

GETTING IN THE KNOW...

Friday Trade Days

Last year, Friday trade days were a big hit and the tamariki have picked it up themselves again. I welcome the idea of trade days and would like the students to continue to participate in this activity. To support our tamariki with trade day I would like to make sure everyone at home knows the parameters around it.



- Objects that are being traded can be no larger than a trading card.
- Negotiations are finite once they are completed e.g. if a trade is made the trader cannot then request that it be undone, rather they would need to renegotiate the trade.

Scooters on Vans

We cannot have students bring scooters on vans to school due to health and safety. One of our vans does not have a carry compartment and having loose scooters on the van becomes a hazard. Whilst I totally believe that scootering is healthy and enjoyable and I'd love to see students being able to do this on their way to their van pickup, I can't cater for scooter transport. I ask for your understanding and support with this decision.

What Teachers are Working On

This year our professional development is focusing on responding to stress response. This has come from a recognition that there are increasing numbers of students coming in with diverse needs and varied stress responses that require some background understanding. Over the next two terms we are collectively reading a book called *The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog*, by Dr. Bruce Perry. The book helps to raise understanding about how trauma affects a child's mind and helps to understand how different approaches are necessary for each child. It is a terrific but emotional read and I would recommend anyone who would like to read it, even for themselves, to do so.

We are also beginning our work with Ki Tai who is led by Ash Patea about the local taio. The course we are doing is called Te Pouhono ki Taiao and will help us to build ideas for our local curriculum. The course itself is offered and certified by Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi. It will be a focus over the next two terms.

Fundraising

Every year our local Upokongaro community work together to raise funds for the school. This is done through a Steelhorse Trail Ride in Upokongaro. As a school community we will work together with them to run the event. There are plenty of jobs that need to be done before the day and on the day and we will be putting out an separate panui to indicate what you may be able to help with. Please get this back to us ASAP when it comes up.

Uniform

The school uniform is provided through the school office. All students wear the school t-shirt. Students also wear either the navy blue skort, short, or pant. Last year, we gave a grace period of term four to phase out black tights and shorts etc. From week 5 of this term students who are not wearing full uniform (with the exception of those with health exemptions) will be sent a reminder notice home asking parents to ensure correct uniform is worn.

UPOKONGARO SCHOOL

2025, Term 1, Week 2 Newsletter

*Where I can Enjoy
Success as Me*

WHĀNAU BBQ DAY

Thank you so much whānau for attending our BBQ day. I loved seeing smiles, lots of eating, playing, swimming, sharing, and connecting. It's these days that make the work worth while. Let's do it again later in the year.



FAREWELL IAN

After 16 years of service Ian Wright has retired from driving our rural service van. We had loved having him with us and it was lovely to have Te Kiira and Layla (ex-students) share their memories and admiration of Ian. We are going to miss him dearly and thank him for all of his service.



GOODBYE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3 Feb School starts
- 6 Feb Waitangi Day (No School)
- 13 Feb Whānau BBQ 5pm
- 14 Feb Whānau Voice Interviews
- 21 Feb Whānau Voice Interviews
- 25 Feb School Swimming Sports
- 28 Feb Hearing and Vision for selected students
- 4 Mar Cluster Swimming Sports at Fordell Swimming Pool
- 4 Apr Whānau Learning Day 9am
- 11 Apr Last Day of Term 1

VANS



Uncle Al: 0279362056
Mr C (Roger): 027 4435771
Mr Amer: 027 342 5008



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Classes are very settled and it's nice to see your tamariki engaging in their learning. Some of you would have already met with your child's teacher and have shared your goals and insights into what is important to your child's success this year. Keep watching out for upcoming events that highlight some of the hard work your children are doing.

Soon our seniors will attend the 30th anniversary of Pakaitore. They have signed up to participate in ki-o-rahi during the day, so we are excited about joining in the festivities that way. If you see some of our senior students around and about ask them about what Pakaitore is as they are learning the history and events surrounding this time.

As you would have read above, Ian Wright has retired from driving our rural van after 16 years. Whilst we will miss him I would also like to acknowledge and welcome Amos Amer who is the new driver. This isn't his first time driving the van so he knows the run and the kids.

I would also like to welcome Jo Fleming who is joining our team of teacher aides. Jo will be working one on one with a child in their class and across the school at times. Jo also relief drives our vans.

The main message I would like to share with you is to make the effort to meet with your child's teacher next week on Friday if you haven't already done so this past week. Parent, teacher connections are important in understanding your child's education journey. The better connected you are with your child's teacher the better connected your child will be with them also.

Have a good week everyone.
Mrs Browne