

Thursday 16th August  
Week 4, Term 3



Dear parents and whanau;

### **Teacher's Strike**

Thank you for your support and flexibility during the Teachers Strike yesterday. It was a bit of a worry to manage this safely and we know there was an impact on our families. The Board took the decision to close the school very seriously indeed. However our overwhelming responsibility for student safety made it simple, if not easy.

The strike received a lot of media coverage; it made it fairly clear that most schools are struggling with class sizes, teacher supply and relievers. The average class size in years 0-3 is around 26 and about 30 in years 4-6.

We do not know what will happen next but we will let you know as soon as we do know. In the meantime we have lost one day from our working week because of the Strike... We have just about caught up but the newsletter might be a bit skinny as a result.

### **It's the 'so what?' that really matters**

We are working to develop our practice in assessment and reporting, and especially to link our ongoing assessment of student learning to 'what happens next'. The Ministry of Education – and most other schools in New Zealand – are also working hard on this, and the New Zealand Curriculum exemplars have been improved significantly.

They show clearly

1. The progression in learning –examples of what good quality work outcomes should look like at every level. This makes it easy for teachers, students and parents to compare student work and understand 'where they are at'.
2. Tools to help assess how well the students is performing against these progressions – good quality assessment tasks.
3. Helpful annotation to show what needs to be taught and learned next.

They are available online at <http://assessment.tki.org.nz/Assessment-tools-resources/The-NZ-Curriculum-Exemplars>.

### **Leave from school**

Sometimes students are taken out of school for a family holiday or for other reasons. The Education Act Para. 20(1) requires that all children must attend school 'whenever it is open' for the time they are enrolled at school, or their sixth Birthday (whichever is the earlier) until their 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday. As Principal, I am empowered to exempt a student from attending the **school** for a period of *no more than 5 **school** days*, if I am satisfied that a student's absence was or will be justified.

If you are planning to take your child out of school when the school is open, then please contact me first. We consider that families and whanau are very important and we are very sympathetic to quality family time, although the law does limit my power to authorise absences to a maximum of five days.

### **Health and other absences**

I receive many request for a student to be taken out of school during classroom time for a medical or other reason. Such things as dentist or doctor appointments are simple to authorise retrospectively, though we do need to know they are safe, and we also need a signed note or an email to explain why a child was absent from school on their return, as with any other absence.

### **Attendance at school and alternative learning programmes**

Sometimes children are taken out of school during the school day for other reasons. Any such absences have to be authorised by the Principal beforehand. However it is almost always better if such programmes are organised when the school is not open for tuition. Apart from the legal requirement for children to attend school whenever it is open' there are many good reasons why extra learning programmes should not take place during the school learning day – the most important being the 'opportunity cost', the negative impact that occurs when students miss parts of the ongoing class learning programmes. At this time I am not aware of any arrangements to withdraw students for alternative learning programmes when the school is open for instruction.

### **Finally,**

A line from our Charter..... "Everyone will be treated with kindness and respect'.

Nga mihi nui

*Paul Wright*

*Haere mai to our new entrants... Luke Findlay, Hanna Gruszczuk, Jett Marris, Szymon Gruszczuk, Michael Reihana*

*And Happy Birthday to Daniel Suifua, Isabella Triggs, Andre Duggan, Daniel Edmonds, Adriana Urlovic, Mathilda Rothwell-Horner, Ashton Walters*

### **A note for our Year 6 students**

**Year 6 Testing Day** for Matipo Primary School Students at Te Atatu Intermediate School, [8 Harbour View Rd, Te Atatu Peninsula](#) will be held on **Thursday 25 October 2018 at 9.15am in the School Hall**. Parents please mark your diaries and make sure your child is already enrolled at TAI, as only students who have enrolled will be allowed to sit this assessment test. For any inquiries please Ph: (09) 834 5371. Thanks