

MANGAKAHIA AREA SCHOOL

TE KURA TAKIWA O MANGAKAHIA

20 September 2011

NEWSLETTER

No. 11/11

PLEASE RING US BEFORE 9.00 IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT, BEFORE 2.00 TO CHANGE HOME TRANSPORT PLANS

Student Success: Green-Gold Celebration, Whaea Alice's Assembly, Y9-13 Student Conferences, Y11-13 work rate
Whanau Support Group - Green-Gold Community - Staff News - ERO Report - Community Page

Greetings. Tena koutou katoa.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Green-Gold Celebration - by students, through students, for students

Cabinet Minister & local MP Phil Heatley formally presented the award to our students on Friday 9 September. The hall-gym was transformed by trees, plants, and flags (thank you EfS seniors) and a table of mouth-watering green & gold iced cupcakes - one for each student at the conclusion of the event (thank you NRC!).

We welcomed former students **Dylan Tohu** (who MC'd the occasion) and **Rangimarie Kelly**, and paid tribute to the inspiration of past students such as **Rochelle Lomas**, **Erin Murphy**, **Darone Diamond**, the recycling station building crew, Y13 EfS leader **Shelly Nielsen** and Y11, 12 and 13 students for taking up the challenge and making all systems go. Y11 and 12 students make a particularly strong contribution to school-wide recycling.

Thank you **Kayla Piri** for leading the kapa haka group in a beautiful himene, and **Sullivan** and **David Tito** for leading the whole school haka. The Green-Gold legacy is now in the expert hands of very well informed and committed students. **Year 1 to 8** are scarily fierce eco-warriors. Watch out, World!

Whaea Alice's Assembly Senior students organised and led a very moving assembly to pay tribute to Whaea Alice and her huge contribution to school life. Thank you Matua Sam Tohu for your support, kapa haka group for the waiata, Sullivan and David Tito for leading the whole school haka. A korowai was among the many gifts presented. Whaea and her whanau were overcome with the aroha they felt and thank everyone most sincerely.

Y9-13 Student Conferences Thank you for another great turnout for discussion on student progress. These ran over weeks 4 and 5. If you intended to come but didn't, please ring us for an appointment any time weeks 8-10.

Y11-13 work rate After a slow start this term, the rate has suddenly picked up. Well done seniors! Attendance is crucial – every day counts, just like every credit. **Whanau support is essential** – please make sure your senior student attends daily and works at home most week-nights (completing assignments, learning for tests etc).

WHANAU SUPPORT GROUP

At the 6 September meeting the group decided that they would organise -

- an activities night be held on Thursday 29 September
- two projects: funding a junior sandpit cover and refurbishing the hall-gym foyer,
- a freezone activities area on Show Day (Term 4, Week 2 - Thurs 3 November), and that
- WSG meetings be held on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 6.30 – next meeting 5 October

GREEN-GOLD SUPPORTERS

As a school strives for Green-Gold its students and staff receive a high level of support from local and national organisations and friends of the school. On our Green-Gold Day we welcomed and thanked -

- Susan Karels, Craig Brown and the team at Northland Regional Council,
- education advisers Marty, Julie and the national Enviro-Schools team
- Whangarei District Councillor Sharon Morgan who made the school's kerbside recycling come true.

We acknowledged Carol Young and the enviro advisers from TEAM Solutions over the years, David and Catherine Davies-Colley for establishing the edible forest and plant beds, Bob and Kaye Jameson at Northland Plants, the Adams whanau at Waimarie Nurseries, and all local enthusiasts for their generous support. BOT chair Susan Taylor spoke on behalf of successive Boards of Trustees who backed us all the way. Kia kaha te whanau.

STAFF NEWS

Planning for 2012 has been under way for some time. We have 3 positions to fill – te reo Maori, food technology, and workshop technology. Whaea Alice has resigned for health reasons, Mrs Harding has moved to Auckland, Mr Coram and Mr Armstrong are retiring at the end of the year.

We received one application for the part time te reo position, interviewed the applicant, and are awaiting their decision whether or not to accept the employment offer we have made. In the meantime we have discussed our needs with Heather Peters, head of the Whangarei campus of Auckland University Education Department. Heather advised us that the nationwide shortage of te reo teachers does not look hopeful for us. We'll keep trying. The Board of Trustees recently adopted as its Strategic Goal 3 that *By 2014, 35% of Y11-13 students study NCEA te reo Maori across Levels 1 to 3*. This reflects the school's traditional and long-term commitment to te reo. In the meantime long-term reliever Whaea Kaye Rawlings is doing an excellent job covering te reo programmes.

