



Newsletter
Week 8
Term 4 2024
Leading Our Learning - Whai Akoranga

**Let's stay
on...
Together
Respectful
Adaptable
Creative
Kind**

Thursday 12 December 2024

Kia Ora Parents, Caregivers, and Ward School Whānau,

This will be the last newsletter for 2024. I look forward to catching up with all of you at our prizegiving on Monday. Tuesday the 17th is just a half day to tidy things up and pack up for the year. We hope you are all looking forward to the summer break and have a happy and safe holiday period. The new school year will be here before we know it. I know the students will return refreshed and excited for a fantastic new year!

Photos

Yesterday envelopes for school photos were sent home. If you would like to order a school photo please tick the pack you would like, put the cash in the envelope and return it to Candi in the office. If we can get them back on Friday or Monday, we can get the orders in for next week. The photos will be able to be picked up at the start of next year. I apologize for the inconvenience, I was just too late in getting the photos done this year. If leaving families would like their photos earlier I can arrange a day in the holidays for them to be picked up

Swimming Pool

Unfortunately, I have had to close the Swimming Pool. We have had a technical difficulty with the pump. I will post on the Skool Loop app when it is up and running. I am hoping this will not take too long. Once it is up and running it will be available for use over the summer if you have hired a key from Candi. Please make sure we respect the school and pool rules and we ask that vehicles are not driven across the field to the pool. The pool is a fantastic resource for the community and we would like to make the most of it.

A couple of reminders

If you have any outstanding payments for sports teams or camps it would be greatly appreciated if these could be paid by the end of the week.

Uniforms - The summer break is a great chance to top on uniform items you can purchase items at the [NZ Uniform Shop](#). Please also be sure to check the lost property as we have a large number of items in there.

Stationary - Back to School Stationary packs will again be available from Paper Plus later in January.

Prize Giving

We have scheduled Prizegiving for Monday the 16th of December. We will be looking to get this started at approximately 3:30 and be finished by 5:00/ 5:30. In discussion with the B.O.T we have decided to have a shared dinner/ picnic afterwards at/ outside the hall. You are invited to bring a plate of food to share or alternatively, you could bring your own picnic. There will be a BBQ available for use if you wish. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Reef Class

I am pleased to announce we have filled the position for Reef Class for 2025. We will welcome Whaea Robyn McConchie at the start of next year. Robyn is a very experienced teacher who has worked over on the West Coast and more recently in Christchurch. She will be a fantastic addition to the team and we look forward to having her on board.

We would also like to thank Teacher Jacinda Bamford for all of her hard work over Terms 3 and 4. She has come in and done a fantastic job bringing some consistency and quality learning to Reef. We wish her all the best in her new adventure at Waikawa Bay School.

Staff Leaving

As well as Miss Bamford we will farewell our cleaner Toska Bayly. Toska has been in and out of Ward School for a long time. We really appreciate all she has done for us over the years and although we will be sad to see her go as she concentrates on her roles in town we know that she will never be far away.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Leah Buick who has done an amazing job for us in Rock Pool as a learning assistant. Even though it has only been a short time she has had a big impact on our Rock Pool students and Staff alike. Thanks Leah!



Just for Laughs! (aka Mr Sangster's Dad Joke of the week!)

How is my wallet like an onion?

Every time I open it, I cry!

Ngā mihi nui,
Aaron Sangster - Principal/Tumuaki

A letter from the Board of Trustees

To the Ward School parents and caregivers.

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Ward School Board of Trustees

As most of you are aware our school board comprises five parent representatives. Currently, three members were elected at the last Triennial elections and the two other vacancies are currently filled by co-opted members, myself (Sam Lunn) and Angela Loe. Our three elected members have expressed their desire to step down from the board which leaves us in a unique situation where we are unable to fulfil the minimum requirement of three elected members. After serious discussion, we have concluded that the best way we can proceed forward as a functional board is to call a by-election to fill our parent representative seats through until the next triennial elections which will be held in September 2025.

A date for this election is likely to be set for Tuesday the 11th of February 2025 which means we will be calling for nominations to join the board for 2025. Nominations will close on the 7th of January. Further information will follow to the community regarding the process of nominations, dates, voting etc.

We encourage people to think about the importance of these positions and the need for us to form a strong board to carry us through to the main elections in September. Myself and Angela will be putting our hand up for a seat, and we also have an expression of interest from Hamish Murray. So potentially we will be looking for a minimum of a further two nominations (hopefully more) for the elections in February.

The roles on the school board and some attributes to consider:

Property: Ideally someone who lives close to the school and is in employment which can enable them to meet with contractors etc during business hours. Experience in the building industry would be a big plus, it is a fairly hands-on role.

Health and Safety: Experience with health and safety protocols through running a business or employment. Experience in the health sector and a general understanding of risk assessment and management.

Human Resources: Any experience in HR is a plus. This role is important in helping relations between the community and

our school while also assisting with staff employment decisions

Finance: preferably someone with experience in the financial side of running a business, sports club or charity.

These are some of the attributes that would help you in a role on the board but the most important is a positive attitude and a genuine desire to help make your child's experience at Ward School the best it can be. Please put your hand up.

Regards

Sam Lunn

Together



Respectful



Adaptable



Creative



Kind



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