



Dear Parents/Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoa

1) 'Snapped Ya'

'Snapped Ya' is a PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) initiative. The PB4L focus for this week is 'Picking up Rubbish'. The recipients are **Kyah Reed, Waimitikia Perene, Miller Wild, Conrad Matthews, Tyrin McMahon-Going, Eva Smith, Rhylyn Graham, Mana Peterson and Layla Thirkettle.**



2) Kiwi Netball Tournament

Yesterday we had a Year 1 & 2 team and a Year 3 & 4 team participate in the netball tournament. Unfortunately the rain persisted and they returned to school early. Our Year 5 & 6 netball team participated today and so far the rain has not dampened their spirits. Next **Thursday 8th June**, our Year 7 - 8 netball teams will have their turn. A huge thank you to both our staff members and those parents who helped and supported these teams.



Our Year 1 & 2 Team

3) Piupiu Classes



Piupiu classes are held every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 3pm. All are welcome to come and join in on these fun classes. Even if you have no idea what you're doing, you'll soon master the skills of piupiu making. We are making some awesome progress. Check out our photos.

4) Uniforms

We are starting to accumulate a rather large amount of un-named uniform articles. (Some which are brand new!) Please ensure your child's uniform is named and also that what they wear home belongs to them.

5) Mid Year Reports and Three Way Conferences

At Ahipara School, we focus on learning and we constantly have conversations

with children about what they are learning, why they are learning it and what their next steps are. Part of this process includes feedback from teachers, peers and parents and the research suggests that the way in which this feedback is given, will contribute to how well learners move forward with their learning. As many of you will know, it is not only a time of celebration, but a time when your child can share their learning with you. This opportunity to share makes a real difference to the child's learning progress. There will be more information over the next few weeks on these Conferences and booking slips will be sent home closer to the date. These conferences will take place on **Thursday 6th July** and interview times will start at 8:00am and will finish at 6:00pm. During this time our teaching staff will not be available for normal teaching duties, so alternative arrangements will need to be made for your children when not in conference.

6) Public Health Nurse

The Public Health Nurse attends our school every Wednesday. If you would like a private consultation with our Public Health Nurse please telephone the school and we will endeavour to arrange this for you. This service is free.

7) Head Lice or Nits

Our School Procedure

- 1 When teachers become aware, they make a referral to the Moko team
- 2 The newsletter will periodically advise parents to check their children, obtain lotion/combs from their chemist, some supplies available at school (via Kids Can).
- 3 There is no publication identification of the carrier.
- 4 Teachers should discourage their children from sharing combs, brushes, hats or towels. Hair care can be part of our health scheme.
- 5 Where a consistent problem is occurring, refer to the Public Health Nurse.

8) PTA News

Breakfast Club - We still need more volunteers to continue to provide this service for our tamariki from 8 - 845am. The older students help, but we need an adult to supervise.

Matariki Disco - 23 June 2017. More helpers are needed for this .

Go to the PTA FaceBook page for more information about PTA events.

9) Queens Birthday

A reminder that it is Queens Birthday on Monday 5th June and that school, will be closed. We will open at the usual time on Tuesday 6th June.

Kia Ora,
Jackie Osborne
Tumuaki/Principal

Maths expert and parent, Professor Janette Bobis gives her top tips on how young kids can become confident in maths.

Have a positive attitude towards maths

"Many parents are scared of maths or think they just can't do it, but it's the worst thing you can tell your child," says Janette. "Parents are just so crucial as role models," she says. "When parents tell their children that they themselves can't do it, it means they're communicating messages that it's OK not to be good at maths."

Talk to your child about maths in everyday life

"We go about our everyday lives totally unaware of the maths we're using for so many tasks," Janette says. Talking to children about how maths is important in their everyday life makes it relevant and real.

Play games to show you're interested in maths

Playing games that involve cards or dice provides valuable opportunities to show that maths matters and helps them to become better mathematicians, Janette says. Ask your child to tell you the number of dots on a die each time they throw one during a board game. Eventually they will be able to do this without having to count them. These kinds of activities form the basis of working out number problems in their head.

Ask your child to explain how they work things out

When your child works out a maths problem, such as adding the total when two dice have been rolled, ask them how they did it. "What we've found through years of research is that even young children have quite sophisticated thinking strategies for solving maths problems. We need to communicate to them that their ways of thinking are just as important as finding out the answer," Janette says "When you ask your child, 'How did you get that?' they may at first say, 'I don't know', but if they realise there is an expectation that they will need to explain the way they do maths, they will start thinking about it. The more they think about how they did something, the more it might make sense to them – it really contributes to that meaning-making process."

Look at patterns with your child

Asking your child to identify patterns – whether it's a pattern in a sequence of numbers, the beads in a necklace or the way bricks are arranged in a pathway – is helpful because through patterns, children identify structure. "When we get to more advanced levels of maths such as algebra, it's all about identifying and dealing with patterns, so if we can get children at a very young age to start looking at them, no matter how simple they are, they're developing a mindset that they are important," Janette says.

Group toys and objects

When children group things together, such as toys or blocks, they're actually identifying properties of things or looking for characteristics that are similar or different.

"Later on children will be asked to find the characteristics of different types of shapes – say, triangles. At a much simpler level, being able to classify or group objects according to obvious characteristics will develop those foundational skills," Janette says.

Get your child to work things out in their head

Kids are encouraged to work things out in their mind in the early years of school rather than using pen and pencil to work out number problems, because it leads to a deeper understanding of the maths involved. "That deeper understanding builds confidence, and makes it easier to solve more difficult problems because they understand the fundamentals," Janette says. "Maths is about building upon foundations. The more complex maths kids learn later on is made easier if they've got solid foundations in those early years. That's why it's so crucial for children in the younger grades to understand those foundational concepts of maths.