

MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL

TE KURA TAKIWA O MANGAKAHIA

1 August 2008

NEWSLETTER

No9 / 08

Please let us know **BEFORE 9.00** if your child is going to be absent, and **BEFORE 2.00** if you need to change home-time transport plans.

Greetings Everyone

It seems a very short time ago since I last wrote to you. A great deal has happened since then, even though we had a two week holiday break away from school.

The Principal, Anne Stead, is now engaged on her sabbatical study of Area Schools, and is looking forward to her return in term 4.

Visiting Principal from Mitiaro School

As I mentioned late last term, Thomas Samuella of Mitiaro School was with us for the first week of term. He was here to learn about numeracy, literacy and behaviour management. He was a delightful person and thoroughly enjoyed his short stay in the north (even the storm). Thomas also was astounded at the competence and generosity of our staff, who were able to share resources and expertise with him. A highlight of his week was his farewell by the kapa haka group, organized by Whaea Mereana Pou. He responded in Cook Island Maori and sang a song of his own composition.

Mangakahia has had a long relationship with Mitiaro School. Thomas is the third principal to visit us for professional development.

School Closure

We closed the school at 12.30 on Tuesday, and again at 2pm Wednesday following warnings of possible flooding. I made the decisions based on the best information available at the time. I hope that no one was inconvenienced as a result. Evacuating the school involves a great deal of frantic telephoning. We will never send young children home unless we are satisfied that they will be safe and cared for.

- Please ensure that we have your latest telephone, cell phone and emergency numbers.
- When the weather is severe, please ensure that your cell phone is switched on, if you are away from your land line.
- As well as radio stations, the school will also place closure notices on the Regional Council website. This is: www.nrc.govt.nz

I hope that you enjoy the comments by our youngest pupils later in this newsletter. The photograph was taken by their teacher, Mrs Carolyn Henwood.

Staffing

Many of you will be aware that Susan Reynolds, our year 7 and 8 teacher, has accepted a position at Bream Bay College as a Guidance Counsellor. I congratulate Susan on her appointment. Such positions are relatively rare, and Susan has been involved in studying towards Counselling qualifications for several

years. We have appointed Jan Jones to replace Susan. Jan taught at Mangakahia about 9 years ago, before moving to Kamo Intermediate as a senior teacher. Presently she is Deputy Principal at Nelson Intermediate.

We are very excited at the prospect of having Jan on the staff again. She will be taking up her position at the beginning of term 4. There will be a 4 week period between Susan's departure and Jan's arrival. We have asked Lesley a'Court and Mark Garry to fill this short term position. They are both experienced and capable teachers at this level.

Money, Money, Money

During week one, we had a wonderful day when we were showered with money!

- \$120,000 has become available to upgrade the primary playground. We had planned to do this over a period of time, and are delighted to be able to get this started sooner than expected. This project will be underway in 2009.
- Mangakahia has been selected as one of ten schools, nation wide, to take part in a Library Book Literacy Programme. As well as professional development for staff, there will also be a grant of \$10, 000 for library books.
- Terri Cunningham and Kaye Davey have applied successfully for Healthy Eating, Healthy Action funding for primary gardens and food preparation equipment. This is all a part of our "Healthy Schools" initiative. The grant of \$1,300 comes to us from the Northland District Health Board.

Just yesterday we had further good news.

- Lesley McCardle has been successful in gaining funding for the year 7 and 8 trip to Auckland. Pub Charities has granted us \$4000 which we are able to add to the \$500 from the Lion Foundation.

Year 7 to 13 Parent Interviews

I would like to thank those parents who came to these, although it was rather disappointing that so few parents were able to attend. If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please make an appointment to meet with the teacher(s) concerned

Morning Interval

During the colder winter months we have found that many of our primary students are often hungry by interval time at 10.30. Sometimes they eat all their lunch at this time. Some others, who have ordered lunch from the shop, have to wait until 12.30 when their lunch order arrives. It would help if parents could make sure that children have an adequate morning snack to keep them going until lunch-time.

