

20 May 2016

Dear Parents/Caregivers/Whanau

Kia ora tatou

St Johns Hill School has had a tremendous start to Term 2.

This warmer weather has certainly contributed to a scene of positivity.

However, it is that time of year that the number of students away with illness is rising. Please assist our admin team by phoning 349 1750 and leaving a message on our absence line by pressing 1/child's name/their room/brief explanation of absence.

Below are a few exciting things happening at our school and I thank you in anticipation of your help and support of them.

Regards Michael

St Johns Hill School Facebook Page

An official school facebook page has been set up (already liked by 240 people). This will allow us more effectively to push messages out to our school community. Please go onto:

www.facebook.com/stjohnshillschool and "like" our page. You will then receive any messages we push!!

St Johns Hill School Website — www.stjohnshill.school.nz

As many of you will be aware, sometime ago our website fell over! We have now created a new website which will be up and running within the next month. This website is in its infancy and when you visit, you will see the folders still to be built. However we are launching it at this stage so we can share calendar of upcoming events and newsletters. Many parents have an issue with the school newsletter not getting home. Improved digital access to this will hopefully assist you. Mr Howells intends to post sports information to the site including teams/drawers etc.

St Johns Hill School—ICT Fundraising

The BOT & PTA thank our school community for all the help and support you have given to us in our fundraising ventures. Being a high decile school, we receive substantially less funding than a low decile school. This is because the current funding policy endeavours to address equity for children. The higher your decile (we are a 9 out of 10), the greater it is determined, that your community has the financial means to support their school. This puts a lot of additional pressure on high decile schools, like ours, to fundraise to purchase the "extras" such as ICT/Sports equipment/games etc.

Over the past 12 months the BOT & PTA have been looking at purchasing additional ICT devices for teaching and learning. The Ministry of Education have a goal for all Year 4 → 6 students to have easy access to ICT devices by 2017 (1 device between every two students). We are already well on the way to achieving this, with \$50,000 already raised or committed. We thank you for your awesome support to date of our fundraising ventures which has seen this outcome. Our goal is to achieve by the end of the year \$90,000. This will give us 5 cows (5 sets of 30 Chromebooks On Wheels) and a set of 7 touchscreens for each of our 5 Piwakawaka junior classrooms.

We have adapted a fundraising idea, recently successfully used by a Palmerston North school to raise a considerable amount. Like them, we are a very "physically active" school and have decided to have a walk/runathon. I am sure our students will rise to the challenge.

If we are able to raise \$50 per student, we will have a further \$20,000. Half our 2016 goal. This would be absolutely awesome!!

We hope that students and their families will go out to family, friends, neighbours, colleagues etc to get as many sponsors as possible, for hopefully what we all see as a really worthwhile outcome, our children's education. On Wednesday at our assembly, we will launch the fundraiser and send home further information and a sponsorship form.

From your BOT/PTA/Staff and I, thank you again in anticipation of your excellent effort, help and support.

Issue 7

Welcome to School

A special welcome to the following new students who have recently joined our school family. We wish them all the best for their learning at our school.

Dominic Graham, Serena Chernoff, Flynn Devane, Chloe Graham.



Virtues Awards

Well done to the following students for being recognised for living above the line and displaying their virtues.



Co-operation: Ruby Bracegirdle, Zara Jackson, Cienna Newland, Isaac Booth-Richards, Trent James, Guy Fitzgerald.

Cleanliness: Michaela Ross, Amber Cooke.

Courage: Emma Bullock, Heidi Johnston, Ji Ho Lee, Tyler Bisset.

Kindness: Liam Penwarden, James Deeley, Charlee Joseph, Phoebe Rickard. **Excellence:** Maison Beattie-McKeown.

Inter School Tackle Rugby Tournament

On Tuesday 17th May, 10 boys travelled to Springvale Park to compete against 14 other schools to see if they could be the best primary school tackle rugby team in Wanganui. The competition was split into two pools of seven. Six games were played with St Johns having four wins, a draw and a loss. Unfortunately we miss the play offs by one point. Semi-finals and finals were held and at the end it was found that Wanganui East School was the best tackle rugby team this year. Well done to all students who represented St Johns at the tournament, you did the school proud with the way that you played the games.

A big thankyou to the parents who provided transport and came along to support the team.

The team was: Callum Fantham, Cienna Newland, Matthew Adrole, Jansen Pears, Nehemiah Su'a, Noah Pa'a, James Hardy, Theo Tripe, Thomas Fitzgerald and Marshall Littlefair.



Equipment Donation from McDonalds

A very big thank you (needs to be given) to Darren Rowland and McDonalds Restaurant for the very kind donation of footballs and cones. These were very much needed for the skill sessions that our four teams in the 9th, 10th and 11th grades have to complete before the start of every game.



