



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

There is so much to cover in this newsletter so hang in there with me and by the end you may have some thoughts you can send through to me.

Year 8 Behaviour

Every year our Year 8 students go through a period of time when they make decisions that don't align with the values of our school, you could call it a last minute rebellion before diving into the next level of independence. There's no escaping it, the only thing I can't predict is how it's going to happen. Last week a large group of students made some decisions that were unsafe and inappropriate, they were disciplined accordingly. What our Year 8's need now is lots of patience and care. If you're at the school and you see them and know them, let them know how much they will be missed at our kura, some of them have been with us since they were 5 years old and the actions of Year 8's do not always reflect the history of their time with us. Your understanding of their age and stage will be greatly appreciated.

Strategic Planning

We're now moving into the time when we will be engaging with a new board of trustees and preparing to develop our next strategic plan. To do this we need your thoughts and voices about the future of the kura and the future for our tamariki. Over the next few weeks you will get opportunities to share some of your thoughts and ideas about subjects that are part of school life. I encourage you to make the most of these opportunities so that we get as many voices as we can.

Teacher Training Assurance

You will have seen that there have been many government initiatives and theologies being implemented into the education system. I want to assure you that we are making sure we seek independent science and training to ensure that we are making good decisions for our tamariki. We won't do anything at Upokongaro School without knowing well what the actual research and science tells us.

Gala Poll

A little later in the week I will put up a poll for a possible gala. I had initially thought that the gala would not go ahead, but I have had so many requests for it to go ahead that I want to get some public opinion on it. The poll will be available on our Facebook page and a note will also be sent out this week from school. Please participate in it so that we can get a good picture of what we should do.

2026 and beyond

The transition of Year 8 students to secondary school next year will see the exit of our biggest cohort of students at Upokongaro School; 29 in total. This means that there will be a ballot extended to students outside of our enrolment scheme. If you have a child that you or someone you know are expecting to join our school in 2026 and beyond please advise the office as soon as you can.

Combining Platforms

Upokongaro School currently sends out information in at least six different forms depending on the message being communicated. I would like to condense this into one app and one community page. To do this, I need some volunteers to agree to trying out the system to make sure that we know how to use it properly at our end and that it is indeed the right way to go moving forward. If you can help with this please fill out the form I will send home with the information on it to participate. Many thanks in advance to those who will.

Well I've run out of space, so until next time, keep safe and warm. Thanks. Mrs Browne.



SPEED REDUCTION

The recently implemented Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024 requires NZTA to install variable speed limits (VSLs) on the parts of state highways that are “outside the school gate” by 1 July 2026. Your school is eligible for a variable speed limit and has been classified as a category 1 school. This means that we plan to install a 30km/h VSL on the state highway outside your school.

Variable speed limits are a type of speed limit where the speed limit in force on the road changes under certain conditions. VSLs use electronic or static signs to manage travel speeds to protect people using the road at certain times, in this instance during morning and afternoon school travel periods.

Under the new Rule, these school travel periods can cover up to 45 minutes either side of the school bell. Electronic VSL signs may also be activated for up to 10 minutes at other times when there is significant activity around your school, for example when pupils from other schools are arriving or leaving for a sports day.

Setting safe speed limits around schools improves safety for all children and families travelling to and from school. A variable speed limit outside a school helps protect young New Zealanders during busier times and allows people to travel at an appropriate speed when there’s minimal student activity (for example, at night, weekends and during the school holidays).

FRIENDSHIP DAY



This Wednesday the 30th is Friendship Day and we’re going to celebrate it at Upokongaro School. All children can wear mufti this day as part of our celebration.

**TEACHER
ONLY DAY**

**DON'T!
FORGET!**

THIS FRIDAY 1 AUG

BOARD OF TRUSTEES INFO



UPOKONGARO SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES TRI-ANNUAL ELECTION TIMELINE

Fri 18 July – Call for nominations
Wed 6 Aug – Nominations Close 12pm
Wed 13 Aug – Voting papers issued
Wed 10 Sep – Elections
Wed 10 Sep – Poll closes 4pm
Mon 15 Sep – Accept postal votes
Tues 16 Sep – Count votes
Wed 17 Sep – Board takes office



NOMINATIONS

Please send in your nominations for the school Board of Trustees. Anyone and everyone can contribute to the continued growth and success of our kura. Send in your nominations by next Wednesday. If you don't have your papers that were sent out on Friday the 18th of July please contact ashleigh@upokongaro.net to get a replacement.



GOOD TEACHERS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

I was walking around the school and saw some pretty amazing work being done by our students because of their teachers. Children learn best when they feel safe in their learning environment and have a teacher who is dedicated to their progress and learning.



Heather Lindfield has joined our team as the principal release teacher and this is how the students in Te Rito are enjoying working together with her on the language of advertisements. They also produced some pretty cool art that day as well.

Whaea Cath and Whaea Jo are ensuring our little ones get their movement and brain breaks. We learnt recently that children need regular breaks to ensure they can engage their brains when working hard on all the 'important stuff.'



Penny Calman is helping her class learn math. They are relaxed and working on challenging fraction concepts. Only when a child is sure that they are safe enough to share their ideas and make mistakes can they learn. Watching this moment in their day was a privilege that made me want to switch to full time teaching pronto!



18 Jul - Jumping June Prize Pool Closes

18 Jul - Call for Nominations for Board of Trustees Tri-Annual Election

21 and 22 July - Senior Teachers out at Structured Literacy training

29 Jul - Hearing and Vision Catch ups

30 July - Friendship Day - Mufti Day

1 Aug - Teacher Only Day (Maths Curriculum Learning)

6 Aug - Nominations for BOT elections close 12pm

13 Aug - BOT Voting papers issued

18 Aug - Book Week

22 Aug - Whānau Day and Celebration of Book Week

10 Sep - BOT Election Day closes 4pm

10 Sep - Wig Wednesday - Mufti Day

10 Sep - Cluster Speeches 5.30pm

15 Sep - Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori

15 Sep - BOT Election postal votes accepted

16 Sep - BOT Election Votes Counted

17 Sep - BOT takes office