



Papakowhai School

Learning Together



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PAPAKOWHAI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 10 ● Term 2 ● 4 July 2018

Dear Parents/Caregivers

This is my last newsletter for a while. I am on sabbatical leave for Term 3. I have won a scholarship to study effective leadership in communities of learning. This will involve visiting schools in our area and in the Wellington region. I will write a brief research paper on effective leadership practices observed and how these could be used to enhance communities of learning.

Caine Webster our Deputy Principal will be Acting Principal for Term 3. I have full confidence in Caine to lead the school during this time. If you have not previously had dealings with Caine he is very approachable. You can contact Caine by email at caine@papakowhai.school.nz. Lesley Hodge will be Deputy Principal and Andrew Graham will be Assistant Principal. They will continue to teach their classes and lead their syndicates in Term 3.

To support Caine and the leadership team Jill Clibborn will be joining the leadership team for the term. Jill will be responsible for many of the day to day organisational matters. Many of you know Jill as our Enviro Leader, English Language Learning (ELL) teacher and as a parent at school. Hetty Boonen is returning next term to teach ELL in Term 3.

I am disappointed to not be here for the production. This year all children in Rimu, Totara and Kauri will be in the production. No one wants a 3 hour show so seven classes will perform on one night and the remaining seven on the alternate night. Senior students have written the script and will take on lead acting roles. It is a Disney theme with music from Disney musicals. Sally White will be choreographing the dances which will be fantastic. Save the dates of Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th September in your calendars.

I hope you can find some time to have a rest over the school holiday break and I look forward to catching up with you all again in Term 4.

Kind Regards

Mark Smith

Principal

mark@papakowhai.school.nz

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS TONIGHT AND TOMORROW

These meetings will be held tonight and tomorrow from 3:15 - 8pm.

Appointments to see the teachers are made via a website; www.schoolinterviews.co.nz the log-in code is 3x5mh. The booking system will be closed from midday today until 8 pm tonight. If you are not able to make a booking online outside these times, please phone or call into the office and one of our staff will help you. If you did not receive your child's report or you are a family that needs more than one printed copy please email mark@papakowhai.school.nz . Please bring your child's report with you to the meeting.

Please do not park in the P15 parking spaces outside the dairy when you come for your parent meeting.

ENROLMENT ZONE

The summary of the zone consultation meeting held at Papakowhai School on 30 May 2018 has been uploaded to the school's website. This can be found under 'Important Information' at the bottom right hand side of the home page. Thank you to everyone who put in a submission. The BOT are awaiting approval to release its decision by the Ministry of Education.

FOUND – DARK GREEN MAIL BOX

A dark green, metal mail box with a 'No junk mail' sign on it, was found in the school grounds. Please contact the school office on 233 8321, if it belongs to you or your neighbour.

INTERSCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENTS

During the last 2 weeks, members of Papakowhai School Chess Club have participated in interschool tournaments. Two primary grade teams played at a tournament at Johnsonville School and our intermediate team played at Newlands Intermediate.



All the children did really well, but our primary level 'A' team of **Jack Jenkins, Ethan Anderson, Cody Chen, and Cameron Leitch** deserve a particular mention as they came an admirable 6th out of approximately 30 teams.



Congratulations also to **Will Cameron, Anna Drake, Trey Fenemor, Jade Lin, Kyla Price, and Harold Sanders**. Thanks to the parents – Rebekah and Julian Anderson and Fenli Chen who accompanied the children and provided transport.

AOTEA COLLEGE OUT OF ZONE ENROLMENTS FOR 2019

Aotea College out of zone year 9 enrolments for 2019 MUST be received by Monday 30th July to be eligible for the ballot which will be held on Friday 10th August. Successful applicants will be advised no later than Wednesday 15th August. For any questions please email aln@aotea.school.nz or phone 237 3166.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

FRANCES SOLIA NETBALL ACADEMY

A holiday programme, in association with Whitby Waves netball club, will be held at Bishop Viard College on Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 July (Year 5&6, 12.30 – 1.50 pm both days, Year 7&8, 2 – 4 pm both days). The cost is \$45 per 2 day programme. For full details, please visit <http://www.sporty.co.nz/wwnc/Development-Programmes/Holiday-Programmes>

WELLINGTON NORTH BADMINTON SHUTTLE TIME

A structured, fun, safe and inclusive Holiday Program with qualified Shuttle Time Coaches which runs Monday-Wednesday during both weeks of the holiday, from 8.30 am to 3 pm. \$35 per child per day. To book online visit: <http://www.wnba.org.nz/term-2-holiday-programme.html> or for more information regarding the program contact Harry Rickus by email wnbadevelopmentofficer@gmail.co. or call/text 0211992498

CHILL OUT AND READ

The July school holidays may be cold, but Porirua Libraries have a cosy school holiday programme, to which you are all warmly invited.

The *Chill Out and Read* holiday programme has activities for pre- and primary schoolers at the City Centre, Cannons Creek and Whitby Libraries. You can also pick up a *Chill Out and Read Mini Winter Reading Challenge* from any branch, to be in to win prizes. For the full timetable please visit the 'What's On' page of the Library's website; <http://porirualibrary.org.nz/What-s-On>

PORIRUA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Porirua Basketball will be running a one-day holiday programme at Te Rauparaha Arena on Wed 11 July, from 9am - 2pm. Registration desk will be open from 8.30am. Cost is \$20. For further information please email deslea@outlook.co.nz or call 027 2448141

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

JULY - REMEMBER IT'S PLASTIC FREE JULY!

