

HOKOWHITU SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday the 15th of December 2023



Important Upcoming Events 2023 & 2024

15 December	12.45pm Classes finish for 2023
31 January	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)
1 February	8.30am the bell rings, come on in for the start of Term 1 2024
6 February	Waitangi Day, school CLOSED
8 February	4.30pm Parent session outlining our 2024 Health Programme - 'Navigating the Journey' 5pm Pool Party

Update from the Principal



Kia ora koutou
Ngā mihi kia koutou

This is our last communication for 2023. Thank you for your patience with reading regular newsletters/apps. This is the MOST efficient way we can keep you informed and 'current' with all things school related.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR 2024

1. The Board has requested that we place more emphasis on correct uniform footwear from next year. Socks should be navy blue, shoes should be black or brown and 'school sensible'. If girls are wearing tights, they are to be plain navy blue tights with feet (NOT leggings). Please ensure the tamariki are wearing these items daily.
2. Regulation sunhats are compulsory in Term 1. Hats are available from the school office for \$12.00. No hat, no play.
3. The school office hours are 8.30am - 4.00pm. The office will be open from Wednesday the 24th of January.

4. Togs (preferably sun safe) and a towel should be sent to school daily - swimming is a part of the NZ curriculum, not something the children 'choose' to opt in or out of.

I had prepared my 'end of year' address for Tuesday evening - unfortunately the weather intervened! This is what I was going to say..

*Tena koutou katoa
Welcome to Prizegiving 2023!*

Highlights of this year have included our fantastic EOTC week, culminating in the Big Day Out to Levin, a very successful sleepover and visit to Ngā Manu for Year 4 ākonga, the fun of market day, loads of sports events, regular house meetings, whole school reward days, book week – just to name a few!

Our small but active PTA (and supporters) have had a great year – this evening's food stalls are a great example of this. The children have also enjoyed a number of pizza or American hotdog lunches, the basic fact-a-thon, and ever popular fundraisers like selling Calendar Art.

Tamariki – homai te paki paki to the amazing team that has made the 'carnival' aspect of our prizegiving happen again.

Today we honour many learners - learners who have STRIVED to be the best they can be. Learners who have truly stepped up, tried new things, shown respect of self and others, investigated and shown creativity, valued others and best of all, been enthusiastic about their learning.

Well done everyone!

In 2024 we look forward to:

- *welcoming Mrs Jenny Lovegrove to the teaching team of our school*
- *enjoying the new senior playground when it is built in Term 1 (thanks to Rachel Buckley who has secured a grant to assist with some of the costs of the playground, and Villi Tosi who spearheaded this project)*
- *spending Term 1 learning more about the history of Hokowhitu, culminating with the Centenary celebrations in early April*

Later in the year we look forward to Matariki celebrations, and the Major Production at the Regent Theatre – and that's just for starters! Fun, fun, fun.

I would like to sincerely thank some key people who hugely contribute to our success as a school.

To my staff, support and teaching - thank you!! Your commitment to our school and to our children is second to none. Your skills, passion and enthusiasm continue to truly blow me away. Thanks to each and every one of you.

Amy Guerin– thank you very much for your dedicated 9 years of service to our kura Amy– go well! We will miss you.

Mrs Christian - thank you for your contributions and enjoy your next adventure

Helen and Reece – special thanks for the amazing support you both provide me in the 'never a dull moment space' of senior leadership!

To the School Board - Philip and the team, THANK YOU, - your governance of our school is much appreciated. The Board has completed several consultation processes over the year and these have guided our new strategic plan. This can be viewed on the school website, but to give a brief overview our four strategic goals over the coming 2 years are:

- *Ongoing mahi to have ākonga experience success in literacy and numeracy*
- *To increase ākonga and kaiako knowledge and engagement with Te Ao Māori*
- *Recognising, supporting and celebrating the diversity of our ākonga*
- *Enhancing ākonga wellbeing by encouraging participation in physical activity AND performance arts*

To the many other people who have given so willingly of your time and skills to assist in classrooms, on trips, on the sports field, assisting with fundraisers etc – thank you.

