



Newsletter

Term 3 Number 16 - 04 September 2015

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

This week the Junior Team attended an Oral Language workshop in Hamilton. Key to your children being able to learn how to read and write is their ability to talk, and to respond appropriately to others when they are spoken to.

"The relationship between oral language and literacy learning is reciprocal. Children draw on their oral language when they learn to read and write and in turn their progress in literacy learning enriches and expands their oral language." – Ministry of Education.

You can support your child's oral language development through lots of talk, modeling grammatically correct language structure, encouraging them to ask questions and introducing new words to them as you go about everyday lives.

To help support Oral Language development I have added some links to our school website about how you can help your child, along with some articles from both NZ and overseas that reinforce the importance of this. (Parent Information – Useful Links – Oral Language Development).

Attendance

To date this year, on average, we are achieving just over 90% attendance. While we appreciate there has been much sickness of late we are also concerned that unjustified reasons for absences are increasing. The Ministry goal is for 94% attendance and it would be so good for our children if we could achieve this. The following information is straight from the the Ministry website reminding parents and caregivers of their responsibilities towards their child's education and supporting attendance.

Does my child have to go to school every day?

Yes, your child must go to school every day. Under the Education Act 1989, parents and carers of children between 6 and 16 years old can be prosecuted if their child is away from school without a good reason.

Why do they need to go every day?

Going to school every day really is the key to getting the best out of school because:

- it sets up good habits for going to school right from day one
- learning to read, write and do maths takes a lot of practice and is easier to master if your child goes to school regularly
- each day is a chance to learn something new
- school offers your child regular, dedicated help to master the many skills they need
- it teaches your child life skills like commitment, being reliable, having a good work ethic and sticking with things when they get hard.

What can I do to make sure my child is going to school?

The key here is to make school the priority. There are things you can do at home, and things you can work with the school on.

At home

- talk to them about why it is important to go to school every day – their education is the key to doing well in life
- be positive about school
- set good habits about going to school from day one
- have a good morning routine that gets them to school on time, relaxed and with everything they need
- don't let them have the day off just because they would rather be at home
- keep absences due to sickness to times when your child is actually sick – don't keep them at home when you know that they are just nervous about school
- know about your child's school life – ask questions, listen to your child. This will make it easier to pick up on any issues they might be having
- keep family holidays outside of term-time, as every day at school is an opportunity to build skills, and repetition is critical for learning – especially for primary school children
- don't overload them – school may be exhausting for your child so make sure they have some downtime after school to relax and have a break.

Te Kāwhata Childcare



& Learning Centre

We offer quality care and education, where learning and fun become one! Come & visit any time!

Operating hours:
8.00-5.30 Monday-Friday
9 Mahi Rd, Te Kāwhata
Ph: 826 3280
Email: tkchildcare@xtra.co.nz

First 20 hours are now offered FREE!

Working with the school

- get to know your child's teacher and the school – it's easier to talk to them if a problem arises
- get involved with the school – volunteer for parent help, go on school trips, help out on the PTA. It helps you to get to know the teacher and the school, and it shows your child that you prioritise their schooling
- know your school's process for letting them know about absences, and contact them as soon as you know your child is not going to be at school that day
- talk to the teacher or principal if your child is reluctant to go to school, and work together to problem solve.

Before and after school safety

Last week all the children were spoken to about the importance of keeping themselves safe on the way to school and heading home, especially our cyclists and walkers. It was most alarming to receive two phone calls last Friday morning regarding near misses between vehicles and our children. If your child walks to school please ensure they know the safest route from home to school and remind them that they **MUST** cross at the designated crossing area on Wira Street.

We would very much like to have the crossing upgraded to a pedestrian crossing, controlled by road patrollers before and after school. Currently we are exploring whether this is possible. If you consider this a priority and you would like to see this happen please write a letter in support of it and send it in to school. Watch for updates on this in future newsletters, meanwhile **PLEASE** remind your children about keeping themselves safe around the roads.

Have you noticed our duty staff after school in their warm, but stand-out jackets, as they supervise the crossing areas? Thanks must go to our PTA for sponsoring these for us – they are not only great for after school but also whilst on playground duty during the week.



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Next week we have our annual speech competition Years 3 – 6 children, and also our biennial Runathon fundraiser. We look forward to seeing many of you join us for these two events.

On Tuesday afternoon we are running a 'round table' meetings as we review our Science curriculum. This week you received an invitation to this and we hope you can join the staff to hear more about what a future focused science programme could look like. The invite is attached to this newsletter as a reminder of time and place.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of your child's education and school.

Nga mihi nui

Vicki Saunders
Principal

Speeches

It's that time of the year again when we run speeches at school as part of our Literary curriculum.

They will start on Monday with all children from Year 3 upwards presenting their speeches to their classroom. From here each class will put forward a number of children to represent their year level in the semi-finals.

Semi-finals will be held in classrooms on Tuesday. Parents whose children qualify for the semi-finals will be notified via a newsletter on Monday night and are invited to attend on Tuesday at school.

After the semi-finals, 4 children from each year level (3,4,5 & 6) will qualify for the finals. Again a notice will go home to parents informing them if their child has made it through.

Finals are held in the St Andrew's hall on Scott Road starting at approx 11.30am on Wednesday. There will be an independent judge for the finals.

Notifying of absences...

Parents and caregivers can **text** when children are sick and going to be absent from school.

You can also send an email from our website www.tkp.school.nz - go to absences and follow the prompts. If you are texting about an absence you can now reply to that number.

Parents and caregivers can also phone the office on 826 3564 and leave a message.

The number for texting absence messages is 027 503 7425

To go directly to our website using a QR reader on your smartphone, use the QR code below.



Calf Club - Wednesday 14th October 2015

Please call into the office and pick up your calf club forms if you have not already done so.

All entries must be into the school office by Monday 21st September.

PTA

The PTA Meet regularly on the 1st Wednesday of every month, excluding the school holidays. New members and visitors are welcome at all times, so please come along.

Pencil these dates into your diary!

Wednesday 4th November - 7pm

Wednesday 2nd December - 7 pm.

Coming Up:

Sept 04	: Inter school Cross Country
Sept 7,8,9	: Speeches (Mon,Tues,Wed)
Sept 10	: Runathon
Sept 25	: Last Day of Term 3
Oct 12	: Term 4 commences
Oct 14	: Calf Club
Oct 22	: Group Day
Nov 13	: Grandparents Day
Nov 14	: Gala Day today!

Community News:

Orphan Lambs for Sale - All have had Colostrum - \$40 -Phone
Teresa Paulsen 8285969

Supporting success in your school.

For new ASB home loans over \$150,000 drawn down before 31 December 2015, ASB will donate:

\$500 cash to participating schools.

To take up this offer you must be a parent, staff or member of the participating school. ASB's lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. 20% equity is required in the security property. Other terms apply. Fees may apply. For Ts & Cs and to download the voucher visit asb.co.nz/schoolbanking. Offer ends 31 December 2015.

ASB Bank Limited PPU49035

ASB

PARTY IDEAS

SHARE YOUR PICS!!

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Developed by Sport Waikato 2015



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