



Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whanau  
Tena Koutou Katoa

Hard to believe we only have 4 weeks of the school year remaining. It is pleasing to see our students living the schools virtues and values, playing well together and happily engaged in lots of exciting learning and activities.

It is rewarding for all of us to see our learners go onto continue to do well. Many of our students move on to hold significant leadership roles.

Next Years Head Boy/Girl & Deputy Head Boy/Girl at Whanganui High School: Connor Hoskin/Leah Aiono & Scott Emerson/Kara Adrole. All were ours!!! Congratulations to past students of WHS, Dux of the Year 2019: Ahimsha Saravanapavan & Overall Year 13 student 2019: Leighanna Hale. Very proud of your achievements and many other past students. Oh the place you can go!!!

Below is a piece regarding our valued and appreciated support staff. We are campaigning to get them equity of pay. Over 90% of NZ support staff are paid under the living wage and in insecure jobs. You can really help by sending a message to our Education Minister, Chris Hipkins. Email: [c.hipkins@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:c.hipkins@ministers.govt.nz)  
Facebook: Chris Hipkins MP

Thanking you  
Michael.

## Support Staff - Making a difference Fair's Fair - Pay Equity

Support Staff are making a big difference for our children and now it is time to make a difference for our Support staff.

90% of Teacher Aides are earning less than the living wage and most are in insecure, fixed term employment.

Pay equity and collective agreement negotiations for Teacher Aides is underway, and we are pushing for a government commitment to a substantial pay increase that recognises Teacher Aides skills and responsibilities by the end of 2019.

Support Staff are frontline to support students with needs "The glue that holds schools together." They are dedicated and love making a difference in children's lives.

The M.O.E and Government have had a very dated view of the work Teacher Aides play in a modern education system. Some still hold the impression that their role is mixing paint/gluing sheets/laminating etc. Not Today!!!!

The complexity of the job is now enormous. They are working collaboratively with Teachers, scaffolding programmes to meet individual needs, being responsive to complex behaviours, supporting students with high health needs, ensuring inclusiveness for at risk students, being flexible and adaptable, high degree of commitment and relationship building skills.

Like the elderly care workers, who recently won pay equity, they have been undervalued for too long.

Government funding is essential for this to happen. Schools must be resourced to pay support staff fairly, ensure secure employment and provide high quality learning support to the growing number of children with moderate and high needs.

This week NZEI is campaigning for this to happen. Your support of this valued group of staff is much appreciated and needed.



## Academic Achievement and/or Progress:

Congratulations to the following students:



<b>Isabella Neil</b>	Excellent commitment and perseverance with her speech writing and delivery.
<b>Kate O'Shanassy</b>	For the love of reading and excellent academic results.
<b>Joel Symes</b>	Outstanding spelling results.
<b>Millie Richardson</b>	Outstanding reading comprehension - Top easTtle result in Rm 1.
<b>Riley Loader</b>	Consistent, exceptional written work.
<b>Catherine Agnew</b>	Great progress in writing.
<b>Jadei Anderson</b>	Accurate and quick recall of multiplication facts.
<b>Liam Archer</b>	Sound progress in reading.
<b>Leah Bullock</b>	Thoughtful response to reading tasks.
<b>Piper Loft Angel</b>	Working hard and producing an amazing Cinquain Poem!
<b>Isabella Koubaridis</b>	Great partitioning and recombining during maths.
<b>Zachary Ellicott</b>	Applying his growth mindset and vocabulary knowledge in his writing.
<b>Vivaan Pandrangi</b>	Working so hard to complete all his must-do tasks.
<b>Rocco Pepe</b>	Making great progress in your reading.
<b>Thomas Zangel</b>	Having a fantastic attitude towards his learning.
<b>Sasha Chapman</b>	Always trying her hardest during reading and writing. You are learning to record all the sounds you hear and add exciting words to your story writing.
<b>Evelyn Araujo</b>	Knows all her alphabet now. Great work!
<b>Sam Ellingham</b>	Wonderful engagement and commitment to his reading.
<b>Marshall Peddie</b>	Writing interesting stories about his weekend activities.

