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Whatever is worth doing
 is worth doing well

School Community Newsletter



TIRAU SCHOOL 69 Main Road, Tirau Phone 883 1653 Fax 883 1269 Email office@tirau.school.nz



TIRAU PRIMARY SCHOOL

Te Kura o Tirau

"What ever is worth doing, is worth doing well."

Thursday 2nd August- Week 2 Term 3 2018

Important Dates:

6th August – Orders due for PTA Oxford Pies

8th August 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm Parent Interviews in the Learning Centre

9th August 3:30pm - 7:45 pm Parent Interviews in the Learning Centre

10th August – Naked Lunch

14th August – Oxford Pies delivered to school.

Value for Week 2, Term 3: Respect

Class on Assembly: Ruma Tui

Value for Week 3, Term 3: Nurture

Class on Assembly: Ruma Kiwi

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Tena koutou i te whanau

Tenei he panui kia koutou

Nau Mai, Haere Mai!

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

31st August – Daffodil Day

21st September – PTA Quiz Night – 7pm Tirau Hall

You will have heard in the media that primary teachers and principals nationwide have elected to strike for on Wednesday 15th August. The decision on whether to close the school is being made by our Board of Trustees and we will notify you all when the decision has been made. Below is some information outlining the concerns in the education sector.

Government rejects union's claim teacher shortage is turning into a 'disaster'

This was the headline in an article on the STUFF website this week 30 July. The article states the New Zealand's teacher shortage is "swiftly moving from a crisis to a disaster". The article also goes on to say that more than 1800 extra primary school teachers will be needed to cope with nearly 40,000 extra pupils expected by 2030 and that the "the current rate of churn" in teacher retention was unsustainable, and that "Student numbers for teacher training have plunged by 40 per cent in the past five years, a bubble of baby boomers is nearing retirement, and the huge workload and low pay is pushing many out of the profession within a few years of graduating – and that's before we factor in an extra 40,000 children." These issues are not restricted to the Primary sector with the Secondary sector sharing the same concerns.

Why are teachers striking?

Teachers and principals have rejected the Ministry of Education's proposed collective agreement for the **following 4 main reasons:**

- Learning support for special needs, both learning and behavioural are currently grossly underfunded putting huge pressure on schools and classrooms.
- Career development - Ensuring career pathways for educationalists as well as recognition of specialist skills.
- Salary increases - To address the chronic shortage in teachers and to stem the flow of teachers leaving the profession.
- Addressing teacher workload - More release time to plan, assess and learn.

I urge parents and whanau in our community to understand that this is a situation out of our control and our teachers continue to strive to do the best for your kids in increasingly difficult and challenging times. We thank and acknowledge the fantastic support we receive from our community and ask you get behind us as we face the difficulties ahead.

LEARNING AT TIRAU – TERM 3 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Our parent teacher interviews are next week. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's achievement and progress with your child's teacher at on Wednesday the 8th from 3:30 until 6:00pm and Thursday 9th August. From 3:30 – 7:45 pm The bookings are now open at www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and the Event code is **gn4rb**. If you have any questions about these or would like to have the office make your booking please ring either Freda or myself on 883 1653. You can also email us office@tirau.school.nz or principal@tirau.school.nz. If these times do not suit please speak to your child's teacher directly to arrange another time.

Due to a clash of commitments at University Mrs Mathers is only available on Wednesday the 8th from 2:00pm until 6:00pm. If this day doesn't suit parents they are welcome to organize a time to meet with Mrs Patterson.

NAKED LUNCHES

As part of our focus on 'Sustainability' all the classes completed a lunch box audit last term, looking at what packaging was present in lunch boxes. The survey discovered that 61% of children's food was commercially wrapped, 23% was fruit and veg and 16% was packaged in reusable bags or containers. As a result of the audit each class has set some goals for reducing the amount of single use packaging or throw away packaging in lunch boxes. We are going to run a 'naked lunch' campaign – where by children bring their lunch to school with no wrappers. Our first 'naked lunch' is Friday 10th August. Some ideas to reduce waste are – buy in bulk, use the compartments in lunch boxes and use bees wax wraps and containers. Included with the newsletter is a flyer about an opportunity for parents to purchase Beeswax wraps as part of a fundraiser for the school. These are made by one of our parents – Veronica Maree and are great to use as a reusable lunch box item.

We really appreciate your support in this venture, while at the same time supporting our 'Sustainability' learning.

