

MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL

TE KURA TAKIWA O MANGAKAHIA

19 February 2010

NEWSLETTER

No. 1 / 1 0

Please ring us **BEFORE 9.00** if your child is absent, **BEFORE 2.00** to change home-time transport plans.

Welcome - Student Success - Homeroom Events - School Leaving Age - Changes in 2010 - Kapa Haka Board of Trustees - National Standards - Admin - 2010 Term 1 Calendar - Sports News - Community News Concerns & Complaints Policy - Parent Survey on National Standards

Greetings. Tena koutou katoa.

WELCOME to the 2010 school year. We hope you had a good family-time break. **New families** – thank you for choosing our school. We hope your students enjoy their time here.

Staff and students acknowledge with sorrow the passing of 'Uncle Duke' Tuhiwai on 26 December. Duke was a loyal supporter of kapa haka and is sadly missed. Our aroha to his family & whanau. Haere ra, e te Rangatira, e te hoa.

The School Powhiri was this year led by 3 teachers and one student. Teachers Barry Dunn & Bill Morgan gave mihi to the manuhiri, teacher Stanko Susnjar & Y11 student Haami Tohu replied. All spoke in te reo Maori. Senior kapa haka students supported the speakers with accomplished waiata. Our teen parents joined us. Kia ora e te whanau.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations students on your start to the year - excellent uniform, stationery and focus on learning. The roll is 151, with a dozen or so still to come. We are staffed on 142 and aiming for 160.

Student Leader Sherryn Schraag has made the difficult decision to leave school last week, in spite of loving it at the school and being proud of her leadership role. After several lessons in each subject, Sherryn quickly realised that over the summer she lost the motivation to study at Level 3. **Edward Kelly** found himself in the same situation. Level 2 last year was suddenly enough. This marks the end of an era for the Kelly whanau – Taurus, Anaru, Charlee, Rangimarie and Eddie now out in the world! Thank you mum Caroline and whanau for your support for the school.

Erin Murphy Y13 is now our head girl with **Finnisha Tuhiwai Y12** her deputy. Congratulations to both. Sherryn's departure leaves vacant the position of student rep on the board of trustees. A by-election takes place soon, as per regulations. Y10-Y13 students are eligible for nomination and voting.

Room 1's very own Big Picture Book! The children have written their own version of their big picture book 'The Meanies' – theirs is called 'The Nicies,' which they read to the board chair and me last week. The book features photos of Room 1 students and has some great messages. Well done Room 1.

Room 2 no longer has its own class. It is now a multi-purpose room for other classes to use as required.

Room 3 children are studying water – its origins and uses, saltwater and freshwater creatures. They are enjoying the new outdoor area and wearing their new sunhats with pride. They have settled in well with Mrs Faber, who is relieving in Terms 1 and 2 while Ms Fenton is on study leave.

Room 4 are straight into education for sustainability - worm farming, bantam hens, and caring for the new outdoor area (sand hygiene and planning for planting). They have the makings of a great group!

Link Class Year 7-8 have settled in together well, are enjoying their link classroom, and are engaging well with their learning. At the moment the class is large (for us) with 29 students. We are keeping a close eye on numbers and have a contingency plan for further growth.

Y9 & Y10 are working extremely well in their combined classes for English, maths and science. They need break-time activities which the sports council seniors are organising, starting with basketball.

Y11 are quickly coming to terms with NCEA ways of learning. They have begun very well, and are already working on their first units of work..

Y12-13 Our seniors have brainstormed their roles, set things in motion, and are meeting with me every fortnight to evaluate progress. **Their chosen focus is strengthening school relationships**, in particular through leadership of a student mediation service, Y5-8 student clubs (Terms 2 and 3), running *Mangakahia's Got Talent* events at Matariki and Show Days, providing reading support for primary students, and a library support group, along with their traditional roles on the Wellness Team and Sports Council. They are also designing a mural for the wall facing the senior terrace. Well done seniors! However, focus on academic work remains their top priority and we will ensure this is protected.

