Te Kura o Te Awahou

Newsletter Term 4 Week 6

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Principal's Corner

Tena Koutou e te Whanau

Week 6 already, and what a busy Term. As well as business as usual there have been a number of additional activities including a visit by Mr Rabbit, a Dental Hygienist, the Year 0-3 Tabloid Sports in Shannon, the School Athletics Sports, and today we have athletes representing the kura at the Interschool Athletics Championships.

As well this afternoon, from 4.00-6.00pm, there is a free Event run by Sport Horowhenua at Holben Reserve Foxton Beach, while tomorrow the Annual **No One Walks Along** Community Event, 10.00am - 2.00pm, is being held - details for both events can be found later in Newsletter.

Talent - whatever happens to it?? On a day to day basis I am continually amazed at the array and level of talent so many students possess in a wide range of areas, whether it be sport, music, art, cultural activities, math's, or language.

So many children demonstrate enormous potential during their formative School years. The concern is that so many fall by the wayside, and perhaps only a few actually go on and realize their true talent, and potential, when they become adults.

Why does this happen? That is the million dollar question, and of course the reasons are varied and often complex – mixing in the wrong peer group, the pressure of expectation, injury, parenthood, etc.

Very early in my career I spent three years teaching @ Elgin Primary School, in Gisborne, a sunny, beautiful, but isolated part of New Zealand. During my time there I taught George Albert, a little Maori boy, and one of the most talented kids I have ever set eyes upon - academically as well as at sport. I coached a talented Year 4 Rugby Team of which George was the shining star. At 8 years of age he was fearless, he could side-step off both feet, tackle, kick with both feet, run like the wind, and read a game faultlessly – he was quite gifted.

As well he was simply a great kid, with a tremendously supportive family. In fact I became indebted to his family because during my time there I spent almost a term in hospital as a result of a serious rugby injury. George's mother was a night nurse at Cook Hospital, and spent hours chatting with me during many sleepless nights.

Young George had it all ahead of him, and he appeared on track when, as a 17 year old, he played for what was in those days a very strong Poverty Rugby Team (with the likes of Ian Kirkpatrick and Laurie Knight). Sadly things then began to go wrong. He became a young father

and involved in drugs, and of course his rugby, and everything else, suffered. Sadly he was never to realize his huge potential.
Unfortunately this situation is far too common, and I worry about the world many of our young people are growing up in. It seems acceptable to many that hard work and commitment aren't really a necessary part of the whole deal, and that it is OK to opt out. And of course that smoking/vaping is OK, and that doing drugs is OK.

As those of us with life experience have learnt, failure is not necessarily the worst thing in the world - it is far worse to not try. As Peter Blake said, *"If it was easy, it would hardly be worth doing"*. According to Lois Muir, former Silver Ferns Player and Coaching Great, *"Put in the hard work, and be at peace with yourself"*.

As Teachers and parents we bend over backwards to provide children with opportunity, and help develop the talents they possess – however in the end it is up to them to make the most of those talents. Unfortunately far too many people reach middle or old age with regrets – "if only…."

Have an awesome weekend.

Nga mihi nui
Richard McMillan
Acting Principal

Thought of the Week

Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi -
With your food basket, and my food basket, the people will thrive!!

From an Intelligent Educator

A friend shared the link below about some of the challenges facing Schools, Teachers, and Parents in the current age. The article "**Crisis of Character and Accountability in Education"** is outstanding and absolutely on the mark. It is quite a long read, but well worth the effort. If you would like a hard copy version, please email the School and we will send it to you.

Food for Thought

The Term Ahead

There is still lots to look forward to before the end of Term, including the following activities:-

- 21st November - Noone Walks Alone
- 24th November - School Photos
- 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

- 10th December - Prize Giving
- 10th December - Year 8 Leavers
- 15th December End of School Year (at 1:30pm)
- 1st February 2027 - Start of New Year. Powhiri to Welcome new Principal.

Welcome

Welcome back to Whaea Nina who returned to School last week to resume her duties in Tuaranga.

