PUKEATUA PRESS 2025

19th May 2025 - Week 4 , T2 Te Panui o te Kura #3

Message from the Principal

How good are the Chiefs looking! Two weekends ago, a dominant win over the Crusaders sees them sitting firmly at the top of the Super Rugby table. With the business end of the season approaching, things are looking exciting. In football, Auckland FC pulled off a great away win over Melbourne over the weekend, and now sit one step closer to securing a home final. That's an incredible achievement for their very first season in the A-League! (We won't talk about the Phoenix...)

Back at school, our classrooms are humming along very nicely. Structured Literacy and Structured Maths are underway, and our classes are exploring the new resources. We've also begun diving into the New Refreshed Curriculum, with professional development planned over the coming months. A Curriculum-focused Callback Day is scheduled in the school holidays, as well as a Teacher Only Day for Monday 4th August (Term 3).

In wider education news, the Government is set to release this year's Budget on Thursday, which could signal some significant changes for the education sector. Last week I had the opportunity to speak with the Minister of Education, along with representatives from the Secretary of Education, NZ Principals' Federation, NZEI, NZBSA, the Teachers Council, and Sport New Zealand.

The Minister was optimistic, highlighting changes in Learning Support and a more equitable distribution of funding. These are all positive steps. But as I mentioned in that discussion, funding and support structures only go so far. The true impact comes down to the quality and stability of the teacher in front of them each day.

The reality is, New Zealand is heading toward a major teacher shortage. The average age of a primary school teacher is now 54. Immigration changes are being considered to help bring teachers from overseas to fill this gap. While helpful in the short term, this is not a sustainable or strategic solution.

We need to make teaching an attractive career path for our young people. This means better conditions, more support for behaviour management, less interference in curriculum and assessment from above, and a genuine valuing of the profession by the public and the Government.

Real, lasting change can't happen in three-year political cycles. It will take long-term, bipartisan commitment – the kind where both major parties come together to form a 15- to 20-year plan that sets a clear vision for education in New Zealand. Sadly, I'm not sure we'll see this kind of collaboration anytime soon…
but dreams are free, right?



Dene Franklin
PRINCIPAL

Proud to be a Trees for Survival School

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 2, 2025

May

26th: Board Meeting 7pm
29th: Yr7&8 day at Wharepapa South

June

3rd: School Photos
5th: Yr7&8 Technology Day
9th: R3&4 Trees for Survival Planting
12th: Yr7&8 Technology Day
13th : Teacher only day Waipa District

NOTICES IN BRIEF

(follow us on facebook for more)

Pool Keys are now due back at the office. Please call in during school hours to return your key and collect your $20 refund.

School photos are on the 3rd of June. If you would like a sibling photo taken please grab a form from the office and complete before this date.

Ruma Wha is fundraising to go to camp later this year. They are selling potatoes, pumpkins, kakakawa balm and doing an in school pizza drive for student lunches. We currently have some pumpkins, potatoes and balm at the office for sale. Stocks are limited so be in quick.

A HUGE THANKS to the Lewis family who have kindly donated a new set of netball uniforms. Sadly, unreturned uniforms from the past few years left us short in supply to give to all students this year.

Our school is being vandalised outside school hours. We've had the PE shed broken into, heatpumps turned off after their cages have been ripped off the walls, seats & fences broken - plus other incidences. We welcome community use of the playgrounds or fields after hours HOWEVER we do not appreciate the abuse of our school. To whomever is doing this please stop. If you are here and see someone abusing our property please let us know ASAP. We do have cameras around the area so will be looking closely at the footage.













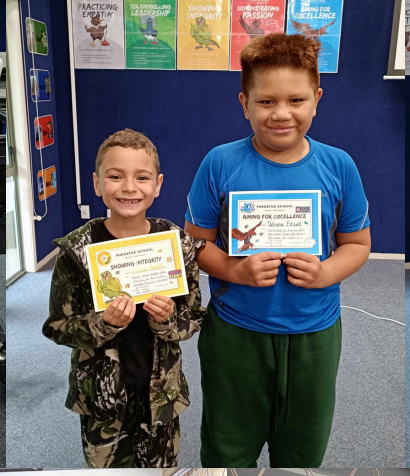


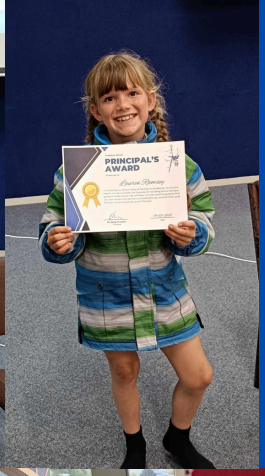






Term 2 so far....


PRINCIPAL'S
AWARD

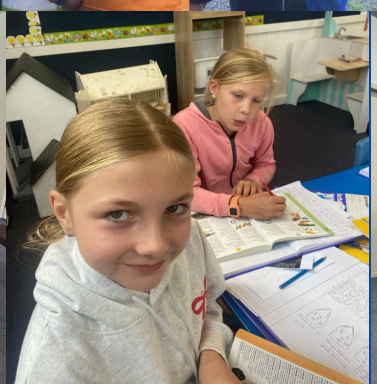

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