HOMEROOM EVENTS

Y9-13 homeroom teachers have got off to a great start. In 2010 we aim to develop closer home-school relations through a Homeroom Teacher Team - two teachers to each Y9-13 homeroom (form class):

Y9 Ms Van der Klundert & Mr Morgan
Y11 Mr Smith & Mr Sadgrove

Y10 Mr Dunn & Whaea Palmer
Y12-13 Mr Susnjar & Ms Semenoff

The first name of each pair is the 'official' form teacher who does the attendance register and signs homeroom letters. **The second person named** supports good uniform and readiness to learn.

Both teachers are the pastoral care team for their homeroom class – developing good relations with students and their families, maintaining contact, celebrating successes and helping resolve problems and address concerns. They held two really good after-school BBQ-Swim events in Weeks 2 and 3, and have started to ring homes to introduce themselves as your child's pastoral carers. Their enthusiasm is great. Watch this space for developments and events.

Y0-8 class teachers continue to well fulfil their pastoral care role as teachers of young children.

SCHOOL LEAVING AGE

The Education Act requires students to be at school until their 16th birthday. This has been the school leaving age for 10 years now. The Ministry now grants few exemptions. Please note that this is the minimum legal requirement. In the interests of future life opportunities, students should complete NCEA in Years 11-13. Students keen to leave on their 16th birthday must register their intention well in advance so they can complete career advice, an exit interview, certification and the sign-out process.

CHANGES IN 2010

The school day is now five periods. In line with most other secondary schools, this gives students one-hour periods for deeper learning, and five subjects to focus on well instead of six where the sixth subject usually suffers. The 1-hour lessons are going well. Teachers can now break them into 20-minute sections where students focus on a particular activity, helping deep learning. Students are focusing well.

Two 30-minute breaks during the day. We are trialling these break-times this semester and will evaluate their success mid-year. Interval is 11-11.30am, lunch 1.30-2pm. They were introduced to protect student learning time – the core business of schools – by cutting down on behaviour problems that always escalate towards the end of an hour break at lunchtime, and removing rushed and tiring sports practices which make afternoon learning harder to achieve.

Sports practices have for too long been a poor relation at Mangakahia, crammed into too short a time at lunchtime for ideal practice conditions eg warm-ups, skills drills, strategising and game time, warm-downs. These take at least an hour. Practices will now be held after school 3.15-4.15. No student need be disadvantaged by transport problems.

KAPA HAKA

The Taitokerau Festival is at Kaitia College. Manager Whaea Palmer and tutor Whaea Mereana have set out a schedule of school-time practices, as per board policy. This year protocols have been strengthened in order to strengthen student commitment and whanau support. For the first time, kapa haka students will be asked to contribute \$10 a week between now and Festival week, to cover costs such as bus hire and tutor koha and to cut down on fundraising that is time-consuming and not always successful. Some fundraising events are being applied for but these need to fit in with other groups. The uniforms have been thoroughly upgraded now and look magnificent. The board of trustees budgets \$500 each year towards kapa haka / festival costs. Kapa haka must self-fund any extra costs.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Policy Review At its first meeting in 2010 the board reviewed **the concerns & complaints policy** with only one very minor change (writing terms in full instead of acronyms eg School Trustees Association instead of STA). This policy is attached for your information. **If you have any questions or concerns, contact Board Secretary Lesley McCardle.**

Charter Review The board also reviewed the school's charter and its **Stand down & Suspensions policy**. These require fine-tuning before presenting them for your consideration and feedback, in the next newsletter.

Board Elections in May The board welcomed 4 observers intending to stand for election in May, with apologies from two more. This is very encouraging. If you are thinking of standing, please attend the next BOT meeting Mon 15 March.

Property **The new Y1-6 outdoor area** is well established and should be completed for now, once the spider-frame arrives. Children are loving it. **The Y7-13 fitness trail** is being installed on the field and should be ready for use mid-term. **GreenGables** are doing a great job. The edible forest will take longer to develop but the foundations are under way. Caretaker Leith Dee has emptied **the little pool** to find and repair a major leak. In the meantime **the big pool** is in great shape and well used – thank you Leith. **The 6-year school repaint** has begun. Same colour scheme, now as good as new. **Programme Maintenance Services (PMS)** have a long-term contract for painting – a great service!

