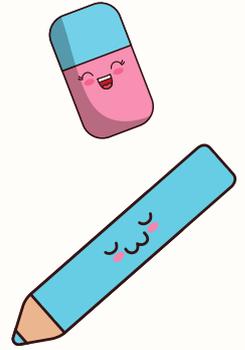




Whareama School Newsletter

www.whareama.school.nz
Newsletter No. 2
20th February, 2023
Term 1, Week 4



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Very hard how to start this newsletter off this week but what an eventful past week and which will remain in our memories with years to come. There is plenty of work ahead for rebuilding infrastructure and lives and our heartfelt condolences go out to our Coasties whānau at Tinui and Castlepoint and the devastation that Gabrielle unleashed on them. I have been in email contact with Simon and our Ministry of Education senior advisor and have offered the opportunity to use our classroom spaces, school vans and school resources as they see fit. Feedback has been that the community would prefer to keep things as normal for their children and they will be moving into the playgroup at Tinui and if they need to take us up on any of our offers they will be in touch. Thanks so much for all the support the community has given to Tinui, but I will not name people as I am worried I will miss someone! Heather has relayed how much your support has been appreciated by everyone in Tinui and how grateful they are.

The other thing that has been playing on my mind is my upcoming changes and the end of my time with Whareama School after what will be 11 years. It was a hard decision to make but Whareama has set me up with the confidence to lead a larger organisation so I will be starting as Chief Executive of REAP Wairarapa from the 24th of April. I wanted to ensure I completed the term here and to ensure I can support the new Principal into their new role seamlessly and REAP Wairarapa have been outstanding at ensuring they have supported myself and the school to do this. We have an amazing Board of Trustees at Whareama School and I have the upmost confidence they will find an exceptional person to bring their new flair and leadership to our amazing school. They have educational expertise with Mary Jones (my appraiser from 2022) and this is a great opportunity for someone to come in and lead an amazing team of educators, a supportive community with the best kids in the world. Abi will be keeping up all updated with progress of this process as it happens and she has been nothing but professional and supportive in her leadership of this process so far.

We do have 7 weeks to go and I look forward to making the most of that time and ensuring our kids get the best deal while I am here. Have a great week and while there have been a few events cancelled, thanks to Gabrielle, I look forward to seeing you all out and about soon.

Ki-o-Rahi

Sadly due to current infrastructure, and the fact that NZEI (our Union) has put a paid teachers meeting on the 3rd of March, means we have had limited entries and have cancelled the event for 2023. The team who comes with all the equipment and umpires for our day are fully booked up for Term 1 and I didn't feel it was fair for me to change the event to later in the year if I was not here to run it as we are the host school. I hope this event can go ahead in 2023 and I am happy to support the school to get this event back up and going again then.

Green Woodworking

While we did not get all the days in we wanted the kids who had a go at this absolutely loved it. Some of the skills and products that were made will be awesome for school and hopefully we can arrange the team to come out again at a later date so that everyone can have a go. Thanks Whaea Di for organising this opportunity and for opening up the hall on Thursday for kids from Riversdale/Homewood to come and have a go. Also a huge thanks to Bruce, Eric and Annette for their expertise and all the parents who offered to come along and help.



LUNCH ORDER DAYS

We are having store lunch orders this week. Please have all orders into the school office by Thursday.

Design Technology

This is underway for 2023 and now with the Wings Over Wairarapa and Ki-o-rahi event not going ahead on the set dates it means all Year 7/8 kids can attend Design Tech as planned.

Dates - Term 1

Upcoming Events:

Thurs 2nd March - Rural Cluster Swimming Sports
Weds 8th March - Masterton Swim Champs (qualifiers)
Weds 22nd March - Wairarapa Swim Champs (qualifiers)
Thurs 6th April - TEACHER ONLY DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
Fri 7th April - GOOD FRIDAY TERM 1 ENDS

Wings Over Wairarapa

Unfortunately the board that organises Wings Over Wairarapa have had made the tough decision to postpone the event this coming week. There will be a new date set next weekend.

COMMUNICATION

Teachers

Please remember if you need to get hold of your classroom teacher that they are working with your kids between 8.30 - 3pm. Please contact them for catch ups outside this time. If you need a meeting then phone the school to arrange this with your teacher.

Principal

If you do not feel that your concern has been addressed please contact the Principal to have a discussion or meeting. These can be scheduled during the day if I am free.

Board of Trustees

If you do not feel that your concerns with the Principal has been addressed your next step is to get hold of the Board of Trustees - if the concern is in regards to school policy. Please go to our School Docs website for all the school policies and procedures.

Speaking with Us

Please ensure your conversations are in a fair and polite manner where everyone's dignity and feelings are kept in consideration. Please use this guide to help you through the communication process with us.

 Wellington Region Emergency Management Office  18h · 

Kia ora koutou Wellington Region,

It is normal to be feeling stressed, anxious or uncertain about what the coming days and weeks will bring. You are not alone.

Here are some places you can go to get support:

- For help with anxiety, distress, or mental wellbeing call/text "Need to Talk" on 1737 to speak to a trained counsellor for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Call Rural Support Trust on 0800 787 254 to talk to someone who understands the pressures of rural life.
- Follow @Mental Health Foundation NZ for some ways to take care of yourself and those around you

Here are some ideas for ways you can take care of yourself during this time:

- 📵 Take a break from social media/the news
- ☎️ Call a friend
- 😊 Take notice of the good things around you
- 😴 Get a good night's sleep

Take care of yourselves, and each other.
WREMO Team



2023 SCHOOL BUSES

We have been given assurance by Alec Birch from the Masterton District Council that our roads will be safe to travel on so we are going with that advice. Our bus drivers have been given the message to be wary and more vigilant than normal to ensure we all get to and from school safely. As a friendly reminder please remember if there are any changes to what bus you would like your child on please give us at least 24 hours' notice. There are minimal spaces available on buses at certain times but please ask and we will help where we possibly can. The town bus now has two pick up and drop off points in town and these are Henley Lake and the Colombo Road Alleyway. The phone number contacts for the bus drivers are Kathryn 021440287 for the town bus, Deb 0274448077 for the Homewood bus and 0224247013 for Matthew driving the ICA/Blairlogie bus. If your child is not on their bus for any reason please let your bus driver know as soon as possible.