**Te Kura o Te Awahou**

**Newsletter Term 4 Week 4**

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**Tena Koutou e te Whanau**

Hopefully this Newsletter finds you fit and well. November already and only one Month until the end of Spring. The weather over Spring has been variable with late snow down South, flooding in other places, and a typical mix of the good with the bad elsewhere. However after the dark and cold days of Winter, Spring is always keenly awaited. The sight of blossoms on the trees, flowers blooming, and lambs and calves running around enjoying life, is always uplifting, and signals a time of hope and regrowth. As an aside it always amazes me the number of cuts of hay they get each year off the paddocks along the beach road!!!!

This is an extremely busy term, with a number of major events scheduled. On Tuesday the Year 0-3 Tamariki are travelling to Shannon for the Annual Kere Kere Tabloids.On Friday we are holding our School Athletics Championships in readiness for the Interschool Event the following week at Coley Street School.

We live in a time of rapid, and in some cases monumental, change. As an educator, parent, and now grandparent, I spend a fair amount of time reflecting on the impact of this change on the lives of our young people. Growing up in the mid-20th Century, life was very different. It was a more naive age, and we didn't face the challenges young people now face growing up in this dynamic, technologically advanced, and media driven age.

In my day we were obviously very easily pleased - our recreational options were virtually on our back doorstep. We played lots of sport, we made huts, we swam, we went fishing, we climbed hills, and we biked, walked, or ran everywhere. We lived by a simple code – "behave and be home in time for tea". Life was more relaxed, and our childhood was to be savoured.

Nowadays it seems our youth are in a crazy mad rush to grow up, and experiment with the more adult/grown up aspects of life.

I write this as an Educator because of concerns, and frustrations, that arise occasionally regarding the choices young people make, the risks they take, and the compromising situations they place themselves in. Foxton School obviously caters for Primary Children (Year 1-8), but my experience as Principal of two Area (Year 0-13) Schools has been enlightening. Children as young as 13 and 14 (some even younger) going to parties, drinking, smoking, involved in relationships etc, is unfortunately common. In a sense they seem to be bypassing their childhood, and the opportunity to enjoy growing up free of the encumbrances and responsibilities of adulthood.

For many this is a huge challenge as they are simply not mentally, or developmentally, equipped to deal with the emotional turmoil and baggage this can bring.

The journey from childhood to adulthood was previously a gradual and (sometimes) painstaking process, and as part of this young people would experiment, take risks, and make mistakes - we all did. However it seems that this generation is in such a rush, they miss some of the important checks and balances that naturalise the process.

As adults we can choose to ignore this, or we can accept responsibility as parents, monitor where our kids are going, who they are associating with, and crucially what they are doing (including in the online environment). It is our duty to keep them safe at all times. By ignoring some of the things that are going on before our very eyes, we are abdicating this responsibility.

Children surely deserve the one opportunity they get to be just kids.

Nga mihi nui

Richard McMillan (Acting Principal)

**Thought of the Week**

**Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa**

*Let us keep close together, not far apart.*

**Board News**

**Australia Trip Update**

The Board continues to await completion of the financial audit relating to the Australia trip. A follow-up has been requested, and the Board remains committed to ensuring the process is completed thoroughly and transparently.

We thank whānau for their patience.

**The Term Ahead**

Term 4 is always a very busy time with a range of Activities:-

- Touch Rugby - Wednesdays after School
- 10th November Junior (Year 0-3) Tabloids
- 13th November - FPS Athletics
- 4/5th December - Food for Thought Programme
- 12th November - Whanau Christmas Party
- 17th November - visit to Mitchpine
- 20th November - Interschool Athletics
- 21st November - Noone Walks Alone
- 25/11 - 27/11 - Rūmaki Noho Marae @ Paranui
- 29th November - Te Awahou MiniFestival
- 3rd/4th December - Food for Thought Programme
- 4th December - End of Year Reports Issued
- 9th December - Prize Giving
- 9th December - Year 8 Leavers
- 15th December End of School Year (at 12/30pm)

- 1st February 2027 - Start of New Year. Powhiri to Welcome new Principal.

**Building Update - Access to School**

Isles Construction will remain onsite to carry out the reroofing of Blocks 3, 4, and 10, until approximately 8th December. For safety reasons, this area will remain fenced off, including the Hall Car Park. As a result there will be no access into School via the Car Park. The only exception will be for Voting tomorrow for the General Elections, when access to the Hall will be made possible.

The **Park Street Gate** will be the **main entry into School**, allowing access along the path between the Adventure Playground and PE Container, and the Hall Car Park.

For safety reasons this will remain the main access point from the Park Street side of town once the builders have left as it is dangerous for children to be entering a busy Car Parking area.

**Takihiku Visit to Lonsdale**

Last week the tamariki from Takihiku walked across to Lonsdale. While there they sang to the residents, and spent time chatting to these people who have contributed so much to the recent history of Foxton.

This was a privilege for us all, and at the same time a great life lesson - life is short!!

As always the children sang beautifully, but the highlight was without doubt the interaction, laughter, and conversations between children and adults. It was a special experience.




- The dates for the 2027 **'I Tri'd the Tri Series'** are **Mondays February 1st, 15th, 22nd, March 1st, 8th**
    - Kids tri entries for 2027 … go to www.triclub.co.nz (see attached flyer) Facebook - ***Palmy I Tri'd the Tri Series***
    - A reminder there are prizes of sport vouchers for the top participating schools – see attached flyer
- The Primary/Intermediate Inter-Schools Triathlon for 2027 is on **Wednesday 10th March** at Skoglund Park.



# LET'S PLAY

# FOXTON BEACH!

**Date**
20 NOVEMBER 2026

**Time**
4PM-6PM

**Location**
HOLBEN RESERVE, FOXTON BEACH

**Cost**
FREE EVENT

Come celebrate summer with us at Foxton Beach! We'll have heaps of play equipment, a slip 'n slide and a FREE sausage sizzle. Bring the whānau along for an afternoon of summer fun!

Find out more > SPORTMANAWATU.ORG.NZ

SPORT HOROWHENUA

# No One Walks Alone

## FREE FOXTON COMMUNITY EVENT

*Celebrating Life and Remembering Whānau*



WALK STARTS AT

**FOXTON CENOTAPH**

TO **PARETAO HILL** (WATER TOWER)

**FINISH UNDER FOXTON WINDMILL**

## Saturday 21st November 2026

## 10AM - 2PM

- HEALTH STALLS
- FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- PRESENTERS
- PRIZES AND GIFTS

Organised by

Te Rōpū Kōrero Haumaru ki Te Awahou, ki Hanana (Foxton/ Shannon SafeTalk)

Contact: A.Skipper 0277262612


WHĀNAU CHRISTMAS PARTY
Foxton
Thursday 12th November
Foxton River Loop Reserve and Playground
4:30pm - 7pm
Free Sausage sizzle
Children's prizes or gifts
Face painting
Activities
Raukawa Whānau Ora
Te Rau Hou o Raukawa. He Iti nō Mātai Tangata




DJ's | Live Music & Entertainment | River City Pro Wrestling LIVE
Free Food | Free Haircuts to Be Won | Prizes & Giveaways
Games & Activities | Dilz Music Video Shoot

**PERFORMANCES BY**

## LOCAL TALENT

A community event for all ages to get involved in!

**www.makingastatement.co.nz**

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