Our food technology programme continues smoothly, with Nikki Matthews well set up to cover the rest of this year. We have had a lot of interest in the position and look forward to several applications when it closes next week. The workshop technology position is now advertised. Both positions are to start Term 1 2012.

Planning for 2013 I would like to confirm what students, staff and trustees have known for some time - that I am retiring at the end of 2012. I will by then have completed a total of 45 years in the education sector – as a teacher, senior manager, Education Review officer, and MAS principal for 11 years. Time to be a fulltime grandma at last!

Appointing a new principal is a huge job for any BOT. Succession planning has already begun. The board will advertise the position in the middle of next year, to start in 2013. They work through the recruitment and selection process guided by an external adviser. Short-listed applicants go through a rigorous selection process including interviews, and a meet & greet function with trustees, staff, student leaders & community members. The board then makes its decision. As the incumbent principal I am not allowed to have any part in the selection process.

There will be considerable interest in the position, given Mangakahia's good name (not to mention fame!). This includes principals of other Area Schools in NZ looking for a move north to what is regarded as a leading area school in NZ, and senior managers of schools all over the place seeking a principalship.

Green-Gold Day (again!) We paid tribute to the dedication, drive and initiative of EfS teacher Elyne Semenoff for her leadership, perseverance and expertise in empowering students. We thanked all staff for their support for Elyne and our students, especially Kaye Davey and John Coram, not to mention Leith Dee, the keenest critic and proudest caretaker in New Zealand.

We are all enjoying the **Rugby World Cup** games, especially the Canada win last week – Bill Morgan, being a proud Canadian, had the Canadian flag flying and shouted morning tea the next day. However - *Go the All Blacks!*

**Ka kite,
Anne Stead**



ERO REPORT

Our recent report has been confirmed and will be on the ERO website (ero.govt.nz) next week. Copies are available through the school office. We think the report is balanced and fair. It commends Mangakahia's success in doing well the things that we value – positive teaching, learning and community relationships. We agree with ideas about how we can do some things better – that's what ERO is for. There's always a better way and education priorities constantly change locally and nationally. We have already started to address the recommendations made. Highlights from the report are below. ERO returns mid-2013 to see how our 4 national contracts begun in 2010 concluded in 2012, and the initial progress of the new principal in taking over the school..

What are the important features of this school's context that have an impact on student learning?

The 2008 ERO report recommended that the board continue to develop partnerships amongst students, staff and the community in order to raise student achievement. The board has responded well to this recommendation. The school communicates and consults with students, parents and whānau in a number of ways. The next step is to ensure that partnerships formed with families include a strong focus on promoting student success and to encouraging students to take greater ownership of their learning, particularly in Years 9 to 13. The further development of personalised programmes would provide a strong foundation for the development of meaningful teaching approaches that are focused on improving learning.

How well are students learning – engaging, progressing and achieving?

Students are generally attentive in classrooms. They are polite and friendly and respond well to the school's routines and expectations for their behaviour.

The school's achievement information indicates that students in Years 1 to 8 make good progress against National Standards in reading, writing and mathematics. Parents receive twice yearly reports that outline students' achievement in reading, writing and mathematics in relation to the National Standards. Students in Years 1 to 8 are increasingly able to talk about their learning and are aware of their achievement levels. They are encouraged to understand and use assessment results to set their own learning goals.

Students in Years 9 to 13 are willing learners and report that they have positive and supportive relationships with teachers. Some teachers could take better advantage of this positive learning environment. School managers should ensure that all teachers provide more targeted teaching that encourages and enables students to take greater ownership of their learning.

How well are Māori students learning – engaging, progressing and achieving?

The board and managers agree with ERO that they should continue to develop strategies to ensure that Māori students make meaningful progress and succeed at levels that are comparable to those of non-Māori students in the school. School managers are involved in He Kākano, a government funded project to support boards of trustees and senior staff to raise the achievement of Māori students as Māori. Participation in this project should help senior staff to promote more culturally responsive programmes and practices.

How effectively does this school's curriculum promote and support student learning?

The Year 1 to 8 curriculum aligns with *The New Zealand Curriculum* and provides a good foundation for promoting and supporting student learning. This integrated curriculum, supported by a flexible, inquiry model of teaching, is responsive to students' interests. Students in Years 1 to 8 benefit from specialised teaching in information and communication technologies (ICT), visual art and physical education.

Students throughout the school report that they appreciate their education for sustainability programmes, which offer leadership opportunities, skills for life, and align with Māori values. The school recently received a Green-Gold award for its Enviro-Schools programme. Students' participation in local cultural events, sports, education outside the classroom, and leadership opportunities enables them to extend their talents and skills and to achieve in the broader curriculum.