Dental Hygienist

Last week we had a visit from a Dental Hygienist who spoke to the Children about the do's and don'ts of looking after their teeth. Like many things in life we only get one opportunity to do the right thing, and looking after our teeth must be pretty high on the list - the cost of adult Dental Care is horrific!! Early care and attention can definitely assist.

Year 0-3 Tabloids

Last Tuesday our Year 0-3 Tamariki travelled to Shannon to take part in the Annual Kere Kere Tabloids - together with children from Koputaroa, Coley Street, Foxton Beach and St Mary's. Despite the threatening weather, the children had an awesome day. They all came back excited about the day, and really enjoyed taking part in the fun activities organised by the hosts.







Te Awahou Athletics Championships

We had a wonderful day last Friday when we held the School Athletic Sports.This even highlighted the amount of talent we have in this School, with a number of outstanding performers on display.

A huge thank you to Whaea Atawhai for organizing this event, and for all Staff for their contribution. A special thanks to the parents who also assisted.

Charter Parade

Last Wednesday the whole Kura walked down Main Street to watch the **Charter Parade**. This was a parade by the 21 Supply Company, 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion, Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment.





The parade commemorated the Company's Freedom of the Community, recognising the proud history shared by 21 Supply Company and the Foxton community. The event included a military march along Main Street, ending at the Foxton War Memorial Hall.

Horowhenua District Council took part in the occasion, with Deputy Mayor David Allan giving the welcoming address, and Ross Brannigan reading the Charter.

This Parade is a formal recognition of the Company's place in Foxton's civic life, and was an opportunity for the community to acknowledge the service and history of 21 Supply Company.

As Deputy Mayor David Allan says "This Charter Parade is a proud moment for Foxton and a chance for our community to recognise the service, history and shared mana of 21 Supply Company,"

Mitchpine Visit

On Tuesday a group of children had the opportunity to visit the Mitchpine Sawmill. This was an exciting adventure, and they were fascinated by the workings of the Mill, and the process of converting a tree into various products used by farmers, builders, and craftsmen.
This trip was the result of a conversation between the Principal and Year 6 Student Lennox Turnball, who is fascinated by Trucks and Machines. At the end of the trip Lennox gave the following awesome Speech: -

My Thank You Speech

Hi my name is Lennox and I come from Foxton Primary School. I really love trucks. I have come to Mitchpine because I want to see what you do for work, and how you turn trees into wood. And where you transport the timber all around New Zealand.

I see your trucks around sometimes. One of your workers parks their truck next to my house. Sometimes I take photos of your cool trucks.

I have been dreaming of walking through Mitchpine and it came true.
I really like your trucks - sometimes the drivers blink their lights at my dad at night.

Thank you very much for letting us walk through your factory that you and your family built - Lennox Turnbull (10)

The day Foxton Primary came to check out Mitchpine!

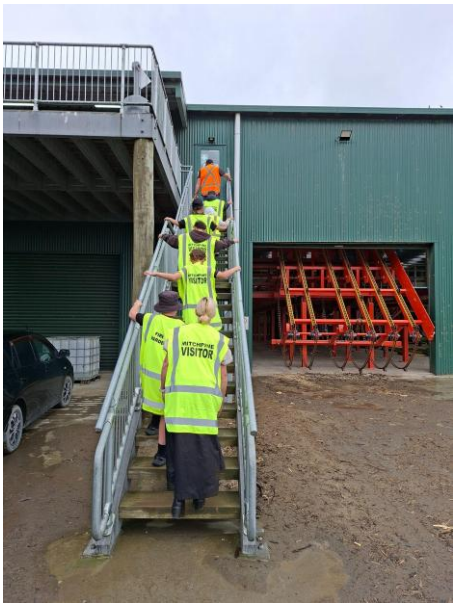
On a very wet and rainy day, we were stoked to take a group from Foxton Primary through the mill. It was neat to see Mitchpine through their eyes, and it made us stop and think about what these little people took away from their day out of the classroom. In one walk-through, the students got to see:-

