



Monday 7 August 2023

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

I hope this newsletter finds you warm and well. Thankfully most of the illness that has been plaguing everyone seems to have dropped off. Although, these exceedingly chilly days don't offer much motivation to get up and move in the mornings. We can definitely be grateful that there is more sun than rain at the moment that's for sure!

We have had a busy start to the Term, and are carrying on in that vein. Last week saw our senior classes undertaking the **Catchit** sessions run by **The Forest Bridge Trust**. This is a great initiative that introduces students to the environment around them and how best to nurture and protect it from pests. We run this programme each year. It has interesting and interactive activities that encourage engagement and follow through at home as well.

I am pleased to advise that the **school hall** is back up and running for the most part. We are still awaiting a final sign off, which means we have limited use at the moment, however I am hoping that we will very shortly be able to run our school assemblies as normal on a Friday. It will be fantastic to be able to welcome our parents back to join us for these. Thank you for your patience during the renovations. We do appreciate how disruptive this project has been so far and continues to be.

Some of our students attended the **Inter School Hockey** tournament last week held at the Warkworth showgrounds. All the teams played really well with heaps of fun had by all. It was wonderful to see so many students that don't normally play Hockey giving it a go. Thank you to Ms Clarkson and Mrs Hallett for organising and coordinating the teams on the day.

On Wednesday we hosted our annual **Grandparents Day**. I have it on good authority that everyone that attended had a wonderful time. Our Grandparents were treated to tea and scones in the hall while they watched presentations by our Kapa Haka, Glee Club and School Councillors. It was so good to have grandparents visiting the classrooms to see their grandchildren's work and to experience their learning environment. Thank you to Mrs Katie Clay for coordinating the day and for creating the wonderful slideshow of photos. Also special thanks to the PTA for providing the yummy morning tea and to our school Councillors that helped run the event, they did an excellent job.

Thank you to everyone that attended the "**Hat's off to reading**" **Scholastic Book Fair** that was running all of last week. We run this fair once a year, and a percentage of the sales come back to the school to purchase books for our Info Centre. We are very grateful to all those that came along and made a purchase during the week. After all, you can never have too many books! Huge thanks to Kim Scott and Wendy Chittenden for their coordination and organisation of the event.

As a part of the Book Fair, our **Info Centre Techs** ran a colouring competition and a hat making contest, where all the hats had to be made from recycled materials. There were some very impressive and well thought out entries. The winners from each class got to choose a book from the Fair to take home, and all the hat makers got to show off their creations at assembly on Friday. Well

done to everyone that put in an entry.

Our **School Cross Country** event is scheduled for tomorrow. We are crossing all our fingers that the rain stays away. Students have been running on the track during their PE lessons to get prepared for the day. We would love to see you there to support the children. It may be a bit messier than usual and space is a bit limited by all the construction activity and fencing but we are looking forward to a great event. The run times are available on the school APP under the "What's on" alert. Please remember to sign your child out with the teachers on the courts if you take them home with you earlier than the end of day bell.

As part of our school's curriculum planning we are required to undertake surveys from time to time. You will receive a link to the **Parent Survey** via email this afternoon. I would really appreciate you taking the time to fill this out as your feedback is important to us for future planning. These need to be completed by Friday 18th August please.

Unfortunately our school is not immune to the teacher shortages in our country and more specifically the Auckland area. We are really finding it challenging to find and keep relievers in our books. We are unsure when this shortage will be over. Please be assured we are doing our very best to ensure there are teachers available in each class on a daily basis.

As we approach the middle of the term, I encourage you to keep up to date with all the happenings going on at school via the School APP, or the calendar on the Facebook page. It would be a shame to miss out on all the fun learning things that your children get up to.

Stay warm and happy.

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darrel Goosen', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Darrel Goosen