Students in Year 7 to 13, including Māori, learn te reo Māori me ōna tikanga as a specialised subject. Māori students have opportunities to take leadership roles in events that reflect tikanga Māori, including the kapa haka group, which performs with pride at school pōwhiri and in a local festival. Teachers could now increase opportunities for Māori students' knowledge and experiences to be acknowledged, valued and included in classroom programmes.

ADMIN & COMMUNITY NEWS

Mangakahia Community Trust A.G.M. will be held in the Mangakahia Area School gymnasium Thursday 22 September at 5.30pm.

School Lunches: *The Titoki Store will no longer be taking phone orders for school lunches. Please make sure that your child orders their lunch through the school office. No lunches will be booked up on a parents account without a signed note from a parent and that account is current. All orders must be in by 9.30am. Any queries please contact the Titoki Store.*

Show Day: Entry forms for your calf, lamb, goat, pet or garden are available from the school office and **all trophies can now be returned.**

Whanau Support Group Family Fun Night: For Years 1 to 8 and preschoolers welcome. Come and have fun with your kids. There will be sports and art activities in the gym. **5.30pm to 6.30pm Thursday 29 October.** Gold coin donation to cover cost of materials. Drinks and chips available for sale.

Junior Kapa Haka: The junior kapa haka group is looking for a tutor in preparation for the junior kapa haka festival on the 17 November. We would like to start as soon as possible. Please get in touch with the school office if you can help on 4331 702.

S'port your School and help us buy new sports equipment! Buying fertiliser this month? RD1 and Ballance Agri-Nutrients have a great promotion going for the month of September where you can help S'port Your School. Log in to the website, nominate Mangakahia Area School, and we will donate \$2.00 for every tonne of fertiliser ordered and uplifted towards new sports equipment for Mangakahia Area School.

It's easy... here's how:

Order your fertiliser through RD1 by September 30, 2011 (uplift by October 31, 2011)

Log onto WWW.RD1.COM - Click the 'nominate a school' link below - Select which RD1 Account you would like to use for the nomination Select Mangakahia Area School - Hit 'Submit'



Contact your RD1 Technical Sales Representative or the team at your local RD1 store to secure your order and S'port your School today!

2011 Country Meals: Each month the Mangakahia Sports Complex at Poroti is the venue for the local Community Country Meals, which are held on the second Friday of each month. Meals cost \$6 for children and \$12-\$15 for adults meals. Full licenced bar. Come along and enjoy a night out with your friends and neighbours.

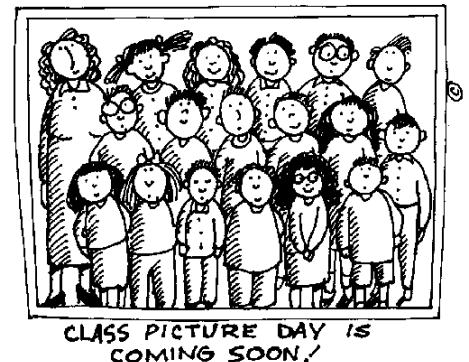
14 October Mangakahia Sports Complex
9 December Titoki Playcentre

11 November Mangakahia Lions

Maunu Tennis Club: *Senior club tennis, Saturdays, 1pm. Opening Day Tournament, 24 Sept, 10am. Ladies day, Wednesdays, 9am (year round). Twilight, Thursdays, 5.30pm, starting 29 Sept. Junior coaching, Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons 4th term and 1st term next year. Starts 25 Oct, 3.30pm. For more details, contact Ray or Sue Webb, 4346 898.*

Calendar

22 Sept Mangakahia Community Trust AGM at MAS Gym, 5.30pm
Mangakahia Lions Speech Contest, MAS library 7.00pm
22-23 Sept Pest Control, course Yr 12-13
25 Sept Daylight Saving starts. Clocks go **FORWARD** 1 hour.
27 Sept Class photos
28 Sept BoT Meeting 3.30pm
7 Oct Term 3 ends
24 Oct Labour Day
25 Oct Term 4 starts



Mangakahia Area School
CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS
Tue 27th Sept 2011



School Photography by Sharron Booth

Counter Delivery, Titoki Postcentre, Whangarei 0535. Ph: 4331870
email: sharron@wedpix.co.nz

Name:

Room:

Year:

Please tick box(es) required

Class Photo
(photo only, size 18 x 13cm)

\$6.00

Class Photo
(named, laminated)

\$12.00

Please make chqs payable to
Sharron Booth

LAST DAY FOR ORDERS:
Friday 7th October

Orders after this date incur a \$5.00
administration fee.

Total
Enclosed:

Cheque / Cash

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