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Mangakahia Area School will report to parents on Y1-8 children's achievements against the recently introduced National Standards in literacy and numeracy, twice a year, as required by government policy. In March we will write to Y1-8 parents explaining standards & reporting requirements. Please note that these standards are un-consulted, un-trialled, and un-tested; and un-necessary given the widely consulted, thoroughly tested, extensively trialled and very successfully implemented current reporting tools on which we base our reports.

How well are NZ students educated in NZ schools? Here are the results of an internationally well established, and respected current international research project (PISA), held every 3 years, on **how well NZ students age 15 compare to 57 other countries**. The 2009 results will be out mid-year. These are the 2006 results:

1 Mathematics Literacy

Only 5 of 57 countries were higher than NZ (Chinese Taipei, Finland, Hong Kong-China, Korea, Netherlands). NZ indistinguishable from Switzerland, Canada, Japan, Belgium, Australia (and others), **well ahead of UK & USA (2 countries which have systems in place similar to National Standards)** *NZ had 14% at Level 1 proficiency or lower, compared to OECD average of 21%.*

2 Scientific Literacy

NZ ahead of 46 countries, including UK & USA. Two countries higher than NZ (Finland & Hong Kong-China). NZ score unchanged from the 2003 and 2000. NZ indistinguishable from Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Australia, Netherlands, Korea (and others) *NZ had 14% at Level 1 proficiency or lower (similar to Australia's 13%), OECD average at 19%.*

3 Reading Literacy

Only 3 countries higher than NZ (Korea, Finland, Hong Kong-China). NZ indistinguishable from Canada, Ireland (and others). NZ score unchanged from the 2003 and 2000. NZ ahead of Australia, Sweden, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Japan, UK, Austria, Germany, France, Norway, etc. *NZ had 15% at Level 1 proficiency or lower, (similar to Australia's 13%), compared to OECD average 20%.*

NZ students are up there with the best of the rest – the doom & gloom seems to be misplaced scare-mongering with no research-based evidence. **A Parent Survey on National Standards** is attached at the end of this newsletter. It aims to reveal what **parents of every school in NZ think**. Please return by **next Thursday 25 Feb**. Thank you.

Ka kite,
Anne Stead

Admin

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

The Board of Trustee election process has begun and nominations are being called for five parent representatives. Nomination forms will be posted out to all caregivers in about two weeks from now. However forms are also available from the school office. Nominations close on **23rd April at noon**. Voting day will be **7th May**.

Subject Fees

Subject fees can now be paid to the school office. Please contact the school office if you are unsure of what your child's fees are or if you prefer to pay in instalments. Please note that we do not ask for 'school donations'.

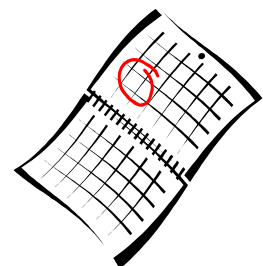
Vaccinations

Year 8 girls are being offered free immunisation at school to help protect them against HPV (Human Papillomavirus) to prevent cervical cancer. Vaccination is also available for girls Year 9 – 13. Consent forms available from the office

CALENDAR

Whanau are encouraged to come along and support our tamariki in their sporting endeavours.

School Swimming Sports	Thursday	25 February
School Athletics Sports	Wednesday	3 March
Valley Swimming Champs	Thursday	4 March
Secondary School Athletics Champs	Wednesday	10 March
WPSSA Swim Champs Yr 4 to 6	Tuesday	16 March
WPSSA Swim Champs Yr 7 & 8	Wednesday	17 March
Secondary School Boys Rugby 7's	Wednesday	17 March
WPSSA Primary Summer Tournament	Wednesday	24 March
End of Term 1	Thursday	1 April



The next BOT meeting is on Monday 15 March in the staffroom – meet at 4.45pm for a prompt 5pm start.

Sports News from Sport-Fit Coordinator Juanita Parata

Greetings everyone and welcome back to school. I trust everyone had a great break and look forward to yet another fun filled and busy year.