School Website Address: www.stjohnshill.school.nz

Winter Sport

Winter sports are well under way now with all football, netball and hockey teams having played. A thank to all parents who have stepped up to take a school team. As you well know without your help our teams wouldn't happen.

In netball we have Kristy Whittington, Jo McGinnis, Bianca Sheridan, Rochelle Howard, Stacey Mead, Tianna and Jean Jenkinson, Helen Jones, Melissa Cooke and Eleanor Arnst.

In Hockey we have George Gaisford, Darren Rowland and Rochelle Howard.

In football we have Brent Eastabrook, Aaron Toy, Dean Wong, Nicole St Pierre, Hamish Smith, Kristen Hamling and Mel McGhie.

Thank you again to these parents.



Building Renovation—Block 1

The Ministry of Education require BOT to bring their building up to modern standards and have at least 50% of their classroom spaces flexible. MOE goal was for this to be achieved by 2018. The cost of this is being met by the Ministry of Education. (Not from school operation Grant.) Each 5 years they provide schools with a grant they hold specifically for property upgrade. The PTA and BOT current focus from their financial reserves and fundraising ventures is ICT. Although very expensive, this is where we all see our priority for school discretionary spending as we are well resourced in other areas. We thank you and appreciate your support of our fundraising.

BOT News—Elections

Nominations received for parent representatives on our school BOT at closing date of 20th May at 12 noon are as follows:

- **Cairncross**, Simon
- **Devane**, Vince
- **Heerdegen**, Janine
- **Hunt**, Cameron
- **Jones**, Helen
- **McCosh**, Richard
- **Reid**, Andy
- **Town**, Cameron



Voting papers will be issued by 25th May and voting closes 12 noon on June 3rd. Votes counted and resulted declared June 9th. New board takes office on June 10th.

Growing A Love Of Reading—Home Reading

Thank you parents for helping your child with their home reading. We would like you to be their fluency coach. The teacher will send home books which your child can successfully read. Children need lots of reading mileage at home with texts where they have lots of success. It is also very important that the child can understand the meaning of what they read, not just the words. They will then make connections with experiences they have had and other texts they have read. When the child has lots of success and reading mileage they will grow in confidence, fluency and expression. Therefore regularly revisiting of familiar text has many benefits.

Tips for Success:

- * Lots of praise and encouragement
- * A quiet place away from distractions
- * Discuss the cover/the illustrations—Lots of talk about the book
- * Encourage your child to look for clues in the picture
- * Ask questions before/during and after the story
 - What is happening in the picture (using clues)
 - Can you think what might happen next (predicting)
 - Are you able to tell me the story in your own words (retelling)
- * Visit the library and choose some books your child would like you to read to them
- * Reading should be enjoyable!!

Green-Gold Enviroschool
EARTH KIDS Education for Sustainability
Schoolgen School
Health Promoting School

Support Our
Kea Crossing



KEA CROSSING IN OPERATION

Please consider supporting the crossing by dropping your children off at the Virginia Lake car park. This would not only reduce congestion in the school driveway and roadside but also provide children with exercise as they walk safely to school.

Crossing Supervisors

Thank you to James Roy, Jacinda Broadhead and Luella Buckland for volunteering to act as supervisors at the crossing. We are still requiring two more adults to assist in this valuable service.

Kia ora

Kevin Booth DP

Peakes Road/Other Drop Off/Pick Ups



Thank you to those parents/caregivers who have positively responded to the health & safety request not to park on yellow lines/across driveways/ on verges etc.

Drop off and pick up is the most hazardous time of our day. We appreciate you being very cautious with your parking and driving around our school. I have had some communication with the traffic department. It has been reported to me that some drivers approached have taken offence for being spoken to about parking illegally. Please ensure you don't continue, or you take note not to do this, as I am told you will receive an infringement ticket in the mail.

Night @ the Library

Last Wednesday night all the Librarians went to the Whanganui District Library for a Night @ the Library. There were 40 other children from 6 different schools. We did a fun library quiz, we went behind the scenes and saw the black and



white library cat, & where the new books are kept, while they are being processed. We also had a tour of the library. At the end of the night Amy and Becky from the Library gave us all certificates for being outstanding librarians. It was a great experience for us all.

By Hannah & Jessica (Head Librarians)

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 3 of the Scholastic book club brochures are now available from the library and office, or online at www.scholastic.co.nz

Orders from this brochure can be made online or by returning the order form with payment to the mail box in the Information Centre foyer. (Please make cheques payable to Scholastic NZ) Orders close on Friday 27th May 2016.