Wednesday 4	Parent/teacher meetings
Thursday 5	Regional Cross Country
	Sausage sizzle lunch
	Parent/teacher meetings
Friday 6	Last day of Term 2
Monday 23	First day of Term 3
Monday 30	Home & School meeting, 7.15 pm, staffroom

THE 101 ON FORTNITE

What even is Fortnite?

Fortnite: Battle Royale is an online shooting game. Your player starts in a map of up to 100 players and you collect weapons and build forts, all whilst trying to eliminate the other players. The aim is to be the last player standing.

In New Zealand you usually get connected to other New Zealand players and you can play solo or in teams with random players and friends. Most games last 20 minutes max (if you are the last one standing, which your kid probably isn't, most of the time). The brightly coloured cartoon graphics, funny celebration dances and lack of blood, guts and gore can make it appear like it is appropriate for of all ages. But what do parents actually need know about this viral phenomenon?

Fortnite is recommended for ages 13+.

Why is Fortnite so crazy popular right now?

1. It's free! That gives access to everyone, especially if you're at the age where you don't have any money.

2. It's available on lots of gaming platforms. Playstation, Xbox, PC, iPad and probably even those really fancy calculators.

3. Everyone plays it! School students, adults and lots of celebrities and athletes are talking about it. Some Fortnite players are becoming famous and making millions from broadcasting their games online. So chances are, if your child doesn't play it yet, they really want to.

What your kid wants you to know about Fortnite.

1. You can't pause an online game. You can't just leave the game at any time because you're letting down your whole squad. This is very important for parents to understand especially when setting time limits on games. If you're playing in a team, you can't just leave the game at any time because you're letting down your whole squad.

2. It's actually social. From the outside, it doesn't look very social when a kid is sitting in front of a screen inside when they could be out with their friends having 'real fun'. We need to rethink the stereotype of the socially-isolated video game nerd because online gaming can be very social. In Fortnite you can connect with others and together you are learning skills in leadership, teamwork and problem-solving. Okay, maybe it's just socialising and friendly banter, but that is still social.

3. I need you to give me lots of warning of when I need to stop playing. If you want a better chance of avoiding the whinging reaction when you ask your child to stop playing a video game, then give them plenty of warning. Instead of giving them traditional time limits, you could give them a limit of how many 'rounds of Fortnite' they can play.

Just for reference, five rounds will take about an hour if they win every round. But they probably won't, so some rounds are shorter. Keep checking in on them and asking how many rounds they have left. You're actually doing them a favour because then they can tell their online friends that they only commit to two more games without letting their team down.

What they don't want you to know about Fortnite.

1. I don't actually need to make those in-game purchases. It's a free game: to download and to play. But there are in-game purchases that cost real money. You can upgrade your player with a unicorn-head-pick-axe or the latest victory dance. Some kids might try to convince you that they 'need' to make these purchases; they don't, it just makes their character look cool. But what you need to understand is that the social pressure to fit in is just as real online as it is at school. If they have a standard default character, they might feel outcast or even get mocked by their peers. Point out that some people are cool with that. That's actually what makes those people cool. Nothing boosts your self-esteem like your mum telling you that you are cool without the newest Fortnite character outfit.

2. It's very addictive

When they play video games, they're engaged in a hyperstimulating game that has hijacked their brain's reward pathways, flooding them with hormones that feel fantastic. Fortnite is designed as a very addictive game that always asks you to play one more round. If you are concerned about how much they play, then approach it as a parent would approach any addiction. Offer support, limit use and offer alternatives. The challenge is to creatively present alternative ways to spend time other than 'jamming some Fortnite with the lads'.

Most kids spend time at home doing pretty 'boring stuff' like chores or homework. Compared to other things they do at home, it's easy to understand why gaming is so appealing.

Strategically, it's best for them to do all the 'boring stuff' before playing games. When they ask if they can play Fortnite, you could say, "Yes, but after you've done your homework". This teaches them about delayed gratification. The alternative to playing video games might not be as stimulating but it doesn't have to be something they find horribly boring either. What if instead of playing video

games you took them to the skatepark or you made pancakes together.

3. There are other things I could be doing.

Do you ever feel less guilty about watching daytime movies when you're having sick day or the weather is awful? It's because we justify that we couldn't be doing much else anyway. They are a poor substitute for real experiences. The truth is that when your child is playing video games they could be doing other stuff. They could be practising a sport, creating music or just hanging out with their family. They have more spare time when they are young than any other time in their lives until they retire. Spending most of that time behind a screen isn't the best for their healthy development – or your home internet plan.

Video games like Fortnite can be a bit of fun, they can be social and they keep your kid inside the house where you know they are safe. But they are a poor substitute for real experiences. If you are going to place more restrictions and boundaries on technology in your home, then think about loosening the boundaries in other areas of their world. It might help the conversation if you let them know that even though you are limiting their Fortnite time, that you will be letting them stay up later or go to a friend's house or bus to the mall.

Stay involved.

You might not like video games and they may sound like a weird nerdy foreign language to you. You don't have to play Fortnite to show an interest in what your child is interested in. Ask your child about Fortnite and what they like about it. You might be able to connect on something they are passionate about. Young people need their parents to remain involved right throughout the teenage years. This just might be your way in to a great conversation.

Material taken from the parentingplace.com

Written by Christian Gallen, Senior Attitude Presenter