



PUKETAPU PRESS

News from Puketapu School, Bell Block, Taranaki, NZ



ISSUE 5: Term 4 2015



Pride - Whakamanatia
Respect - Manaakitia
Achievement - Whakatutuki

Empower all People
Whakamanatia nga tangata katoa

"Puketapu school is definitely a special school and the children there are beautiful and great student leaders, a true testament to you and your staff!"

– Rachael Vagana
Programme Coordinator ECE,
Duffy Books in Homes

It is this time of the year we reflect on what we have done **and look ahead to what's around the corner.**

The Education sector is facing some huge changes and we have been required to attend consultation meetings regarding changes in the Education Act. We hope the Ministry can maintain that vision that our tamariki are our future and that any change must have a positive effect on teaching and learning. We have to wonder whether it will really improve the outcomes for our tamariki and strengthen the school communities they belong in.

At Puketapu we hugely value the community to which our school belongs. We believe strongly that the nearest school **is the best school and can't really understand why some take their tamariki past one gate to another.** All schools are dynamic places and their key role is teaching and learning. **Social interaction is part of learning and if things aren't quite right then it's up to the whole community to make the school the best it can be.** It takes the whole community to build a school just as it takes the whole community to bring up a child.

We truly value the Puketapu School Community and the very special way we look after each other. Our tamariki know who they are and where they belong. Our achievements are acknowledged and celebrated. Our staff and parent body must take credit for the encouragement and enthusiasm for getting their tamariki to the right place, at the right time, with the right stuff. This is what makes Puketapu such a special place.

Kia ora tatou

Mr J, Mike Johnson, Principal



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Rimu Syndicate

Years 1 & 2

We are all very excited about the new Junior Playground. It has been specially designed for small children so now we have a great space of our own to play in. Thank you so much to our PSG for helping to fund it!



Room 2 has grown so much we now have two teachers! Mrs Warring joined us at the start of Term 3. We are learning to think like scientists! There were dinosaurs stuck in the ice, and we had to figure out how to get them out! We brainstormed ideas, and then tried several experiments to see which was the fastest and easiest way to get them out.



Then, at the end of our experiments, we did some writing about our ideas

In Room 3 we are working hard on our reading, in groups and on our own. On fine days we make the most of our beautiful grounds and read outside.



Room 4 are learning to be independent, self-managing learners. In reading we are learning how to **pick** good fit books ourselves. We use a special bookmark to help us:



I PICK Good-Fit Books

- I** choose a good book
- P**urpose: why do I want to read this book?
- I**nterest: Does it interest me?
- C**omprehend: Am I understanding what I am reading?
- K**now: I know most of the words.

Totara Syndicate

Years 3 & 4

Part of the International Arts Festival, Room 6 went to a puppet show called "The Man Who Planted Trees" a wonderful show with a very important message.

I like the bit when the man fanned the mint and lavender smell over the audience. They also sprayed water everywhere and we got wet! - by Daniel

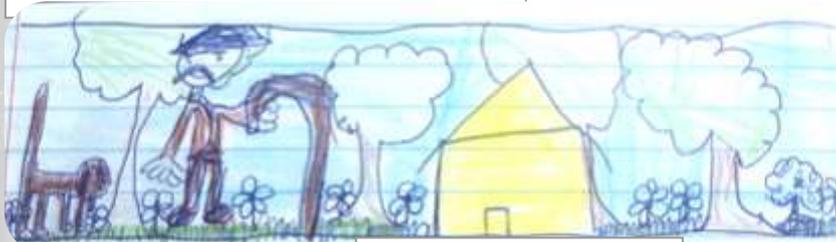
It is about looking after your environment and to plant trees not to cut them down. Elzeard Bouffier (the French puppet) planted lots of trees in the wasteland. He planted so many trees it became a big beautiful forest. So you need to look after your environment. - by Petra

Room 7 have enjoyed many cultural experiences: We enjoyed the Arts Festival, visiting the Exxopolis Luminarium., took part in a traditional Tea Ceremony at the Japanese Tea House and visited the Musik! Exhibition at Puke Ariki.



Room 10 got right behind the All Blacks, creating a supporters wall with messages of support and encouragement. We recorded the scores and tried to predict who would win.

We were very happy that the All Blacks won!



Picture by Oracle

Kowhai Syndicate

Years 5 & 6

Room 8 have been learning about Mount Taranaki in our school song and pepeha. We have studied it as a volcano, mountain and in Maori legend. We visited the mountain to experience being on the mountain: what it looks, feels and smells like. We used our experience to inspire our painting.



Rad Rhythm

Rad Rhythm is musical drumming that involves games, styles, beats and performing. When we perform, we have to listen carefully to the speed and beat, otherwise we get out of time. Also, when we learnt about new instruments we learnt what sound they make and how they make it. Drumming is hard and takes a lot of work to get it right because when you perform **there's a lot of pressure that you have to take in.**

At the end of Rad Rhythm I felt like I had learned a lot more than I already knew about drumming and then maybe **when I'm older I could be a famous drummer.**

-by Lydia, Room 9

The Mountain...

Wind and rain blowing in my face.
Listening to the birds.

-by Kayleigh

Ahhh... it feels like a bucket of water spilled on my feet.

-by Abbey

I tasted the cold raindrops. It tasted refreshing.