2010 Volunteer Coaches

Needed - Senior Rugby Coach for Secondary team, Rugby 7's, NASA tournament and school exchanges. If you are interested and able to help please phone the school and leave your contact details – ALL RUGBY COACHES MUST HAVE CURRENT 2010 NORTHLAND RUGBY UNION CREDENTIALS FOR UNDER 18'S.

SPORTS TEAM RALLIES – 2010

Rallies will be held during the lunch break, in the community room on the following days:

AREA TEAMS - WED 24 FEBRUARY, SATURDAY SPORT - MON 8 MARCH

Names of students interested will be taken. No school team will be entered into events unless there are sufficient players registered and coaches are available. Players, officials and coaches are required.

2010 HOUSE LEADERS

In 2009 students were identified and nominated to become 2010 House Leaders. The School Sports Managers Team wishes to congratulate the following senior students who were selected as 2010 House Leaders.

Kowhai-	Finnisha Tuhiwai & Dylan Tohu Deputy – Tynneal Openshaw	Matai-	Toni Tahere Deputy – Natasha Edmonds & Cody Becker
Pohutukawa-	Kahlen Parata-Lamusitele Deputy – Darone Diamond & Kayla Piri	Tarairei-	Erin Murphy & Cherith Schraag Deputy – Keegan Walker

Netball umpiring classes – At Netball Centre Kensington – Wednesday 5.00pm to 6.30pm for 6 weeks - \$6.00 contact Sue Robertson 09 437 5964 (evenings).

Te Taitokerau Maori Netball Trials: Players must attend a **minimum of 2 trials** to qualify.

Contact Carol McClintock – 09 438 6291 for more information. Whangarei - 10am to 2pm, Sunday 21Feb, Kaikohe, 10am to 2pm Sunday 28 Feb

Rugby Coaching Roadshow (Under 14 coaches and Upwards). Monday 22 February, 7.00pm @ Old Boys RFC.

Chilltech Beach to Basin 7 March

This year, for school groups who enter the Chilltech Beach 2 Basin, Sport Northland would like to offer a **bulk entry option**. Please find further information about this event on the following web pages:

Entry Information <http://www.runwalkseries.co.nz/default.asp?PageID=4052>

Event Information <http://www.runwalkseries.co.nz/default.asp?PageID=19589>

The Course <http://www.runwalkseries.co.nz/default.asp?PageID=4055>

Allen's Kids Triathlon – Sunday 14 March – Entries available from all Allen's Offices, FatDog Cycles or enter online at www.allens.co.nz - \$15 per athlete

Community News

Pakotai School Market Day

Pakotai School have a white elephant stall, sausage sizzle, drinks, raffles etc. Saturday 27th March 2010 10am-1pm. Stalls - \$5 per table. Any queries please phone Pakotai School 4331727.

Whangarei's Endless Summer

Saturday 20th February - Summer Market in the Rose Gardens ~ 7am to 1pm

Children's activities include; Circus and musical performances PLUS children have the opportunity to make a Kite or a Puppet; Dip a Candle, paint a magnet and play in a tepee...

Sculpture Symposium at Elliot Reserve, Ewing Rd, Whangarei ~ 12pm to 4pm. Take a look at the sculptures with lots of free and fun entertainment for the whole family.

Sunday 21st February - The Storytime Super Kite Day at Kensington Park – 10am-3pm. Bring a kite to fly and join in great family fun. (Kites can be made at the Summer Market on Saturday)

Sunday 7 March, 10am-3pm - Community Guided Snorkel Day – for Seaweek

At Reotahi Beach (after McLeod's Bay follow Reotahi Rd, then beach Rd to end to Reotahi carpark) – Guided snorkeling at the Whangarei Harbour marine reserve site at Reotahi, information and bbq. Supported by DOC and the New Zealand Refining Company. For more info contact 4338205

Open Air Cinema – Free movies! - Friday Mar 26 – 'Mama Mia' & Saturday Mar 27 – 'Where the Wild Things Are'

PG – both films will be screened approximately 7.30pm at Reyburn House Lane Reserve

The Friday evening feature will be focused for more mature audiences while Saturday aims to excite the kids and the young at heart with a fun family friendly movie. Bring along some chairs, a rug, a picnic dinner and enjoy the cinema like you have never have before. The entertainment will begin at approximately 7:30pm (just after sunset) both evenings. You can also buy snacks, food and drinks (no alcohol) at the venue.

