

# Room One Writing

My watermelon is so big. No one needs to help me pull it out because the teleporter will lift it.

By Olly

The big half watermelon turned into a head.

By Sundown

I teleported and I got a big watermelon and I got it and I ate it.

By Keoni

The watermelon is big and my watermelon tastes nice. I felt happy.

By Dee

Me and my dog are pulling my big watermelon and it came out. I ate it.

By Milly

The mouse will help me carry the watermelon.

By Magic



## The Enormous Watermelon



retold by Brenda Parkes and Judith Smith  
illustrated by Mary Davy

I am a big watermelon and a little watermelon. The watermelon is going up in the sky.

By Mahinarangi

The fish pulled out the big watermelon and we ate the watermelon.

By Matteo

I had a big watermelon and Mouse helped me pull out the watermelon. We ate it.

By Kristyna

My mum and dad will help me carry the watermelon.

By Taina

The wife and the man are getting the watermelon. It is enormous!

By Milan

The watermelon is big.

By Nirvana



## AHIPARA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### NGA KORERO O TE KURA O AHIPARA



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Wednesday 5th July, 2017

Number 21

Dear Parents/Caregivers, Tena Koutou Katoa

### 1) Mid Year Reports

As mentioned in the last few newsletters, we will be holding our annual **Pupil/Parent/Teacher Report Interviews tomorrow, Thursday 6th July**. Interview times will start from 8:00am and will finish at 6:00pm. **PARENTS WILL NEED TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE DAY** as our teaching staff will not be available for normal classroom duties. I would also like to state that you will only receive your child's report at the actual interview. The main reason for this is so that we can have the opportunity to explain your child's report in depth with you and your child. We strongly recommend that you bring your child to the interview as they are the main stakeholder in the partnership that can ultimately effect positive change to their achievement levels. Students will also be taking an active role in this process and will be reporting on their progress. All pupils have been given an interview time sheet which needs to be returned, to allocate a time for your interview. If you did not receive one of these, please contact the school office to request a time. If you are unable to attend on this day don't hesitate to contact your classroom teacher to make alternative arrangements.

### CONFIRMATION OF YOUR INTERVIEW TIMES WERE SENT HOME ON MONDAY

We are aiming for **100%** of our students sharing and celebrating their progress with their parents. As part of our community consultation, at the finish of your interview we will be asking a couple of questions about homework. This will assist us with reviewing our programmes.

### 2) Reading Together

The **'Reading Together'** Programme is a research-based workshop programme for teachers, parents and children. It helps parents to support their children's reading at home more effectively. The programme, has been successfully implemented by teachers throughout New Zealand. The **'Reading Together'** Programme comprises 4 workshops over 7 weeks, with each workshop lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. The programme has been shown to raise children's reading achievement and to improve relationships between children and parents and

between parents and teachers. We will be facilitating this next term with approximately 15 families.

### **3) Uniforms**

We have a collection of uniform clothing that has been handed into the school office. If your child has lost any uniform item, please come in and check. We can't over emphasise the importance of ensuring that all clothing is clearly named so we can return lost items to the correct owners. Please ensure your child comes to school in correct uniform. A reminder that our winter uniform of a polar fleece and a jacket are available for purchase at The Warehouse and DD Gold. If your child wears long sleeved clothing under their polo shirts could you please ensure that they are school colours. If children are wearing **plain BLACK** sweatshirts cardigan, jerseys, etc they will not be asked to remove them.

### **4) Playground Update**

As you may be aware the PTA are currently fundraising for a new exciting junior playground. The removal of the current playground and water tank at the back of the school will start to take place this break. Please **ENSURE YOUR WHANAU STAYS AWAY FROM THIS AREA AS IT WILL BE A CONSTRUCTION AREA**. Thank you .

### **5) Wacky Hair/Mufti Day**

Last Friday we had a Wacky Hair/Mufti Day with all proceeds going to the SPCA. We raised \$245.00. A big thank you to the student council for organising this event.



### **6) Teacher Change in Term 3**

As you may be aware Mrs Jessica O'Dea is currently on maternity leave and is due to return to Room 9 next term. Her young family is not quite ready to have her working full time so she will be returning for 3 days a week and will be team teaching with Dr Angela Nunn who will be working the other two days. Both of these teachers are excellent educators and are very excited about the learning for these tamariki. Miss Margie Donald's contract ends with us this term and Margie has now chosen to work on a more casual basis. As a staff and school we will miss her enthusiasm and dedication especially those children who are in Room 9. I would sincerely like to thank her for her mahi and look forward to working with her in a relieving capacity. I'm sure she will still be in school quite a bit!!

### **7) Homework**

There's a lot of debate about the value of homework, especially for primary school aged children. Some studies suggest that homework is not very useful for this age group, or has only a small benefit. However, it's generally agreed that reading at home is very beneficial and it's expected that your child will bring home books to read to you as a junior and to independently read as they become more proficient. Our school also encourages you to work with your child on basic maths facts or spelling

tasks. Homework is part of our school policy, and research suggests this should be short and frequent and closely monitored by the teacher for the most impact. Your child's teacher should be providing feedback to your child for it to be beneficial. Studies have also found interactive homework set by teachers and involving parents has a very positive effect, for example, using maths fractions when preparing food. Teachers set homework for different reasons so it can be helpful to know why so that you can support that at home. You may want to ask the teacher is the purpose to:

- practise skills like maths and spelling
- fix new learning in your child's memory
- check how successful the classroom teaching has been and where your child needs some help
- to help students apply what they have learned to new situations or contexts
- to encourage you to get involved in your child's learning.

At the end of Thursdays interviews we will be asking you questions about homework and I have included theses to give you some time to think about them beforehand.

**Do you think that homework is important and that it should be a school requirement?**

**What kind of homework do you think is important for your child?**

**Do you think the homework that your child receives is too much, too little or is about right? How do you think it is benefiting your child?**

**Do you have any ideas to improve the homework at our school?**

**We will also have some survey sheets available for you whilst waiting for your interview-these one come with a chance of a prize, please fill them in and either give to your teacher or drop into the office to go into the draw.**

Kia Ora  
Jackie Osborne  
Tumuaki/Principal