-by Tyler

The Horopito was spicy. I nearly got poisoned on my tongue.

-by Joseph

Room 9 enjoyed 'Rad Rhythm', a programme which looks at beats, instruments and rhythm patterns and allows the children to create their own musical piece. It's a lot of noise and a lot of fun!

Haiku by Room 8

I can't eat ALL this!
Why did you buy this mum? Why?
Big, melting icecream

-by Kayshan

Eyes darting around
Ready for some food to eat
Hiding and waiting

-by Samantha

Colourful candles
It is my birthday today
Presents are all mine

-by Clayton

Kauri Syndicate

Years 7 & 8



Education Outside the Classroom has played a major role recently: Using the funds raised from their PrEP programme earlier in the year, **Room 13** enjoyed a short trip to Ruapehu, taking part in skiing, snowboarding and indoor rock climbing. This year our senior camp is to Wellington, where **we will be visiting some of our capital's most famous and historic landmarks and attractions** - a once in a lifetime experience.

We have enjoyed successes in academic challenges and sporting competitions: Dregon took third place in a national Sunday Times writing competition while our three speakers at the Lions Junior Speechmaker Contest also did very well, with **Shaye Leigh winning her section with a speech on "Society's Standards" and Joan**

and Pearls also doing well. Our senior basketball team took great delight in beating Bell Block School in the final to take the 2015 championship title - by one point in a nail biting game - and our Interscholar Rugby and Netball teams also won - so we retain the Linkhorne Cup for Mr J!



Our topic this term is Human Rights, focussing on child labour and fair trade. We have learned we are very fortunate to live in a country that many can only dream of. We wrote about what we would dream of if we were not so fortunate:

"I have a dream..."

I have a dream that one day I will get an education that leads me to a better future.

I have a dream to see my family smiling once again.

I have a dream to be happy and free like I once was.

I have a dream not to be used and abused but be loved and cared for as I am.

I have a dream to have a better life than the one I have now.

I have a dream to make a difference in this world and stop child labour for me and other children like me.

I have a dream to have the courage to speak up and finally be heard.

People have their own rights and are free to make their own choices but right now I'm not one of those people.

- by Arianne, Room 13



From the Board

At Puketapu, we value parents as first teachers. It is our goal and desire to provide the best learning environment for our students and to help support parents and children in their learning journey together in the years ahead.

Supporting the best possible start to this journey, we are proud and excited that the school is developing new and innovative programmes to support the transition of new entrants into our school.

We also welcome the recent improvements to our school facilities; the new junior playground, the variety of murals and art works, the start of refurbishment to the Hall and the Room 10-13 block and we look forward to further planned improvements in 2016.

We have recently established a Beautification Team to gather ideas and keep our school looking its best. We encourage anyone with ideas to make them known.

As with all aspects of school life, it is the community working together which gives our school such strength and makes it such a great place to be.

Our growing roll, excellent student achievements and strengthening community show that 2015 has been a good year and we look forward to another exciting year in 2016.

Mike Warring, Chairman, Puketapu Board of Trustees



Parent Support Group

We are delighted with the positive impact we have been able to make to the school this year.

Along with \$15,000 grant from the New Zealand Community Trust, the PSG donated a significant amount to make the Junior Playground possible. We thank Kim Sowman for her planning work, Pace **Engineering for doing the fireman's pole, Bell Block 4 Square, The Warehouse** and the other anonymous donors who made the playground possible. We are delighted with the results and the junior children are very much enjoying their special place.

We also thank everyone who helped out with Breakfast Club, by sponsoring a child for cross country and supporting the seniors in Year 5-6 and Year 7-8 in their various fundraising efforts for their camps in Term 4.

We would like to say a big thank you to our outgoing Chairperson, Katrina Goldsack, and Treasurer Lynette Barker for their time and efforts and welcome Jenny Read and Robyn Weideman as our new Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

We look forward now to the Puketapu Celebration Evening at the end of term and hope to see you there.

Fiona Pearce, Chairperson, Puketapu School PSG.



School Events



Towards the end of Term 3 we held our annual cross country. The aim is to first complete, then compete.



Our Kapa Haka Roopu performed at the Tatarakihi Festival in New Plymouth in August and at Puanga in October.



As well as team success, many of our students have done particularly well individually, with representatives named in Basketball, Netball, Indoor Netball, Touch and Inline Hockey:

Jeiven Puru-Time was selected into the New Zealand Under 14 Koru Basketball team.

Shaye Leigh Witehira was **named Netball Taranaki's 2015 Year 8 Development Player of the Year.**

Marara Murray, Jeiven Puru-Time and Shaye Leigh Witehira were selected as Indoor Netball reps.

In Touch, Maui Walker, Serennah Hobin, Tyson Dellow, Kayleigh Martin, AJ Taiawa-McKay, Loretta Hunt and Joely Gray, Marara Murray, Jeiven Puru-Time and Shaye Leigh Witehira were all selected.

Josh Kingi and Sam Plant won more gold medals for their performances at the Inline Hockey Regional Tournament held recently.

Congratulations to all for their hard work!

An Invitation to Celebrate...
To round off another wonderful year, our Celebration Evening will be held on **Friday 11 December.** We welcome visitors from our community to join us to enjoy performances from our students. We hope to see you there.