Merit Tokens

We have re-introduced the Merit Token system that was so successful in 2007. Children "caught" in the classroom or playground doing the right things are awarded tokens which they hand in to the office. Once a week there will be a lucky draw, and at the end of the term, a treat for the top ten students at each level. (Last year the treat was ten pin bowling). We really want to accentuate the positive this term.

He Mataariki (Teen Parent Unit)

It would appear that all the publicity has paid off. We have been told that a new facility will be built to house this important part of our school. It is unclear what the new buildings will comprise, but very encouraging that something is being planned for the unit. Next year the unit will attract Gateway funding for the first time. This means the students at the unit will be given the same opportunities as our own senior students and be placed in the workplace.

This week we were delighted to be able to place 5 TPU students at NorthTec to complete hospitality papers. While on the one hand it was sad to lose the girls the object of the girls attending the unit is to improve their education and to be successful in the work place. This is a huge step forward to a successful career for these particular girls.

Show Day

Show Day is scheduled to take place on WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER. Unfortunately due to a change in Ministry of Education Policy schools are no longer permitted to be open on a Saturday in lieu of another school day. We hope by giving you plenty of notice of this change, arrangements can be made well in advance and parental participation will still take place. A reminder to all students who are intending to enter into the animal competition that lambs, calves and goats must be born after the 1st July. Entry forms are available from the school office and the back page of this newsletter.



NCEA

If your son or daughter is working towards qualifications at the senior end of the school, please encourage them to really try to submit work for assessment. It is discouraging for teachers to have students failing to hand in assignment work. Your child always has homework, even if that work is in their preparation for external examinations. Please ask them what they are up to in their various subjects. Questions such as, "How many credits do you have?" are always helpful.

Mangakahia has always had a good success rate in NCEA, but a number of students this year are not achieving at their expected level. If you have any concerns, please make an appointment to meet with either Mrs Cunningham or me.

A reminder that NCEA fees are now due. If you receive a benefit of any kind a financial assistance application form is available. This reduces the fee down from \$75 to only \$20. **The final date for payment of NCEA fees is 29 August.** A reminder that unless the fee is paid NZQA will not release student Record of Learning. A Record of Learning is vital for any job interview and CV.

We are sending home a copy of "Team Up" which has an excellent section on understanding the qualification structure. The nzqa website is also worth visiting. (www.nzqa.govt.nz)

Te Ara Reo Course

Sharee and May Tito have organized a free course in NCEA Level 1 Maori language to be run by Te Wananga Aoteroa. The course is for anyone interested in the language, and there is no minimum entry level. The course will run on Monday nights from 6 – 9PM in the Community Room and Gymnasium. The first night is 4 August.

There is no charge to those who wish to attend. It is great to see an educational initiative from the community. If you wish to attend, contact Sharee - 021 1759426 or May - 021 1598108.

Secondary Seating

New bench seating has been ordered for outside the Secondary classrooms. We are hopeful that it will be looked after by the students.

Lions Speech Contest

This annual event took place on the Wednesday night of the last week of term 2. Our two year 8 competitors were Manning and Clelland Reynolds. They both spoke very well and Clelland was named as runner-up speaker on the night. This years winner was a student from Maungatapere school.

Regards
Bill Morgan
Acting Principal

ADMIN MATTERS

NZQA Fees

If your child is gaining credits under NZQA a fee of \$75.00 is payable by 29 August 2008. Financial Assistance forms are available from the school office. If you qualify for Financial Assistance the fee of \$75.00 is reduced to \$20.00. Please return the forms and payment by the above date. After this date a late fee of \$150.00 will apply. If the fee is not paid students will not get their Record of Learning.

Signing In and Out

Please remember that if your child is arriving at school late or being picked up early you need to sign them in or out at the school office. It doesn't matter if they are senior or junior **all students need to sign in or out.** We have had several instances when we have wasted time looking for a student that should be on a bus only to find out that they have been collected early from school by a parent or caregiver. It is also important we know of their whereabouts in case of an emergency.