For more information on these events, please go to www.whangareinz.com

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

LEGISLATION

Education Act (1989)

National Education Goals (1993)

National Administration Guidelines (1993)

Memorandum of Understanding with He Mataariki Teen Parent School

FOCUS

- maintain a high standard of service delivery by addressing concerns and complaints
- concerns are often informal, verbal and 1:1 discussions, queries or requests for action
- complaints are usually formal and in the event that a concern is not satisfactorily addressed.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Relationship Management, Safe School, School Runanga, Stand downs and Suspensions

GUIDELINES

Concerns should be raised with the person(s) causing concern at the time in the form of a discreet and low-key learning conversation – where the concern is named, clarified, and mutual cooperation sought in a positive way. Prior discussion with a manager may assist. A restorative meeting may be necessary.

Complaints can be the consequence of an unresolved concern or the first response to a serious matter.

Complaints by or against parents/caregivers, members of school and local community:

- must be made in the first instance directly to the principal, in person and/or in writing;
- the principal will follow a procedure to resolve the issue and liaise with the board chair;
- all parties will be appropriately consulted and kept informed of progress and resolution.

Complaints by or against students should be raised in the first instance with:

- a trusted adult in school, public health nurse, subject or homeroom teacher, dean, senior manager;
- in the case of a community complaint against a student, with the deputy principal or principal;
- either could involve support from the school Runanga and outside help agencies.

Complaints by or against teaching staff should be raised in the first instance with:

- a colleague, syndicate leader, union delegate, staff rep, senior managers, principal;
- addressed via school procedures, board policy, Union, Area Schools Teachers Collective Award;
- any action taken must not conflict with or breach any employment contract or award;
- serious complaints against teachers must be addressed by the principal and board chair;
- with the professional advice and guidance of School Trustees Association and Union advisers

Complaints by or against a senior manager should be raised first with the principal.

Complaints by or against the principal or any trustee should be raised with the board chair.

Complaints by or against the board chair should be raised with the principal.

Complaints by or against Support Staff should be raised in the first instance with:

- the school's executive officer, who may refer the matter to the principal / board chair; and
- addressed as per school procedures, board policy, and employee union(s)

This policy should be advertised at regular intervals in the school newsletter.

All policies are adopted annually by the board as recorded in the minutes.

REVIEW DATE: February 2011

National Standards Survey of Parents by New Zealand Principals' Federation

Please return to school by Thursday 25 February

Survey Questions		YES (tick)	NO (tick)
1	Do you feel that your primary/intermediate/area school generally keeps you well informed about your child's progress and achievement?		
2	If you have concerns about your child's progress and achievement, do you feel comfortable about approaching the school?		
3	Do you think it is wrong that children as young as 5 and 6 years should be labelled as failing?		
4	Do you think that people should be concerned about bringing in an untried, untested system into our schools, when similar systems have failed overseas?		
5	Does it concern you that 87% of parents of primary and intermediate school students do not have enough knowledge about National Standards, yet the government is proceeding with their implementation?		
6	Do you think it is wrong to hold schools totally responsible for students' learning when it is acknowledged that there are many other circumstances beyond the control of the school?		
7	Does it concern you that the government, despite its chief advisor Professor John Hattie saying that national standards should be scrapped and that leading academics and the Associate Minister of Education have concerns about the standards, is continuing with its current implementation plan?		
8	Does it concern you that your elected Board of Trustees (who are parents of the school and represent you) has been threatened with being sacked if it disagrees with implementing the standards?		
9	Do you believe that the money being spent on National Standards would be better spent on world-leading programmes, developed in NZ, that we know work with students who are struggling to learn?		
10	Do you think that National Standards were a major reason for the change in government?		

Thank you for completing and returning this survey.

A summary of results will be forwarded to NZPF in Wellington.

MAS results will appear in the next newsletter.

National results will appear as soon as we receive them.