

time. We reopen on **Monday 2nd May**. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers. We are so fortunate to have these people in our school to support our tamariki. Our volunteers help with a wide range of activities. Again thank you so much. I would also like to thank and acknowledge our incredibly hard working and talented staff. Have a safe and enjoyable break everyone.

Kia Ora,  
Jackie Osborne  
Tumuaki/Principal

# Pukapuka Park Fence

A senior design group and students from Room 8, under the direction of Kim Subritzky have been working on an art project for the outdoor library area. They have been painting book ends to attach to the fence that surrounds the library lawn. Today one side of the fence went up.



Dear Parents/Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoa

### 1) 'Snapped Ya!' of the Week 2016

'Snapped Ya!' is a PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) initiative. We have 3 weeks worth of 'Snapped Ya'. The PB4L focus for this week is **Respect**. The recipients are **Star Bright Hoani, Troy Berghan, Mataki Wharewaka-Cassidy, Manny Tautau, Poppy Wild and Shelby Tattersall**.



### 2) Unlocking Learning Potential

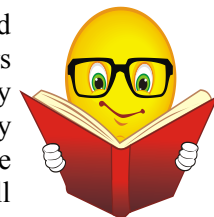
As part of our aim to personalise learning for all our students, we have a number of personnel and programmes in place. These people can develop programmes that will support your child and help adapt the curriculum to meet their needs.

- Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour
- Resource Teacher of Literacy
- Accelerating Learning Groups and GATE programmes
- Social Worker in Schools
- Supplementary Learning Support
- Group Education Services
- Talk to Learn
- Reading Recovery
- Teacher Aide support

If you have any concerns about your child's achievement and progress, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to assist in any way and we value your input, as you know your child best.

### 3) Library News

Our library is looking great at the moment. We are culling and adding new books all the time. We have some wonderful volunteers who come in to school and help to keep the library organised by putting books away. So many thanks to our volunteers. We currently have two boxes of new books that need covering. If you would like to join us as a friend of the library please contact either Miss Smaill or the office.



### 4) Literacy Leaders

Mrs Nemeroff has been working with a group of students every week to promote

reading and to coach them for the Literacy Quiz regional's. On **Monday 9th May** these students will be off to Kerikeri to compete in this challenge and we wish them every success as they have worked hard and are well prepared. Suzanne is very knowledgeable and passionate about children's literature. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne very much for her willingness to share her excitement and knowledge of reading with our students. She will also be joining our staff to promote and engage our tamariki around literature by supporting students and developing library initiatives. Welcome aboard Suzanne.

#### **5) Digital Technology Parent Information Session - Year 4 and 5**

Recently our school purchased chrome books to support teaching and learning in the classrooms. In the coming weeks Year 4 and 5 students will begin to use and operate these using a personalised Google account, which will provide them with access to apps such as Gmail, Google Drive, Docs, Calendar and many more. An information session will be held for parents on **Tuesday 3rd May at 5pm in Room 3**, for anyone who is interested in learning more about this or have any questions. Snacks and refreshments will be provided for those attending. For more information about this session, see Mrs Takimoana.

#### **6) Whangarei High School Visits**

Whangarei Boys' High School - Carruth House and Whangarei Girls' High School – Lupton House, will be visiting Ahipara School on Tuesday, 10th May at 11:00 am. All Year 7 and 8 students and parents / caregivers, interested in boarding at WBHS or WGHS are invited to attend the presentation.

#### **7) Understanding our Bodies and Keeping Safe**

After community consultation, as part of our health curriculum, we offer programmes to promote understanding of puberty.

Next term we have a facilitator who will begin working with students in Years 7 and 8 about understanding our bodies and how they change (puberty) and how to keep safe. Each class will have four sessions, but we would like to invite all parents and caregivers to a whanau evening before these sessions commence. This will take place early next term and we will notify the date as soon as we set it with the facilitator, Wendy Baker. You are very welcome to attend and find out the content of this programme and ask any questions. PLEASE INFORM YOUR CLASSROOM TEACHER IF YOU DO NOT WISH FOR YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE SESSIONS. We also will be having Bridget Harvey and Harold in the Life Education Mobile classroom with us next term to support our health programmes.

#### **8) Literacy Tips for Families**

Parents and teachers are essential partners in a child's development of reading, writing, and language skills. Family members can do the following activities at home to encourage literacy. Be a model for your child. Children learn that reading and writing are important when they see adults using these skills!

- Spend time in conversation with your child to develop vocabulary and knowledge of the world. Label what you see and explain how things work. (Oral language)

- Play with language to help your child listen to rhymes and letter sounds. Read rhyming books. See how many rhyming words you can think of together: hop, top, bop, mop, lop, stop, drop, and flop. Use words that start with the same letter (alliteration) and help your child to hear the letter sounds - 'Big Bob Bounced a Ball.' (Phonological Awareness)
  - Teach your child about letters and words. Notice words and letters in the world around you. Read cereal boxes and favorite snacks. Post your child's name in his or her room. Point out the letters in your child's name that you see in signs and billboards around town. (Alphabet Knowledge)
  - Read aloud with your child every day. Talk about the stories you read to make them more meaningful to your child. Children will learn about books and print, for example: we read the words, rather than the pictures, from left to right, and from the front of a book to the back. (Print Concepts)
  - Encourage your child to draw and write by allowing access to pencils, crayons, markers, chalk and a variety of paper. Activities to develop the muscle strength needed to be able to write successfully include: playing with play dough, tearing and crumpling paper, scooping and pouring, using Lego blocks, sticking stickers, and using tongs. Help your child send a letter or write an important list. (Writing)
- Remember that you are the first and most important educator in your child's life!!!

#### **9) Junior Readers and Library Books WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!**

Do you have any of our junior readers lurking in the toy box, lost on the bookshelf, hiding in the magazine rack. If so please have a look and return any of them now. At the moment we are stocktaking our junior readers and have found we are very short. A reminder also that library books need to be returned weekly so that students can have the opportunity to read a wide range of material.

#### **10) International Exams**

We will be offering six external exams to all pupils Year 4 to Year 8. Closing dates and costs for entries are as follows. **Science** - 3rd May, \$8.50, **Writing** - 16th May, \$19.50, **Spelling** - 18th May, \$10.50, **English** - 21st June, \$8.50 and **Maths** - 21st June, \$8.50.

#### **11) e-learning Sites**

If you have internet access and would like to have access to some learning sites for kids here are a few to get you started.

<a href="http://www.e-learningforkids.org/">http://www.e-learningforkids.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools">http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools</a>
<a href="http://www.starfall.com/fairytale.htm">http://www.starfall.com/fairytale.htm</a>	<a href="http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en">http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en</a>
<a href="http://www.ictgames.com">http://www.ictgames.com</a>	<a href="http://www.coolmath4kids.com/">http://www.coolmath4kids.com/</a>
<a href="http://www.lancsnqfl.ac.uk/curriculum/literacy/lit_site/html/fiction/fairytale2/">http://www.lancsnqfl.ac.uk/curriculum/literacy/lit_site/html/fiction/fairytale2/</a>	<a href="http://www.crickweb.co.uk">http://www.crickweb.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/">http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/</a>	
<a href="http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm">http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm</a>	
<a href="http://www.topmarks.co.uk/interactive.aspx?cat=8">http://www.topmarks.co.uk/interactive.aspx?cat=8</a>	

#### **12) End of Term 1**

This Friday we complete Term One and school will be closed for 2 weeks at the normal