



Room 10 did an investigation on the invisible world and we decided to look at the deep sea. We each chose a creature that interested us and then created an embroidery piece of it. Here are our creations we





AHIPARA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NGA KORERO O TE KURA O AHIPARA



Postal Address: P.O. Box 8, Ahipara, Northland - Email: ahipara.sch@xtra.co.nz
 Website: www.ahipara.school.nz - Phone: 09 4094702 - Fax: 094094714

Thursday 7th July, 2016
Number 21

Dear Parents/Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoua

1) Mid Year Reports

Thank you to all those parents who took time out of their busy schedule to meet with teachers in our three way conference. If you weren't able to meet we are happy to accommodate a time that suits you. Conferences are a great way to start talking to your child's teacher. As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When parents and teachers talk to each other, each person can share important information about your child's talents and needs. Each person can also learn something new about how to help your child. Parents and teachers have a complimentary role in relation to students' learning and students benefit when this partnership is focussed on learning. Timely, effective dialogue between home and school is crucial. Family and community involvement is an essential component of a successful school. Good relationships among schools, families, and communities help to maximize students' chances of success. The school's core business is children's learning. Help at home means how families encourage children's learning- any way, any time, any place, (not how they teach school subjects). It is the close co-operation between parents and teachers that ensures quality educational experiences for our students. Everyone has a role to play in educating children - as the old African proverb says - "It takes a village to raise a child." The school is responsible for students' learning, with specialist professional knowledge. The home is the constant factor and the primary influence in most children's lives, Both school and home are hugely influential, and so it is very important for teachers, parents, and students to work together, forging a common language and setting joint goals. Parents who know the importance of regular interaction with teachers and who expect to know what's going on at school, increase the likelihood of positive educational outcomes for their tamariki. Parents actively involved in the life of the school yield many positive benefits and rewards for families and schools alike. When parents are engaged, everyone benefits and our schools and their communities become increasingly rich and positive places to teach, learn and grow.

2) Survey

At yesterday's conferences, we asked a few questions about what we do well,

what we can improve and what next steps we could take. I have included another questionnaire sheet with this newsletter and every one returned by Friday !!!! Will go into the draw for a \$100.00 pak n save voucher.

3) End of Term

The last day for this term will be **Friday 8th July**. School will be closed for two weeks break and will recommence on **Monday 25th July**. Please keep an eye on our school when you are passing. We like that people use our facilities, as we see the school as a community resource but if any damage occurs it is at the cost of our students - the more we have to repair damage, the less we have to spend on equipment for our tamariki. Remember, keep your child / children reading over the holidays, as 15 minutes per day helps kids to maintain their reading levels over the break!

Kia Ora
Jackie Osborne
Tumuaki/Principal



As part of our consultation this year we will be again asking questions after your parent / student /teacher interview. This will be around our ICT vision. I thought it would be beneficial if I included these questions prior to giving out the survey. Every survey completed will go into a draw for a \$100.00 Pak n Sav voucher.

Ahipara School is developing a vision - focussed strategy document for Information Communication Technology for 2015 - 2017. Your comments are important in developing this document. Ahipara School believes if students are to thrive in the 21st century we need to equip them with the necessary DIGITAL skills and knowledge. Your input is valued

1. *The government wants children to leave school as capable and creative users of a range of information communication tools - cameras, computers, copiers, phones and the raft of multi- media apps. What do you think?*
2. *Are you aware that digital tools (Ipads, chrome books laptops etc) are only used when they are the best tool for the task; supporting learning, talking, creating and a range of other methods which are integral parts of school learning.*
3. *What do you see as some of the key skills your child/ren as digitally capable citizens should be developing in their time at Ahipara School.*
4. *Schools use many ways to give their students access to digital devices and they all have positives and negatives. Some of the ways are*
 - a. *the school purchases as many devices as they can afford which usually means a ratio of 1:4*
 - b. *the school allows children to bring their own digital devices*
 - c. *the school expects the digital device to be purchased as school equipment by parents*
 - d. *the school works with a trust to enable parents to hire purchase devices which belong to the student for a few dollars a week.*

Which do you prefer?
What are the positives of your preference?
What are the negatives?
5. *Do you think being able to see and comment on your child's work through an online portal such as Cabu or blogging is important?*
6. *When thinking about student learning and digital devices , is there anything else you would you like the school to consider in the strategic planning / vision document?*
7. *Cyber-safety and digital citizenship is incorporated into Ahipara Schools digital planning. Do you have any suggestions to further improve students' digital safety at Ahipara School*
8. *What do you see as some of the vital infrastructure needs in a modern school - learning Environment?*
9. *What excites you about digital devices in schools?*
10. *What are your key concerns about digital devices in schools?*