

WESTERN HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

TE KURA O WHAKAAHU

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Principal
Brent Griffin



March 2024 newsletter 2/24

A note from the Principal:

Kia ora e te whanau



The term continues to blitz by. We are starting week 8 next week. There are a lot of events that are available for children to participate in, so look out for the panui.

Currently, Whaea Rachael is asking for children to take part in our basketball and hockey teams. If you would like your tamariki to participate in hockey or basketball or both please let her know ASAP as places get taken very quickly.

Duathlon was offered this week and all spaces have been filled, so you have to be in quickly.

At the end of the school day over 400 children head to an exit gate to make their way home. For our 5-year-olds, this can be very daunting. Please ensure your tamariki know exactly what your pick plan is. For 5-year-olds if you are not where they expect to find you, they panic and often start walking. 90% of the time they have no idea where they are walking to. We have duty teachers at each gate we have duty teachers at both crossings and we won't let children leave the main gate unless they are picked up by a family member.

We control everything we can, but if a child decides to head to a friend's place or the pick-up doesn't happen as planned children can end up missing. As mentioned, the most important thing is you have a pick-up plan and heading to a friend's place without your permission is a no-go.

It is so worrying for everyone when a child is unaccounted for. Together we can keep taonga safe.

As you are probably aware the Government are planning to make changes to the free school lunch system. For some families, it is a saving of about \$80 per week. They haven't said what their plans are but change is on the agenda. If you feel strongly about this, please let the Minister of Education know how you feel e.stanford@ministers.govt.nz

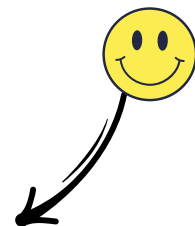
I mentioned this in the last newsletter. We are looking for parent volunteers to support in classrooms. We have had a couple of mums put their names forward which is great. Teachers are machines they work so hard each day. Another adult in the room can be so helpful and it's great fun. Many of our paid teacher aides started with us as volunteers.

There is a huge easter raffle in the main office, \$2 dollars per ticket, \$5 dollars for 3.



FUN FACT

March 17 is St Patricks Day.
Did you know the shamrock is a clover that usually has 3 leaves, but if you find one with 4 leaves you are lucky



NB: School Gates Open at 8:30am every morning. If you require your tamariki to be on our school grounds before this, please get in touch with their classroom teacher directly to make arrangements.

Te Kura o Whakaahu Habit Heroes

Habit #2 "Begin with the End in Mind". This means we plan ahead and set goals.



Congratulations to

Habit One - Be Proactive:

Tatiana, Hayne, Rikkaio, Zahya, Khyree-Ford, Desmond, Kayla-Rose Harley-Rose, Zanaiyah, Sophie, De-Arna, Christina, Felix, Zara S, Te Mania



Habit Three - Put First things First:

Deiziah Le Comte, Compton Wairau, Maddy Houkamau, Ronin Curd-Hodgson, Zayah Wilbore, Shauntelle Wana, Lia Taia, Te Rongo Moanaroa, Sefo Bragovits, Luna-Louise Rossiter, Kybah Walters-Te Kiri, Lochie Collier, Zoe Toni, April, Kenzi Hooper-Lancaster, Tamihana Namana - Grace, Te Kaha Wade, Harper-Mae Maru, Maddison Hura-Grooby Tairaroa Hesp

This is our Habit Hero 3 "Put first Things First". Putting first things first means we spend our time doing things that are most important, helping us become disciplined and organised.



Upcoming events:

Tuesday March 19: Mandatory Union Meeting, school will start at 12pm

Friday March 22: Teacher Only Day

Friday March 29 - Tuesday April 2nd: Easter Break

Saturday April 6: WHPS Market Day

Friday April 12: End of Term One

Te Taumauta O Ngati Whakaue Iho Ake are offering a financial literacy programme.

This is a five part module course, written and presented by Maori for Maori, to assist navigation through today's financial landscape. Please feel free to pop into our school office to pick up further information.



This month's sports rap with Matua Simon



This year at Te Kura o Whakaahu, we have 2 futsal teams competing in a Rotorua wide competition on Sundays at the Rotorua girls high arena. The Cheetahs and the Taniwha have had a great start to the season, and look to continue their form for the rest of Term 1. Matua Simon has had many comments about the referees and competition organizers about the honesty and sportsmanship on display from our teams, not to mention their skill. We are excited to continue training through the year in preparation for the competition restart in Term 4

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FUTSAL & SOCCER? Soccer is normally played as an outdoor game on large fields, whereas Futsal is a type of soccer that is played indoors on a much smaller court. The smaller field size ensures a game of Futsal is fast-paced and more intense, with more opportunity for goal scoring.



What's happening in our Community

Lakes Football Club will run an Open day, Saturday March 16. Kahukura Rugby Club are holding a Family fun day Saturday March 16, & are offering FREE fees for 2024 JAB Rugby. Heki Sports is offering a well priced Hockey development program. \$20 per student. They also offer a pay it forward program in place that helps our whanau if they require financial help to join. Check out their Facebook Page for more details.

WELCOME TO OUR KURA...

Matua Josh & Whaea Anna

Waiariki Mana Ake

These two wonderful Kaimahi are here to work with our tamariki and whanau to support wellbeing. Please contact Whaea Melanie for more details.

Stay in touch :

-  07 348 8459
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Our School Nurse is here Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please feel free to let us know if you would like them to check your tamariki while they are on site



We are a water ONLY school. Please support us by sending your tamariki to school with a Water Bottle