Email and Website

Please contact the school office or complete the return slip below if you would like newsletters emailed to you. Also keep an eye on the school website www.mangakahia.school.nz as this is regularly updated.

Contact Details

Please let the office know if your contact details have changed. If you have changed address, cell phone numbers or if the emergency contact numbers we have are different from the ones you gave us when you enrolled your child we need to know. We need to be kept up to date with all changes in case your child is sick, has an accident or if there is some reason we need to close the school early such as the weather. Please contact the office on 4331 702 to check these details.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Titoki Playcentre

OPEN DAY – All welcome. Monday 11 August, 9.30am to 12.00pm

Community Library

Term 2 library hours are Monday, 8.45am to 10.30am. Tuesday to Friday 11.00am to 12.30pm & 1.00pm to 3.00pm. All welcome.

Mangakahia Aerobics

Tuesday & Thursday at 6.30 to 7.30pm at the Mangakahia Sports complex, Poroti. Classes are low impact body balance or body combat & are led by Sport Northland instructors. For more info. phone 4346 308.

Art & Craft Classes are held Tuesday nights, 7.00pm to 9.30pm in the Art room. Creative playtime for adults! Come along & have some fun. Phone Bobby 4331 556.

Country Meals

The next country meal at the Mangakahia Sports Complex, Poroti is **Friday 8 August from 6.30pm.** Adults \$12.00 & children \$6.00 for a two course meal. Everyone welcome, please bring all your friends. Country meals are held on the second Friday of each month:

August – Soccer

September – Pool Club

October – Mangakahia Area School/Complex

November – Mangakahia Lions

December – Mangakahia Playcentre/Complex



Stories from Room 1

On the weekend we went to Whangarei. On the way back I saw the flood was big. It came over the road. The water was as brown as Autumn leaves. **Miria**

The flood was on the road. The cow was on the grass with water all around it. **Te Haumoana**

There are floods and a flood was big. I saw a truck go in the water. We went for a drive to see the floods. **Caleb**

I like the flood. The cow is in a flood. **Jordie**



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YES, I would like to receive the school newsletter via email.

Student or Family Name:..... My email address is (**please PRINT carefully**)

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MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL

SHOW DAY ENTRY FORM 2008



Name of Child.....

Age: Years.....Months.....
(as at 29/10/08)

Breed of Calf.....

Birth date of Calf.....

Name of Calf.....

Breed of Lamb.....

Birth date of Lamb.....

Name of Lamb.....

Breed of Goat.....

Birth date of Goat.....

Name of Goat.....

Name of Pet

Pet.....

Puppies must be born after 1st July 2008

Address of garden Type of garden : Flower/Vegetable

I have read the rules of the Mangakahia Area School Calf Club and I agree to observe the rules of the Club and promise to do all possible work on my animal unaided.

Please sign Child..... Parent

Entry forms to be returned to the office by Thursday 16th October.

PET RULES:

1. You must have owned your pet for at least two weeks.
2. Only one pet per person.
3. Your pet must be kept under control throughout the day.
4. No hedgehogs, possums or horses are allowed.

Check out the website www.calfclub.co.nz for lots of information like the following:

Calf

Choose your calf and give it a name. Make sure it has an ear tag which gives it a lifetime identification number. Before your calf comes home, make sure you have a safe paddock, clean water, fresh grass, milk supply and an easily cleaned milk feeder. Ask the farmer whether your calf needs dehorning.

How is your calf feeding? You should have a halter fitted and be starting to lead it for a short time each day. Spend time with your calf each day, patting, grooming and talking to it so you become friends.

Lamb

You have been given a motherless lamb and have everything ready at home for your new pet –

- > A large box with warm bedding
- > Colostrum
- > Bottle with lamb teat
- > Plus everything else on the check list.

Give your lamb a name, lots of time, and 6 feeds a day.

How is your lamb feeding? It should be getting 6 feeds a day of warm powdered milk. You should have a collar fitted and be starting to lead it for a short time each day. Spend time with your lamb each day, patting, grooming and talking to it so you become friends.

