



Wednesday 22 February 2017

Dear Parents/Whanau

Welcome

To all our new pupils & families, a warm welcome. I look forward to meeting you all in the weeks ahead. I asked some of our youngest pupils why did they come to school and it is always delightful to hear their thinking.

'I came to learn to write. My best part of the day is jolly phonics. They make silly sounds. I want to be a fireman.

I want to be a doctor. My best part of the day is playing and cutting up with the scissors.

I like playing with the toys. (Anything else?) No just the toys.'

Community Consultation

Each year the Junior School sets targets and in 2016 the Junior School achieved the following attendance:

“Every day counts!”

2016 Collegiate Goal: Māori students' attendance rate will accelerate to 90% or better by the end of the 2016.



We aimed to improve pupil attendance rates to 90% and in partnership with parents we had better information about children being away sick etc and in the Junior School we achieved an overall attendance rate of 89.4% for our Maori tamariki. Our Collegiate Māori attendance rates continue to be higher than 2015 National Māori rates of 56.7%

Attendance for all students was 90%. This is an excellent result

How you can help your child succeed

There is an expression that goes 'Being there counts' and this reminds us that coming to school every day is important because it matters to your child's achievements and the type of life they will have.

Research backs this up; an attendance rate of at least 95% will help our children achieve qualifications at NCEA Level II. NCEA level II is considered as the minimum qualification your child needs to enter further studies at Polytechnics and heading into the workforce successfully.

Research also states that attendance habits start when children are young and that this will continue into intermediate and secondary school. So what they get used to doing now is how they will continue. I know you want your child to succeed, so give them a kiss and send them to school every day.

From the Ministry of Education point of view here are some of the reasons your child can be away

Justified reasons for being away:

- Medical with doctor's certificate
• Tangi/ funeral

When away please remember to:

- Talk to your child's teacher and provide a reason e.g. Medical certificate

From the Ministry point of view the reasons below are not good enough for your child to miss school

Unjustified reasons for being away:

- Raining or cold
• No lunch
• Uniform is dirty or wet
• Slept in

Bed times

If you asked most children if they want to go to bed the answer would probably be 'No!' However for growing bodies a good night's sleep is essential. It is always your call but as a rough guide:

- 5-6 years old- 7-7.30pm
• 7-8 years old – 7.30-8pm
• 9-10 years old- 8-8.30pm



Often a child that stays up late comes to school tired and can't learn.

What happens when no reasons are given?

1. Phone calls and contact from our school office and classroom teachers.
2. Serious attendance concerns will result in meetings with Classroom Teacher, Senior Management and Principal. In extreme cases if the child is continuously away we are required to refer the child and family to a Truancy Agency and there will be home visits. Remember it is a legal requirement that all children attend school between the ages of 5yrs - 16yrs.

To support regular attendance and achievement in the Junior School we have:

- Free breakfast every day before school starts
• Free fruit and milk everyday
• Free lunches for students without lunch everyday e.g. sandwiches
• We supply free raincoats and shoes
• We supply free stationery for those without.

We want to help and we are trying to support families in hard times and I do think it's getting harder to raise a family in New Zealand than it

used to be. If you need help just ask and we promise we will keep everything confidential. Your child's education is a partnership between home and school and we want your child here. They will only achieve if they are here to learn. Being here counts.

Health and Wellbeing: Cricket

Well we may not be in the Black Caps yet but our pupils are certainly aiming to be there in the near future. Our first sport of the 2017 year is Cricket and that is scheduled for Wednesday 8 March at Kolmar Recreation Centre, Papatoetoe. Permission slips will be sent home shortly and I hope you are able to come along and support your son or daughter.



Junior Award

The hardest working pupils this week are: Ngatuakana Turua and Tuakana Strickland, both from Room 3. Both boys attend school daily with great attitudes and always try their best. Great start to school. Well done!

Yours truly,

John Shearer
Principal

Return Slip (Return this slip and go in the draw for a book prize!)
I have received the newsletter & I have read it.



Signed.....