



NEWSLETTER

14th February 2017
Term one, week three

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you so much to those parents who were able to attend the parent meeting last Thursday. We talked a lot about the feedback from the principal's appraisal and changes made to reporting this year based on that feedback. It was suggested that I send the agenda from that meeting out so that everybody has the same information so please find this attached.

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS:

Congratulations to **Mikaera Tamatea** and **Putu Reedy** who received our **VALUES** certificates for **RESPECT** this week. Mikaera stood out because of the respect he shows towards others in and out of the classroom and Putu received his award for always showing respect for others by being so helpful and supportive.

SCHOOL VALUE: the value at the heart of our learning community for the next two weeks is **RESILIENCE**. "It's not how hard you fall, it's how hard you want to get up!"

CONGRATULATIONS also to **Tori Cheetham** who received a classroom award for showing so much confidence in her learning this year. **Tess Worsnop** received a classroom certificate for her terrific technology thinking.

SCHOOL NEWS:

We have our first **minus 5 Monday** today. A day to have a great lunch minus the sugar. It will be interesting to see what's inside those lunch boxes as people were very creative when we promoted 'eat your colours' a few years ago. The spot prizes we received from the promoters for this week were \$10 vouchers for Katmandu. Go to <http://www.minus5.co.nz/monday/February2017> for this month's 3 inspirational lunch box ideas. And, stay tuned for more Minus 5 Monday's and more great lunch ideas every month. We may need to review the day we run this programme as our year 7 and 8 learners will be away at manual. I will talk to them about it this coming week and make a decision then.

EOTC NEWS:

Please find attached to this newsletter a permission slip for our **Beach Education day** this **Friday 17th February**. For all water activities we require a 1:5 ratio of parent and teacher helpers so it would be great if you could come along and share in the fun. The adults will have to go in the water, at least up to waist depth. It will go ahead even if it is wet, as they can normally get out on to the beach even in bad weather and they also have lots of indoor activities. Please make sure everyone has warm clothing, a wetsuit (if they have one), sun protection, plenty of food and drinks. We will be leaving school as soon as both buses arrive in so hope to be there by 9.30. We will be finishing at 2pm so that we can be back in time for the normal bus runs.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS:

The first Board meeting for the year is this **Tuesday 14th February** at 6.30pm. All welcome.

We have our first **working bee for this year on Friday at 3pm with a BBQ** to follow as was suggested by parents during BOT consultation.

Jobs include: Tidying the P E shed, tidying the lawn mower shed, cutting down and removing trees, cutting and removing the branch by the obstacle course, spreading new bark on playground areas, cleaning out the pool changing sheds, tidy the native area ready for planting etc. etc.

Tools required: chainsaws (and safety gear), wheel barrows, shovels, rakes.

Remember your BBQ bits and pieces!

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM:

As the majority of you will be aware we are developing the paddock beside the school to be used as an outdoor learning space. The aim of the outdoor classroom is to offer our learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment with trees. We want to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through an innovative, long term, educational approach to outdoor play and learning in our outdoor environment.

Last year the children decided what it was they wanted – a native area, a bridge for access, an edible forest, medicinal garden, sound garden, bike track, observation deck and seating area and piles of wood and bits for making huts. The children applied for a grant by making a video of their ideas. We were unsuccessful but are currently waiting to hear back from another grant application which we are hoping will build the bridge and lookout area as well as provide trees for the native area as this is the first space we will be developing. Even if we don't get the grant this venture will go ahead, it might just take us a little longer.

Over the holidays some earthworks were completed in preparation for the bridge and the native area fenced off. Our technology programme for the year is based on designing and making areas of interest using recycled and reused materials. The children will begin creating the bike track next week while they have their bikes at school practicing for the Rural School's triathlon.

We have had a tree expert come and she has provided us with a list of trees that would grow well in our space. The Woman's Native Nursery has offered to donate some native plants and trees. We also are lucky enough to have Pru Roberts as part of the team. She has been helping with the planning and will also support us with the maintenance of the trees going forward.

A number of parents have already expressed interest in supporting this project and the idea of a 'working group' has been put forward to organise the planting day, maintain the plants/trees and assist the school when required to create and build. Pru Roberts would be part of this and lead the planting side of things. The keen gardeners could meet regularly to water, weed etc. then have a cuppa afterwards. Anna Roberts will co-ordinate this and liaise between the school and the group. **If you are keen to be involved please talk to Anna Roberts 8670891.**

BUSES: Your drivers this week are Wharekopae- Paula Reedy, phone 8673585

Taumata – Kay Twigley, phone 8670866

COMMUNITY NEWS:

MUSTER - The Eastland Vets Ngatapa Junior Muster/Fun Day is set for the 11th March at the clubrooms at 10am. Please come along and register your child/ren for a winter season of sport. Registrations can be made for rugby, netball and soccer. All kids registered will receive a new Ngatapa cap. We are always keen to welcome new families to the club so please tell your family and friends about it. If you would like more information about this please email me and I will send the full email to you.

The Mind Lab Gisborne are launching a Term 1 After School Explorers programme giving kids the freedom to tackle creative challenges across the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics spectrums. Explorers will actively test out new concepts, collaborate and help contribute to tech development. Get in quick - this programme will run for 8 weeks only (Thursdays 3:30pm - 5pm), kicking off Thursday 16 February.

Spaces are limited! Total price for all eight weeks is \$135.00.

Have a great week.

Regards,



Katrina Dekker
Principal