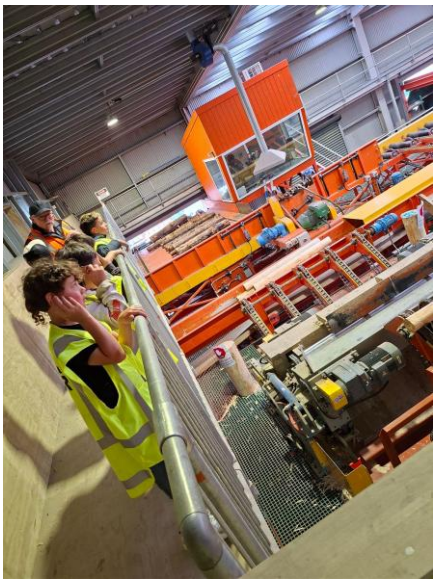
- **Health and safety:** how we keep our staff and visitors safe every day
- **The wood:** how we support sustainable forestry
- **Zero waste:** how we find a use for every bit of our waste
- **The people:** the range of jobs available, from engineering and truck driving to working in the office and marketing
- **The mill:** how we keep up with demand and how we've upgraded the mill over the years.

The questions were amazing and the behaviour was exceptional. You made your school proud! Thanks for coming to check out Mitchpine, Foxton Primary. You're welcome back anytime!
#Mitchpine #FoxtonPrimary #LocalSchools #SustainableForestry #NZTimber #PostPoles

- Kathy Mitchell (Mitchpine)







Horowhenua District Council Civic Service Award Ceremony

On Tuesday our Rumaki Students walked across to Lonsdale to sing in support of ex-Foxton Primary Staff Member, and longtime stalwart of this community, Eddie Wakefield, who was presented with a well deserved Horowhenua District Council Civic Award.
Making the day even more special for Eddie was the fact it was also his 75th birthday!!

Mayor Bernie Wanden, and Councillors David Allan and Nola Fox, presented the Award to him.



An awesome photo from the Civic Awards Ceremony on Tuesday





- 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.

Taupo Family Playcentre Raffle

Taupō Family Playcentre is running a raffle with quite an exciting prize - two tickets to see Bruno Mars in concert in Auckland in March 2027 plus a night's accommodation after the concert. Our tickets are only $5 each, and the raffle closes on 7th December.

It would be such a huge help if your school would be able to put our poster and link in your school's newsletter - I've included them with this email. Raffle

Our centre's fundraising team is working really hard to get the word out, as this prize isn't region-bound at all. We're a volunteer-run & parent-led licensed ECE, and all proceeds will go directly to supporting our centre purchase resources, make property upgrades, and provide community excursions for our tamariki.



LET'S PLAY

FOXTON BEACH!

Date
20 NOVEMBER 2026

Location
HOLBEN RESERVE, FOXTON BEACH

Time
4PM-6PM

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



MAKING A STATEMENT PRESENTS

TE AWAHOU MINIFEST

FREE COMMUNITY DAY

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Free Food | Free Haircuts to Be Won | Prizes & Giveaways
Games & Activities | Dilz Music Video Shoot

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JANUARY JUNIORS' SUPER

SERIES

□□ 23, 24 & 25 JANUARY 2027 □□

We are running a three day summer school for junior sailors. These programs are introductory Learn to Sail courses designed to build water confidence, boat confidence and skills, and most importantly—have fun!
This course is ideal for those just starting their sailing journey or anyone looking for a refresher

This will be a combination of on-shore and on-boat coaching and will be run in all weather (classroom option if too windy). Caregiver to attend.
□□ Course Time: 11:00am – 3:00pm each day □□ Ages: 7 years and up

□□ Swimming Ability: Must be confident in the water □□ Cost: $50 per participant

We provide buoyancy vests for all participants. Plus rescue boat and hot showers.

If you would like to Register interest, please text name(s) to Robert Elder on 021 414 040

Late News
School Photos are scheduled for next Tuesday

School Photos

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