

Room 4's

Star Writer of the Week

Anaconda Snakes

Anaconda's are the largest snakes in the world.

Anaconda's live near rivers, lakes and swamps and live alone. Green anaconda's are one of the largest snakes in the whole world.

Females are larger than males, and an Anaconda's can last in the water for 10 minutes before it needs to come to the surface to grab some air.

Anaconda's give birth to live young, around 24-35 at a time. The average size of one of these snake giants are 6.1m and 148.5kg. Anaconda babies are born 2 feet long. They can live 10-12 years in the wild and up to 30 years in captivity.

Female's measured 4.6m {adult}. The yellow Anaconda can be found in far south America. The green Anaconda is the species with the widest mass. This particular snake is a very avid swimmer.

Did you know? Anaconda's are slow on land but fast in water. Anaconda's eat amphibious animals like frogs, toads, fish, caiman, birds, and more. Anacondas hunt smaller prey and eat up to 40 pounds per day.

Anaconda's spend a lot of their time in the dark waters of their habitat, Anaconda's are from South America. Other Anaconda's are Did you know the snakes scales are made up of something called Keratin, which is the same thing that our fingernails are made of.

The world's largest snake has been discovered in the Amazon jungle and it measured in at a whopping 17 feet long.

Anacondas can very mysterious, look out when you go to South America!

By Summer Hoani



AHIPARA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NGA KORERO O TE KURA O AHIPARA



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Thursday 26th May, 2016

Number 15

Dear Parents/Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoa

1) Board of Trustee Results

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank all the nominees for coming forward to support our school. This is a true indication of the support we have from our community and I would like to thank everyone who put their name forward. It does take a village to raise a child. It is very pleasing to see the level of support our school enjoys and we look forward to exciting future developments. Because the number of nominees received are equal to the places available I would like to congratulate our new Board of Trustees members.

Parent Reps are: Dion Masters, Amelia Marsh, Ken Mullarkey, Rowan Burt and Maureen Te Paa. The Staff Rep is June Matiu.

Our welcome aboard meeting takes place next Wednesday 1st June.

Farewells

I would also like to take this opportunity to genuinely acknowledge the work of our previous Board. I thank them all for their vision, experience and skills during their time on the Board. Their passion for putting children first is commendable. We all thank you for the mahi you have done for our tamariki and school during your time here. For those who have been re-elected we look forward to working with you again. Those board members who did not stand, we wish you well for the future and remember don't be a stranger.

2) Mid Year Reports

Teachers have started student assessments for mid year reports. These reports will be available during teacher, parent and student conferences, which will take place on **Wednesday 6th July.**

School will be closed for normal instruction on that day!

We will keep you posted in the upcoming weeks. We will also be using this conference as an opportunity to ask you about our curriculum.

3) Reading

Would you like 50 hours of one-to-one specialist reading tutoring for your child? If the answer is yes, then read to your child every night for just 10 minutes and that will equate to 50 hours a year. Here are some great reasons to read to your child.

- 1) Because reading to them will encourage them to be readers.
- 2) Because it will expand their vocabulary and encourage them to talk.
- 3) Because sharing books brings you closer together and builds for the future.

4) Because through books they will learn about the world around them.
 5) Because it can give them a head start.
 6) Because it gives you something to talk about with your child.
 Children of all ages love being read to. If you are finding it difficult to find reading material that is appropriate for your child's age, please discuss with your child's teacher about the great books that are available at school.
 Can you help? Do you pick up your child from school each day? Have you an extra 5-10 minutes so that you can arrive a little early. Maybe a spare hour here and there? If the answer is yes, then we would love to hear from you!!! Our junior teachers have identified some children that would benefit from being heard reading twice a day. Please see Mrs Barry or myself if you can help out.

4) PTA NEWS

Firstly I would like to sincerely thank the P.T.A for the incredible amount of work done in fundraising. Our tamariki have benefited hugely from this mahi and the efforts of the PTA have provided them with resources that range from senior playground, digital equipment and sporting equipment, even the school BBQ. These fundraising opportunities have enabled our kids to have fun experiences from class camps, disco's, to the Gala. Our PTA has a small band of very willing volunteers but unfortunately the support given to this group has not been strong, often PTA meetings have teachers outnumber parents. Those who do attend and volunteer are often left doing all the mahi! They say many hands make light work but often it is only a small band of hands. At our last meeting only a very few attended. Many people comment that they support the gala and fundraising by attending and spending money. As you will understand without a workforce we are unable to provide opportunities to spend money. At the meeting it was discussed that instead of attempting a large gala, we try something different this year, a twilight gala on a smaller scale, a trivial pursuit night and a few fun fundraisers aimed at children eg a walking rally, disco's, etc. We need your feedback. What do you think? Once again thank you to all those who have worked so hard to benefit our kids.

5) School Sports this Term

Kiwi Netball Tournament

On **Thursday 2nd June**, we have a Year 5 & 6 and a Year 7 & 8 team traveling to Kaitaia to compete in the annual 'Sports Northland Kiwi Netball' tournament.

On **Thursday 9th June**, we will have Year 1 & 2 team participating in a tournament for their year level.

Football Tournament

The Year 7 and 8 Football Tournament will be held at Arnold Rae on **Thursday 16th June**.

Rugby League Tournament

This takes place at Kaitaia College on **Wednesday 8th June**. Permission slips for all these events have been sent home and if you are able to help in anyway we would love to hear from you.

6) Students Arriving Late to School

Unfortunately we have a number of students who continually arrive late to school. When

students arrive late they often miss learning and it is generally the same curriculum area that they miss. The reasons given by some of the students frequently arriving late are: I slept in, I had to buy my lunch, I missed the bus. Please ensure that your child leaves the house in plenty of time to arrive at school before the bell at 8.45 a.m. We appreciate the parents/caregivers who phone in that their child will be late and giving a valid reason. Every time your child arrives late they are losing learning time and affecting the class learning. They need to be caught up with what is being learnt or they simply miss out, which of course effects their learning goals.

7) Books in Homes - Caught Being a Good Mum (a late Mothers Day draw)

The Caught Being a Good Mum award celebrates female caregivers, be they mums, step mums, aunts, grandmothers, etc. We encourage all pupils to nominate their special female person who will go in the draw to win a copy of 'My Heart is like a Singing Bird'. This will be drawn tomorrow, **Friday 27th May**.

Caught Being A Good Mum	
I nominate _____	because she _____
Person Nominating _____	Room _____

Kia Ora
 Jackie Osborne
 Tumuaki/Principal



**AHIPARA SCHOOL
STARS DISCO**

WHERE: TE RARAWA CLUBROOMS

WHEN : FRIDAY 17th JUNE

Year 1 - 4: 4.00 pm - 5:30 pm

Year 4 - 8: 5.30pm - 7:30 pm

There will be food, drinks and other exciting things for sale. Also prizes for best dressed, dancing competitions and more! Gold coin donation to enter. All Welcome!

We welcome all feedback and suggestions. What do you think about trying a number of smaller fundraising opportunities this year rather than a large gala?