

Newsletter 13

27th August 2024

Last Friday we had our final session of the English Language Learning Community Hub Initiative that has been running over the last sixteen weeks. This initiative was set up by both the Ministry of Education and the school with the aim of forging closer ties with our ELL Community, many of whom have arrived in Aotearoa over the last year to start new lives. Over the last term and a half, we have covered topics including Te Tiriti o Waitangi and what it means for schools, the New Zealand Curriculum and how schools are set up, the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy in our country, and issues around Health and Safety. It has been a fantastic opportunity to share what we do and why we do things and to answer questions. A number of our families have come from education systems that are vastly different to New Zealand's approach to education.



What is "being truant"?

Being truant, or wagging school often starts small and grows to more and more absences from school, like:

- lateness
- missing a class
- missing the entire day or days
- a pattern of truancy, like your child regularly not turning up on Mondays or Fridays
- absences from school for days or weeks.

When is it not 'truant'?

When your child needs to be away from school for a good reason, like they are too sick to go to school, have an appointment or are going to a tangi or funeral.

You would know about these absences and have let the school know that your child is going to be away.

Why is truancy so bad?

To start with, it's against the law. Being away a lot means that your child isn't engaged in their education and learning all they need to succeed.

It can lead to a child leaving school early without the education and qualifications they need to do well in life.

Notice of Lockdown Drill

On Thursday, 5th September, at 11:45am for approx 20 minutes, we will be having a school lockdown drill. This is an opportunity for staff and students to practice what to do in case of the unlikely event of a real lockdown in the future. Please support us by not entering the school grounds during this time.

Four Square, Clyde Street



Hemi, Delayne, Sam Waddell, Krazy & Milan

Some of our tamariki went down to give Sam the thank you cards we made him to show our continual support for all that he does for us. If you live in the area it would be great to support the Four Square store on Clyde Street as they give such amazing support to our Kura.

If you missed it here is the link to the article that was in the Waikato Times earlier this month highlighting the huge support we receive to feed our tamariki.

<https://www.waikatotimes.co.nz/nz-news/350370493/waikato-schools-kidscan-wait-list-hit-highest-number-organisations-19-year>



Scooters Donations Needed

Knighton School student councillors run regular wheels days. Some children really want to join in but they have no wheels. We would love to have any spare scooters donated for kids to use.



Spare Clothing

We have very limited spare clothing available for children. We ask that you keep a change of clothes in your child's school bag in a waterproof plastic bag at all times.

If your child comes home with clothes borrowed from school please wash and return them as soon as possible.

***If you have spare clothes in good condition to donate, particularly shorts and leggings in all sizes, we would be very grateful to receive them.**

Tongan Language Week



Back row: Sinamoni, Collin, Sinoe, Hika, Saane, Salvifika
Front row: Vei, Paea, Monalisa, Aminio

My Tongan Performance

On Friday I went to T.O.P.A at school. It was Tongan Language Week. It was my turn to do my Tongan dance in front of the whole of year 1 and 2 school and I had to do it in front of the middle school as well. I was really nervous because I was doing it in front of a lot of people but I said to myself "I can do this." After I did it in front of the year 1 and 2 school I felt like I was not scared anymore.

I welcomed the middle school in and we told them our names and what we were performing and what I was wearing. I told them I was wearing a ta'ovala, it's a Tongan tapa. Everyone was clapping because they loved our Tongan music and the dance. They all said thank you to us in Tongan I was really happy that day because I learned I can overcome my fear. I was really happy when this little girl said "I love their outfit", I was really happy inside that she said that so after T.O.P.A I gave her a high five for a good compliment that she gave us.

By Paea A32



Lost Property

Please come and look through the lost property outside Mrs Cowie's office regularly. Named items can be returned to children but unfortunately most of the clothing and shoes that are lost by children are unnamed.

All unnamed belongings that are not claimed are donated. PLEASE name ALL your children's clothing.

Community Notices

Knights After School Programme

Come and join us at KASP these school holidays for some fun activities at school, in Hamilton and out and about in surrounding towns/cities.

Register and book on <https://kasp.aimyplus.com>
Any questions contact the KASP Team on supervisor@kasp.co.nz or 022 642 0726

Registrations open 26 August and close 20 September - no late registrations accepted

Hamilton Old Boys Cricket Club

Hamilton Old Boys Cricket Club are offering junior membership for a small fee. The club provides uniforms, cricket balls, playing equipment and weekly training sessions for our Saturday hardball teams.

Parents are invited to contact Rupert Hodgson for information or to sign up by emailing info@hamiltonoldboyscc.com or by calling Rupert directly on 027 444 6631.

Enrolments for Berkley Normal Middle School

All 2025 enrolments for Berkley Normal Middle School are due by 4.00pm on Friday 30 August 2024 - this includes both in-zone and out-of-zone enrolments. Out-of-zone enrolments must be received at the office by 30 August to be eligible for the enrolment ballot.

Note your calendar

28 August - School Cross Country

9 September - 6pm Board of Trustees Hui

12 September - 11am Interschool Cross Country

16 - 20 September - Wiki o Te Reo Māori

19 September - Hearing & Vision testing

25 September - Senior Speech Finals

9:15am - Year 5

11:40am - Year 6

27 September - 3:00pm End of Term 3

14th October - 9:00am Term 4 starts

Ngā mihi nui

Andrew Campbell

Principal