

# HOKOWHITU SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday the 8th of December 2023

## Important Upcoming Events 2023

<b>8 December</b>	School reports, 2024 learning areas and stationery lists home in bags today
<b>11 December</b>	TKP and TKM's celebration day (we <b>MUST</b> have received permission slips)
<b>12 December</b>	1.45pm Transition in 2024 classrooms 5pm Christmas Carnival - <b>Students to be in full school uniform please</b> 6pm Whole school prizegiving (followed by the Year 6 graduation)
<b>13 December</b>	TKA and TKT's celebration day
<b>14 December</b>	<b>8.30am</b> - 2023 School helpers' coffee and muffin thank you in the staffroom 9.30am Farewell Assembly
<b>15 December</b>	12.45pm Classes finish for 2023
<b>31 January</b>	1.30 - 3.30pm Open afternoon - whānau welcome to pop into the kete and have a look at the classroom and bring your stationery (to avoid the rush on Thursday)
<b>1 February</b>	8.30am the bell rings, come on in for the start of Term 1 2024
<b>6 February</b>	Waitangi Day, school CLOSED

***Please also look out for kete newsletters - these include specific dates/events for that kete.***

**SAVE THIS DATE**

**SCHOOL CENTENARY - 5TH AND 6TH APRIL 2024**

Hokowhitu School celebrates its 100th anniversary next year.

Spread the word to any ex-pupils/colleagues who you think may be interested in attending.

Registrations are now 'live'. Please find the link for registration on the school website:

[www.hokowhitu.school.nz](http://www.hokowhitu.school.nz)



## Update from the Principal

Kia ora koutou  
Ngā mihi kia koutou

Who would believe that we are now heading into our final week of the 2023 school year? Next week will be action packed and we look forward to all the celebrations. Please ask if you are unclear on any of the plans.

### 2024 TEACHING TEAMS

Listed below are the teaching teams for next year. We operate in collaborative spaces at our kura and it is likely that all the ākonga will be taught by each of the kaiako in their kete at some stage of the year. Having more than one kaiako in your child's learning area gives them the advantage of experiencing the passions and strengths of several teachers.

- **Y 1/2: TE KETE WAKAHUIA (TKW)** Mrs Hodge, Miss Caldwell, Mrs Blay and Mrs Hintz
- **Y 2/3: TE KETE POUNAMU (TKP)** Mrs Orr, Mr Evans and Whaea Bree (White)
- **Y 3/4: TE KETE MANAWA (TKM)** Ms Salter, Mr Shirley and Whaea Hannah (Puts)
- **Y 4/5: TE KETE ARONU (TKA)** Mrs Gifford Moore, Ms Tayler and Mrs Lovegrove
- **Y 5/6: TE KETE TANGAROA (TKT)** Mr Sloan, Whaea Liz (Longley), and Mr Masoe
- **PART TIME TEACHING STAFF:** Ms Finikin, Mrs Mullinger, Mrs O'Connor, Mrs Hawkins, Mrs Easton, Mrs Mikkelsen and Whaea Hannah (McKeagg)

### FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

Mrs Nikki Christian leaves at the end of this year. She has been a learning coach at our kura for the last 4 years. We have appreciated you sharing all of your skills Nikki and we wish you well for the future.

### SWIMMING

The pool temperature has been much warmer than the air temperature this week.

Swimming is part of the NZ curriculum. As NZ is a country surrounded by water, being able to swim is a vital survival skill to have. We urge you to support us with this potentially lifesaving skill by ensuring the children understand we expect them to learn to swim.

Please send the tamariki to school daily with their togs, towel (and goggles if you have them) in a waterproof bag.

We strongly encourage rash tops (or sun safe togs) to limit the effect of sunburn.

Please be assured that the kaiako (teachers) WILL NOT take the tamariki swimming when the weather is unsuitable. Neither will they insist that a child stays in the water if they are feeling cold.



### END OF YEAR REPORTS AND 2024 TRANSITIONS

School reports will come home in school bags today. If your child has recently had a 6 week or a 6-month conference, you will have received both an oral and a written summary already, so there will not be another report.

Everyone returning to our kura next year will also receive a stationery list for the kete they are going to be in next year. Stationery can be purchased from wherever you like, however we ask that you specifically take notice of the brand of glue stick requested - 'not all glue sticks are created equally' and some brands of glue sticks simply break or don't stick!