STAFFING NEWS

We are excited to announce the appointment of Mr Robbie McGougan to cover for Mrs Mathers in Ruma Kereru for the rest of the year. We would also acknowledge the fantastic contribution of Mrs Judith Robinson who taught in Ruma Kereru at the end of Term 2 and has been sharing the class with me for the first 3 weeks of this term as well as running our Learning Support Programme.

We wish Jacque Dykstra – one of our valuable support staff the best of luck as she completes her teaching practicum at Tainui Full Primary over the next 6 weeks.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Bobbie Basalaj and Mrs Veronica Maree to our staff. Bobbie is working as a teacher aide in Ruma Tui and Veronica will be supporting in the junior school while Jacque is on leave.

PTA OXFORD PIE FUNDRAISER

Accompanying the last newsletter was order forms for Oxford Pies that the PTA are doing as their next fundraiser. If you missed the forms there are spares available in the office.

These pies are delicious and are fantastic to have in your freezers for those cold winter lunches. Orders and money need to be returned to school by **Monday 6th August. This is next Monday.**

The orders will be available to be collected from Room 3 at school on Tuesday 14th of August – (note the date change)

ICAS SUCCESS

Every year we offer the opportunity for our Senior pupils to take part in the ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) exams in subjects such as Science, Mathematics, Writing and Spelling. These are organized by the University of New South Wales and sat in schools across New Zealand, Australia and Asia. We have had groups complete a number of these in 2018 and at last Friday's assembly we presented the certificates for those children who sat the Digital Technologies and Science exams.

The results were as follows:

Science:

Fahmi Y was awarded a participation certificate

Thomas S was awarded a Merit – He scored in the top 37 percent of all participants in Year 4

Mitchell B was awarded a Credit – He scored in the top 13 percent of all participants in Year 5

Digital Technologies:

Sarah D was awarded a Credit – She scored in the top 22 percent of all participants in Year 5

Mitchell B was awarded a Distinction – He scored in the top 3 percent of all participants in Year 5

VALUES AWARDS and STUDENTS OF THE WEEK – 6th July 2018

Ruma Tui	Ashleigh	For always being motivated to learn, She thrives on challenges and new learning.	Dominic B	For believing in his 'Self Belief' and being able to complete any task independently.
Ruma Kiwi	Taylor	For showing excellence at all times towards her maahi (work) in clas Tino Rawe!	Jack	For showing excellence in her writing. Paianan to tuhituhi
Ruma Kākāpō	Rylee	For your awesome and infectious attitude! You are a motivated LEARNer who is always making us smile!	Leroy	For excellence in his reading and achieving to a higher level. Kia mau te wehi!
Ruma Pukeko	Daniel B	For being focused, settled and trying his very best this week. Tu meke Daniel – keep it up!	Rhyot	For always having a great attitude and taking pride in his work and presenting a wonderful 'Dog' poster.
Ruma Keruru	Niki	For a tremendous effort to complete your topic activities to a very high standard. Well done!	Joshua	For the kind and caring way you look after others, especially when working with your Ruma Tui buddy.
Ruru Award: The School Ambassadors – tackling any task you undertake – you are always courteous, happy and willing to help. Thank you!				

VALUES AWARDS and STUDENTS OF THE WEEK – 27th July 2018

Ruma Tui	Lilith	Being able to 'self assess' her writing and strive for excellence	Tyson	Being motivated to succeed and improve, and for celebrating with everyone when he does.
Ruma Kiwi	Daniel	A great start to the term always ready to Āko (learn) and show our Tirau values.	Sophie	Show big improvement in her āhua (behaviour) towards her friends in the classroom.
Ruma Kākāpō	Guile	Your empathy and understanding towards helping others who are 'in the maze'	Ellie	Working so hard to be the best version of herself that she possibly can. You show excellence in everything you do.
Ruma Pukeko	Kiama	Displaying leadership skills in class and always being a sensible, trustworthy and helpful person.	Chloe	Showing excellence in her learning this week, especially for mathematics
Ruma Keruru	Olivia B	Being a conscientious learner who has completed all her learning tasks to a high standard this week.	Matty	Showing excellence and focus in his learning this week
Ruru Award: Dylan S – Showing our Tirau LEARNer In everything he does He is always thinking of others.				

No reira ma te manaakitanga

Kia tou, ki runga, kia koutou katoa

Siobhan Patterson
Principal

Pig and Chicken Food Scraps

As a school, we all know how many lunchbox sandwiches and food gets thrown away weekly at school. We are looking for someone who would like to collect our food scraps weekly to feed a pig or chickens instead of throwing them away. If you know of anyone then please let the office know or Sarah Brown.