

SHANNON SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th August 2018

Grey Street Shannon Ph: 06 3627866
Text Your Absences: 027 7555591
Email: office@shannon.school.nz
Website: www.shannon.school.nz
Facebook: Shannon School Te Kura o Hanana



A Note from Our Principal



Dear Parents/Carers

Three Way Conferences

These are attended by the student, teacher and parent/carer/whanau members. It is an important time for each child as it gives them the opportunity of discussing their learning, their progress and future goals. I know from experience that the child and teachers are very disappointed when the child is not given this opportunity to share their learning stories. Usually we only have a few children, if any, who miss out and we appreciate the time the whanau puts into organising getting here and being involved in the conference. If the times and dates do not suit we always arrange another time that does.

We know that a child cannot learn in isolation, they need the support of staff, but more importantly, they need the support of their family. It is in working together, home and school, that we can improve the opportunities for each child.

We also see how a child's self-esteem is increased when both teachers and parents understand and respond to the child's strengths, goals and interests.

Cheap Internet - A great opportunity

Spark Jump helps eligible families with children under 18 learn online at home for \$10 for 30GB. It's a low cost, prepaid internet service for families with children under 18 who currently have no WiFi connection. This is a 20/20 Trust initiative. More Information:

<https://2020.arlo.co/courses/164-spark-jump>

<https://www.sparknz.co.nz/what-matters/spark-jump/>

This service is available through Te Takere. There is a Stepping Up Workshop to attend at which participants receive a modem with 30GB of free data when the requirements are completed.

Contact Joanne Dillon (DJ) (06) 3681953 learning@tetakere.org.nz if you are interested.

Ski Camp

It was great that we were able to provide all our Year 7 and 8 children with the opportunity of a 3 day Tukino Ski Camp. Thank you to those groups and individuals who contributed funding so that all tamariki could attend. The weather for skiing for two days couldn't have been better, and the accommodation, ski field (close to the Lodge) and lodge personnel were amazing. On the day of our return we were also able to fit in a visit to the hot pools as the weather had deteriorated and the ski field was closed. This will be a school experience that the children will remember forever. A special thanks to Rhea, Leigh and Peanut (with her bus) for being our accompanying adults.

Teacher Strike

Wednesday 15th August is a principal and teacher strike day. The Board of Trustees has made the decision to close the school. There will be no teaching staff on the school site. Please refer to the board's latest information regarding the strike day.

Reasons for the teachers going on strike: We are presently facing a crisis in education with a present 40% drop in people training to be teachers alongside a growing number of school aged children. Young people are not choosing teaching as an option because they are not attracted by the pay, hours of work, paper-work, job satisfaction.... A third of our young teachers are only staying up to 5 years before they leave the profession. A further third of our teachers are retiring within the next 5 year. A pay jolt in salaries may help to address the shortage. Many of our local schools are already finding teaching positions and relief teachers hard to fill.

Our children with diverse special needs are on the increase and we need more support and resources for them. Our SENCOs (Special Needs Co-ordinator) are not provided with any release time for this increasing need. We are also very underfunded for teacher aides, lack the necessary outside school support, and many of our children are not being recognised for assistance when they have high learning and behaviour needs.

Time at School

A reminder that it is illegal for children not to be at school unless there is a very good reason. We often have to indicate on the register that children are absent, or late, as being unjustified. Several of our children have very poor attendance and/or lateness on their school record. It is up to parents/carers to have children at school at the start of the day 5 minutes before 9am and to finish the day at 3pm. We recommend children arrive some time after 8.30am so that they can settle into the day. We do understand that sometimes there is an emergency and children need to arrive late or be picked up early, but this should not be regular. Parents will receive a letter of concern if truancy or lateness is an ongoing issue.

Farewell to our School Caretaker

Spud has decided to return to live where the weather is warmer. A special thanks to him for his time with us. Spud had a great relationship with our tamariki and had them involved in several building projects (authentic learning opportunities). Spud's carpentry skills were also a great asset to have in the school. All the best from us all.



We were very proud to have TWO recipients of the Sir Peter Blake Young Leaders Award this year. Georgia Cruse and Ariana Harrington. Thank you both for your service to our kura. A special thank you to Whaea Jo, Leana, Ngakau, Justese and Montez who strengthened the mana of the occasion with their support performances. Tino ataahua kotiro!





