

Friday 30th June 2017

Dear Parents,

You may have noticed a few gaps in the newsletter this term and that is because I have had a health challenge which I am recovering from. I would like to thank everyone who has offered me their best wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery and I am well on the mend now. I would particularly like to thank Ms Peyroux and our Senior management team who ran our school in my absence.



Matariki Celebrations

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. It



risers in mid-winter - now. For many Māori, it heralds the start of a New Year and we held a Collegiate assembly in the Senior Gym on Monday celebrating its beginning. This week our tamariki are all involved in a range of fun activities and games to mark the occasion. This time of the year is also when many Māori lift their kumara beds and our keen gardeners hauled in a bumper crop this year.

Kumara is an amazing health food and stores well for long periods of time which was one of the reasons it was so prized by Maori.



"Sweet potatoes are high in vitamin A, vitamin B5, B6, thiamin, niacin, riboflavin, and, due to their orange color, are high in carotenoids," said San Diego-based nutritionist Laura Flores. Plus, they're fat-free, relatively low in sodium and have fewer calories than white potatoes — although they do have more sugar.

Health and Wellbeing: Rugby League

In Week 7 the Otago Schools Cluster held their annual Rugby League competition. Our Junior School fielded an Open Grade, Under 45 kg boys, and Girls team. Our players fought hard in the cold, wet weather. The competition from other schools was excellent, with each team battling hard for their final placing.



Results

The final results were as follows:

Open Grade boys: 7th place,

Under 45 kg boys: 2nd

Girls: 1st.

Well done to all the students who participated in the tournament. Thank you to all who assisted as coaches and parent supporters.

Samoa Speech competitions

I can hardly believe it but for the fourth year in a row our Junior School came top in the Auckland finals and four of our pupils will be taking part in the national competitions which will be held in Christchurch early in August. Wow!



Results

Year 5

Cecilia Alapae-Satui, Rm18, 2nd Place

Carmen Matautu Tetele, Rm18, 5th Place

Year 6

Nevaihia Leuamuli, Rm 9, 2nd Place

Agnes Taefu Rm9, 3rd Place

Our congratulations to all our pupils who took part and gave this a go and to our finalists. A big thank you to our teachers who did an amazing job preparing our pupils for the competition. Faafetai.

Health and Safety: Lock Down drill

Contact details update

On Tuesday we had a lock down drill where we secure all the buildings and keeps all our tamariki safe inside. We are required to hold these drills by the Ministry Of Education as part of health and safety planning. The drill went extremely well, with smooth, calm implementation which relaxed and reassured

our pupils. Some of our little tamariki were so relaxed that they fell asleep and we had to wake them at the end. If we had a real lock down we ask that you do not come into school or phone in as we may not be able to respond and your presence could hamper emergency services. We will let you know what is happening through postings on our School website and we are looking at setting up broadcast text messaging. For texting to work however we need your help in keeping us informed of any new cell phone numbers you may have. Your help with this is appreciated.

Junior Award

The hardest working pupils this week are: Nevaiahia Leuamuli and Agnes Taefu both in Room 9 for showing huge improvements in results for their Term 2 assessments.

End of term dates

Term 2 will be finishing on Friday 7th July at 2.45pm.

School will recommence for Term 3 on Monday 24th July at 8.45am.

I hope you enjoy the break and you can read stories, play games and enjoy being with your child/ren. Research states that the brain learns heaps through play: decision making, social behaviour, and personality expression. So do get out and play with your child. They are only little once and spending time with your child is precious.

Yours truly,

John Shearer
Principal