**Complete stationery packs will be available at Palmerston North's Warehouse Stationery (and online) from the 15th of January.**

On Tuesday the 12th of December the ākonga will spend some time in their 2024 learning space. They will get to meet their classmates and kaiako. Having this short time together relieves some of the worry about the 'unknown' aspect of a new year.

## **CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL AND WHOLE SCHOOL PRIZEGIVING** - (Next Tuesday 12 December)

**PLEASE BRING CASH - NO EFTPOS AVAILABLE - please try to have smaller notes as change will be limited.**

For those of you who have not attended the Hokowhitu School carnival and prizegiving - make sure this date is clearly in your calendar. It is an evening not to be missed - food stalls, live entertainment (including the choir, Kapa Haka and whole school singing), the presentation of special awards, and more. This is an overall relaxed evening designed for whānau enjoyment. Come along from 5pm (children in full school uniform please), purchase food items from a range of cultures represented at our kura (or bring your own picnic)

### **FOOD AVAILABLE: (it is really helpful if you have cash in these amounts)**

- Sushi (chicken & vegetarian) \$7.00
- Nachos (beef & vegetarian), butter chicken with rice, chicken sticks \$5.00 each
- Hamburgers \$4.00
- Sausage in bread \$2.00
- Cupcakes, lolly cake, jelly \$2.00 each
- Bottled water \$1.00

The prizegiving commences at 6pm. We expect the ākongā (learners) to be present for this event, along with parental support. We plan this event to conclude by 7pm. The Year 6 graduation ceremony will take place for the Year 6 ākongā and whānau immediately following prizegiving.



## **SCHOOL HELPERS**

Over the school year, we make numerous requests for support with school events. Without whānau support we simply couldn't meet either our school EOTC policy ratios, or health and safety requirements. This would mean camps, trips, sporting events, cultural celebrations, end of year treats, out of school sports teams etc just couldn't happen! We value everyone who supports us to ensure that we are providing the BEST experiences we can for our tamariki.

While we know it is not possible for everyone who has served the kura or the ākongā to attend a 'thank you' occasion during the working week, we want to say thank you by offering a coffee and muffin to start your day at 8.30am on Thursday 14th December. This will be held in the staffroom.

Invitations will have come home this week, but we are only human, and it is possible we have left someone out when we shouldn't have. Come along if you can - this of course includes our dedicated Board members and PTA.

I'd like to make a special mention to Ewan and Amy Westergaard who both generously support our kura on an ongoing basis - and it is definitely going 'over and above' to see the very tidy lawn edging that is currently being undertaken here at school on the weekend or evenings. Ngā mihi nui ki a koe (thank you so much).

## UNIFORM UPDATE

The School Board would like to share news about some changes to the Hokowhitu School uniform next year. Our community consultation survey has told us that you greatly value having a uniform! We want to make sure this is as affordable as possible for parents and caregivers, and to encourage our students to wear it with pride.

### Shorts, skorts, and trousers

We have decided to change to **a more cost-effective range of blue shorts, skorts, and trousers** that feature the school logo. These will be available from our uniform supplier, Academy Apparel, starting in term 2.

- During term 1, our current grey shorts and trousers and tartan skorts will continue to be available for purchase at Academy Apparel. Used items will also continue to be available for purchase at the school office.
- To minimise the financial impact of this change, students will be able to wear their current grey shorts and trousers and tartan skorts until the end of 2025.

### Shoes, sandals, socks, and tights

We have also decided to reaffirm our uniform style of **navy socks and tights, and “school sensible” black or brown shoes and sandals**. (“School sensible” footwear looks tidy and allows students to participate in physical education). Currently our students wear a wide range of non-uniform footwear, and we acknowledge that we have allowed this to occur.

- Starting in the new year, we ask that all students are sent to school in uniform footwear, and we will be sending reminders home if this is not the case. We want to reassure you that no children will be singled out, shamed, or excluded from education while we are undergoing this reset.
- If any families are unable to afford appropriate footwear, please contact the school office so that we can provide support.

Ngā Mihi

Philip Steer & Lin Dixon

### **A message from the Hokowhitu School PTA Chairperson - Amy**

Firstly, a huge thank you to all of our generous families for the contribution of food items for our upcoming Christmas Carnival. It is great to see so many of you supporting the event and it certainly helps immensely. Also, a huge thank you to those who have already volunteered to help with making food, assisting on the day and at the carnival itself.

We really cannot do this without the support of all of you.