It's all go in Te Rito Hub as we continue developing our knowledge and skills through PBL (Play Based Learning). A group of us went with Mr McCallum to Bunnings in Palmerston North who donated a roll of artificial grass. Big "THANKS" to BUNNINGS!! Our tamariki-made farm is starting to look amazing as we work together making fences, gates, water troughs etc. Our gardeners are busy planting seeds in readiness for a summer harvest. Guess how much fun we had making and playing with "play dough"?



Year 7&8 Ski Trip 2018

Our Year 7 & 8 learners from Te Kura o Hanana have spent four days this week up at Tukino Ski field learning to ski and having a lot of fun! If you would like to know more about their trip, the learners will be creating a presentation about their trip that everyone is welcome to attend on Wednesday 22nd August at 11am in the Harakeke Hub.



Montez: It was lots of fun seeing my friends show courage by trying to ski down from the top of the ski field with me. It was really nice to have Justese and Eric help me out if I fell over or when I got my hand stuck in the tow rope. I also liked Alicia's support as well as Leana's. I have learnt that you need to show or use some of the school virtues such as kindness, effort, courage and bravery. It was nice to see smiles on everyone's faces even the ones that don't smile often. Phil one of our instructors seemed scary at first but once we got to know him he was as mellow as a marshmallow and bright as well. On this trip we all definitely built stronger relationships with each other.

Eric: It was good to learn how to ski. I think it helped us create a better bond with each other. Claudia, Laurence and Leigh helped me out alot and Leana taught me how to stop. On the first day of skiing I did two front flips and face planted!! Ariana, Leigh, Leana and Lashania helped and encouraged me to go to the top of the ski field and take a different ski route.



Ariana: It was a really cool to be able to ski alongside the staff and have their help. I loved the vibe from everybody and the way they helped each other when someone had fallen over. Everybody had to show courage a lot on this camp and be caring to people around them. The bus rides there and back were also great fun, we did lots of singing battles and had lots of good banter. This camp was absolutely amazing and I loved it!

Phoenix: I had a good time at the ski trip. Laurence is a good ski teacher and she helped me alot with how to brake with the pizza technique. The only bit I was struggling with was how to get up when I fell over on my skis; maybe I will learn next time if I go skiing again. Lasharnia, Ariana, Whaea Rhea, Peanut, Phil, Claudia and most of the class were really supportive and encouraged me to try my best. I loved it at the hot pools when we were just being lazy and just relaxing! I loved when we had chippie sandwiches for lunch- Yum! I will remember this for years to come, I think I showed a bit of courage!



Notices



Kia ora from the school office

What a busy term so far! Thanks for returning all the notices for the great EOTC (Education outside the Classroom) trips we have had so far.

Please make sure you download the school app for up-to-date information.

Below is a list of the upcoming events. These will change from time to time, but we will update you as soon as possible. Some events listed will only involve certain tamariki. Individual notes will be sent home for these.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY FEES. Thank you to the families that have paid or paying them off. We really appreciate your support.

- 13th August - 17th August - Zero Waste week
- 14th August KidsCan Crazy Hair Day. #crazyhair #crazywigs
- 15th August - Teachers Strike Day. School is closed.
- 22nd August - Ski Camp Presentation 11.00am.
- 23rd August - School Cross Country. Fun run money due back on Friday 31/8. (Postponement date for cross country is 28th August).
- 29th August - Kerekere Kapa Haka Day - Manawatu College.
- 30th August - Bluelight PCT challenge.
- 6th September - Kerekere Math Ex - Foxton Beach.
- 6th September - 3-Way Conferences after school
- 7th September - 3 Way Conferences during the day. Children only attend school this day if they have an appointment booked. Forms will be sent home the week of the 20th August.
- 12th September - Foxton Rotary Speeches.
- 14th September - Zoofari Learning Session. Yes, we have secured a day trip to the Wellington Zoo for the Te Rito Hub. This will be a long day, but amazing for our tamariki!
- 26th September - Kerekere Cross Country - Manawatu College.
- 28th September - Last day of term 3, finishing at 1.00pm.



Ag Day

Due to the M Bovis disease, there will not be calves at any schools this year. If your child wishes to raise a lamb or baby goat for Ag day, please contact the office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Mr McCallum and Mrs Sheehan have been running mini sessions for parents/carers following feedback from the last 3-way conference survey. Thanks to the parents that signed up. If you are new to the school, and interested in attending any upcoming sessions, please contact the office.

- 14th August - Devices at school - 2.30pm.
- 28th August - Digital Programmes at school - 2.30pm.
- 11th September - Helping Children at Home - 2.30pm
- 23rd September - PBL (Play based Learning) - 2.30pm.

Ngā mihi