PUKEATUA PRESS 2025

11 September, Week 9 , Term 3 — Te Panui o te Kura #7

Message from the Principal

Kia ora e te whanau,

What a game of rugby we saw last weekend! The All Blacks were incredibly dominant against South Africa, showing strength and skill right across the field. With Leroy Carter making his debut this weekend, and a few of our Chiefs players joining the starting lineup, it promises to be another exciting match. Fingers crossed for another strong performance!

It has been a busy and rewarding few weeks here at Pukeatua School. We've had Senior Winter Sports (sadly Juniors was cancelled due to bad weather), AIMS Games, and the Rural Hockey Tournaments. It's fantastic to see so many of our students competing with such determination, teamwork, and Pukeatua PRIDE. A few special mentions must be made:

- Bonnie Turpin placed 2nd in her Table Tennis competition at AIMS Games – an incredible achievement at such a high level!
- Levi Kerr and Zara Bowers were both recognised by staff from other schools for their amazing attitude and supportive behaviour at the Senior Winter Sports event at Wharepapa South. To be noticed in this way is a wonderful reflection of their character and our school values.

Recently, we were also privileged to send representatives to Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari to be part of the release of the Mahoenui Giant Wētā. This was a very special event, and for our small kura to appear (even briefly!) on One News is something we can all be proud of.

This week, I have had the opportunity to attend the National Principals Conference in Wellington. One of the highlights for me was hearing from Barbara Coloroso, a 75 year old educator from the United States, who spoke with great wisdom about teaching, parenting, and behaviour management. A few of her key messages really stood out to me:

- The Big I and Three C's – when evaluating behaviour, we should look at the intent, content, circumstances, and possible consequences. This helps us decide whether something is a simple mistake, mischief, or more serious mayhem.
- Discipline vs Punishment – punishment is adult-oriented, imposes power from the outside, and often leads to resentment. True discipline, however, is about working with young people to help them own their actions, explore options to put things right, and learn self-discipline from within.
- Styles of Parenting – she described three styles: brickwall (rigid, controlling), jellyfish (too soft, with no boundaries), and backbone (firm but flexible, guiding while still allowing responsibility). The backbone approach helps children grow with both security and independence.
- Mistakes, Mischief, and Mayhem – mistakes are unintentional errors that need acknowledgment and fixing, mischief is playful trouble-making that requires accountability and repair, and mayhem is serious harm that calls for restorative action such as restitution, resolution, and reconciliation.

For me personally, this was a timely reminder about the difference between punishment and discipline. As both a principal and a parent, I am reflecting on how I can ensure my own approach is more about guidance and restoration, rather than control. Holding young people accountable while leaving their dignity intact is something I want to continually model and practice.

If anyone is interested in more of Barbara's ideas, I would be more than happy to share some of her resources. There are plenty of thought-provoking strategies in her work.

And finally – here's hoping the All Blacks can back it up this weekend. Go the All Blacks!

Ngā mihi,

Dene Franklin, Principal

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NOTICES IN BRIEF

We haven't sent out invoices in some time so we will be emailing invoices next week before the end of term. Tech Arts for Y7&8 (broken down into termly charges) and Room 4 camp fee have both now been added to student accounts.

Ag Day registrations should be in now. If you have not filled out a form for your child, please contact the office ASAP.

A reminder that the last day of Term 3 is Friday 19th September and school will finish at 1.45pm.

waikato rural schools hockey

This week, students had the opportunity to participate in the Waikato Rural Schools Hockey tournament at Gallagher park in Hamilton. It was a fun few days supported by some great parents and local college students as refs. Thanks to everyone who helped out by coaching, managing and transporting our kids.












IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 3/4

SEPTEMBER

12th House Challenge
15th BOT Meeting
18th Technology Y7&8
19th Term 3 Ends

OCTOBER

6th Term 4 begins
8th Ag Day
10th House Challenge
15th Group Day, Kihikihi Domain
17th Assembly
22nd School Production
23rd School Production
24th House Challenge
27th Labour Day holiday
28th Ruma Wha camp
29th Ruma Wha camp
30th Ruma Wha camp
Technology Y7&8
31st Ruma Wha Camp
Waikato A&P Show
Assembly

NOVEMBER

5th Guy Fawkes Night
6th Technology Y7&8
7th GUMBOOT FRIDAY
House Challenge
10th BOT Meeting
13th Technology Y7&8
14th Eastern Zone Athletics
(postponement day Mon 17th)
18th Putaruru Interschool Athletics
19th Parent Helper Afternoon Tea
20th Arohena Y7&8 Collab day
21st House Challenge
27th Technology Y7&8
28th Assembly







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