The success of our term lunches, cookie fundraiser, basic factathon and the recent calendar art is a testament to the generosity of our families and community. This year we have used these funds and paid for concrete art, a new school gazebo, subsidised the Year 4 sleepover, putting funds aside for Year 5 & 6 camp and supported the Board with funds for the new senior playground .....all for our school.

I would like to take the time to thank our PTA members and parents who help throughout the year, without you we cannot do what we do. Your continued involvement is invaluable, and we welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have to enhance the PTA's impact on our school community. Also, a heartfelt thank you to all of the staff for their constant support and assistance. We truly have a wonderful team of kind and giving staff and without you the PTA couldn't achieve what it does.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and wonderful summer break to recharge and spend time with your loved ones.

Amy

Have a super weekend everyone.

Ngā mihi nui

Lin Dixon

## TKA HOMEWORK TASK - Dioramas based on a favourite book they have read



***ALL sports uniforms*** need to be returned by next week. **ALL** summer soccer players need to take a change of clothes to their last game on Wednesday and please give your sports uniform to your manager.

### **Netball**

We finished off the season on Monday. Our team has done amazingly well this season and I'm so proud to have coached the team. I want to thank all the parent support I've had, and I can't wait to do it all over again.

**Coaches/Managers** - If you would like any awards or photos in the newsletter, please email them through to [office@hokowhitu.school.nz](mailto:office@hokowhitu.school.nz)



## ROAD PATROL

This morning the 2023 Road Patrollers were treated to the movies as a 'Thank You' from the PNCC and NZ Police. This was a great opportunity to thank all these students for their amazing mahi in all of Palmerston North's weather, keeping their fellow students and communities safe on our roads.



## INTER-SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Well done to everyone who participated at the inter-school athletics last Friday. Congratulations to **Molly C** who came 4<sup>th</sup> in high jump. You all represented Hokowhitu School well by showing your STRIVE values and you should be very proud! Well done!





## ***Achievement Awards***

### ***Te Kete Wakahuia***

- Vienna** - Welcome to school Vienna. You have settled in very well and have had a great first week. Ka pai!
- Harrison B** - Wow Harrison, you were very brave and got into the pool. We loved your smile once you were in. Ka rawe!
- Brodie** - Great confidence when presenting your oral language.
- Navya** - For participating in literacy workshops.
- Remy** - You have shown great progress in literacy learning. Well done for trying hard and listening in workshops.
- Aria** - For always having amazing mat manners. Kā pai.
- Clyde** - For asking super questions during oral language. Tino pai!
- Finley** - For being very helpful and for using your initiative. Tino pai!
- Delenaa** - For always being so prepared to present your oral language. Kā rawe.
- Vivaan** - For working so hard on your learning this term. Tino pai.

### ***Te Kete Pounamu***

- Adi** - For great number knowledge and basic facts.
- Qasim** - For great number knowledge and basic facts.
- Tyson** - For being able to spell 3 letter consonant clusters.
- Leo Z** - For being able to spell 3 letter consonant clusters.
- Kinza** - For independently getting ready for swimming.
- Darcy** - For having great water confidence.
- Rose** - For knowing our Christmas carols by heart.
- Lohan D** - For having great water confidence.

### ***Te Kete Manawa***

- William** - For stepping up in maths, you are a star William!
- Imogen D** - For showing value for others, you have really stepped up in TKM!
- Skye** - For all your help around the kete, thank you for your kindness!
- Oliver** - For wonderful general knowledge that he shares with our kete.
- Lorenzo** - For his help and kindness during our water play, thank you for your atawhai!
- Brodie** - For his wonderful creativity!
- Mila L** - For her leadership and supporting others in our kete. Tino pai!

### ***Te Kete Aronui***

Thank you **Te Kete Aronui** students for the awesome year. You have worked so hard and it has been wonderful to see you all progress in one way or another throughout the year. We have appreciated each and every one of you and your individual gifts and talents that you have brought to 2023. We are proud of you all. To the whānau of our students, thank you for all the support you have provided in one way or another to both your child and the kete. Have a wonder break and enjoy the celebrations over this season. Ms Tayler, Mrs Guerin and Ms Salter wish you all the best in 2024.

### ***Te Kete Tangaroa***

Well done to all of our students in **TKT**. This term they have stepped up and shown Manawanui in so many things. From Road Patrol, Interschool Athletics, to supporting our junior students. Thank you for making us proud.