Most importantly, to the children –it will come as no surprise to you that my best piece of advice to you is to keep developing your skills in ways to show atawhai. Kindness costs absolutely nothing, but it gives so much to the recipient. Everyone loves to be around kind people.

Thank you to the many, many of you who do this every single day!

There are lots of exciting things happening at Hokowhitu School. It is such a great place to be!

Have a happy and safe holiday and we'll see most of you on the 1st of February next year. If you would like to drop into the kete in the afternoon on the day before we start, you can greet the teaching team and drop off your stationery with less rush than the first morning.

Meri Kirihimete - Merry Christmas everyone



The banner features the HOKOWHITU SCHOOL logo on the left and the STRIVE logo on the right. The main title 'STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2024' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, the roles and names of the student leaders are listed in a grid format, separated by horizontal lines. The roles include Ambassadors, House Leaders, Student Council, and Wellbeing Warriors.

<u>AMBASSADORS</u>	
Daniel Sor	Hannah Peel
Austin Deller	Ava Stewart

<u>HOUSE LEADERS</u>	
Kakariki - Viktor Demianovich & Sahar Shaikh	
Kahurangi - Willa Holdaway & Hasan Dhari	
Whero - Molly Dench & Wonil Hwang	
Kowhai - Will Murley & Kiara MacGibbon	

<u>STUDENT COUNCIL</u>	
Isabella Hancock	Juha Kim
Catherine Cook	Tristan Crow
Renee Fan	Samuel Millward
Senuli Senadeera Patabendi Mudalige	Flynn Jameson

<u>WELLBEING WARRIORS</u>	
Cherry Tane	Louis Fourie
Miya Lubbe	Alex Guy
Makayla Durr	Titus Yuan
Penelope Diemer	Darcy Mason
Emma Zhang	

Ngā mihi nui
Lin Dixon

Update from the School Board

Tēnā koutou,

Congratulations on making it to the end of the year!

The School Board recently held its last meeting for 2023. One key item of business was approving a strategic plan for the next two years, which is a new requirement of the Ministry of Education. Building on the consultation that has occurred this year, we have identified four goals for accelerated improvement: improving literacy and numeracy, understanding te ao Māori, acknowledging diversity and enhancing wellbeing. We have set targets in each of these areas, and each year we will develop a plan to help us work towards them. The strategic plan will soon be available on the school website, and next year you'll see the four goals displayed around the school. We're also excited to announce that construction of the new senior playground will commence at

the start of the next school year! This is a major investment that has been made possible by Lin's careful management of the school's finances over many years. We also gratefully acknowledge the generous support of Pub Charity, which has committed \$25,000 to the project. On the Board, Villi Tosi has put a huge amount of work into planning, while Rachel Buckley wrote the grant application. We wish all our school community, students, and staff a relaxing, joyful, and safe summer break.

Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou,

Philip Steer



A big thank you to all of you who raised your hand to Coach, manage and support our teams from the side lines. None of our sports could happen without you.

Summer Hockey

Hokowhitu Red Sticks - To all the children, thank you for an awesome season. You all did an amazing job. Thank you to the parents who came and supported the children and me during game time and the practices. Hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year and hope you continue wanting to play Hockey next year!

Summer Soccer

Hokowhitu Goalies - The Hokowhitu Goalies have had an amazing season of summer soccer. Players have learnt new skills, been able to play with their friends and have fun along the way! Thank you to Ella for coaching the team and congratulations to all players.

Hokowhitu Shooters - We had a fantastic summer soccer season. We won our final game with a penalty shootout which was so exciting. We did 3 cheers for our opponents Aokoutere for a great game. The team has played for each other through all the games, and they should be so proud of their hard mahi on the field. Ka pai team, you're amazing!

Hokowhitu Strikers - The Strikers have had so much fun playing summer soccer. We finished our season with a parent and kids' game, and we had a lot of laughs. Ka pai team, you're all amazing!!

Hokowhitu Kickers - The Kickers had an awesome game winning 4-3. Tu meke Kickers.



