these!



Notices

Dear Parents/Carers

Recently we were told by CSG (Konica Minolta) that from term 2, they can no longer print our school newsletters for free. This has been a wonderful partnership and we are very grateful for the service they have provided.

On the bright side, they will continue to print the four Community Newsletters each year. This is a great way to get information out in our area.

As you can imagine, the printing costs for paper newsletters can not be sustained. And we would like to be environmentally friendly, save the trees!

Most schools are digital now and many colleges only have emailed notices.

Did you know you can register on our school website to receive our newsletters by email? A number of parents have done this. Just go to the Shannon School website, click on **What's On?** and then the word **Newsletter**. We also post important information on our Facebook page and website. If you do not have access to the internet, you will need to contact the office so we can list the parents that will still require paper copies. We anticipate there won't be many.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Shannon Community Health Day - Thursday 15th March 4pm - 6pm. Please spread the word about this event. Free Health Checks!**
- **Kerekere Interschool Swimming - Monday 12th March**
- **Shannon School Athletics Day - Tuesday 27th March**
- **Easter break for 5 days - 30th March - 3rd April (inclusive)**
- **Kerekere Interschool Athletics - 5th April at Coley Street School**
- **Interschool Athletics postponement date - 11th April**



Shannon Community Free Health Day

Thursday March 15, 2018 - 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm
Venue: Shannon School, Grey Street, Shannon

Free Health Checks from a variety of professional services:

General Health
Suicide Prevention
Warrant of Fitness
Health Checks: (Weight, Glucose, Blood Pressure)
Mental Health
Drugs & Alcohol
Problem Gambling
Diabetes

Children's Health
Glue ear
Head lice
Women's Health
Women's Refuge
Breast screening

Free food giveaways to the first 100 people to visit 8 health professional sites & receive a stamp - passport cards will be distributed on arrival.

Spot prizes: vegetable seedlings & giveaways

Thanks to the team at CSG Palmerston North for printing our newsletters!



More than you expect.