## Virtues Programme

Well done to the following students who were recognised recently for displaying their virtues.



**Self Discipline:** Jazz Bains, Matt Smith, Zuoan Wu, Jack Bowen, Connor Hovey, Ethan Toy, Molly-May Smith-Hogg, Bella-Jean Fantham-Houia.  
**Rangatiratanga - trying to do our best always:** Ruby Smith, Brylee Nicholson, Livi Heerden, Zander Gilchrist, Amelia Boden-Cave.  
**Determination:** Te Manawanui Marks-George.

**Manaakitanga for her teacher:** Julie Stoop. **Commitment in all things:** Carter Hallett. **Living above the Line:** Jahmayne Jackson.



**Consideration:** Milly Vivian, Israel Goldsack, Isabella Boden-Cave, Charlotte Banks, Liam Andrews.  
**Diligence:** Charlotte Aplin, Jed Bullock, Lucan Moore,

Nico Kenny, Marina Lister, Caleb Wells, Poppy Englebretsen, Sasha Chapman, Alexander Turner.

## Year 6 - Kapiti Island Adventure



To get to Kapiti Island, you have to go on a 2 hour bus ride and then you go on a 10 min boat ride. If you are lucky, you can see dolphins, orca whales and seals. It is so cool! If you go overnight, you might see up to 35 different varieties of birds on Kapiti Island. You can go on lots of tracks and you can go everywhere, but if you are going on a school trip, stay on the track. Kapiti Island is a wonderful place! It has so many tracks and so many birds, like the Weka and Kaka. These two birds can get in your bag. The Kakas are smart enough to open bag zippers and open lunch boxes. The Wekas can carry away your bags, but it is fine because it rarely happens. So, just keep an eye on your bag.

*By Seth Simpson.*

Kapiti Island is an amazing experience, I loved how tame the birds were! They had no fear, they would come right up to you, or even jump onto your back, trying to get into your snacks. Also the scenery is astonishing. The trees stand to incredible heights, bushes sway with the wind as sun rays beam through the openings above. As amazing as the scenery and birds are, there is one requirement to experience this awesome adventure. You need to walk a lot! Up, down, around corners, down again and so on. But it's so worth it, the view from the summit is absolutely breathtaking!

*By Lucas Munn*



## Mufti/Wheels Day for Foodbank Friday 22nd November

Wear Mufti and bring your small wheels and safety gear to support the local mission Foodbank. Please bring a non perishable item for Foodbank Christmas supplies.

## Excess Furniture Sale

St Johns Hill School is needing to get rid of excess furniture stored in sheds and classrooms. Most of the furniture is still in good condition. The furniture will be available to our parent community between 2.30 - 3.30pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November and to the public between 8 - 10am on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Great student study desks/chairs etc. Furniture will be set out on the hall deck.

## Class/Individual Photos

Reminder free delivery expires midnight Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Photolife keycodes were sent home with students on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Photos can be viewed and ordered online at: [www.photolife.co.nz](http://www.photolife.co.nz) using your individual keycode. Any issues please contact Photolife: 0800 501 040

## St Johns Hill School Athletics Day Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November starting at 9:15

Here is our programme for the day with approximate times only.  
**9:15 - 10:30am**

Students aged 7 years old and under will be competing in graded running races in both sprints and middle distance - Students will be racing in age and gender races starting with 5 year old girls. Some students 8 and over will be competing in the finals of the 4 field events, (high jump, long jump, vortex throwing and quoit throwing.) These students have trialed and will know if they are competing.

The other students not involved in these field events will be involved in other games around the school.

Parent vs Student relay race, prior to morning tea.

**11am - 12:30pm**

Students 8 and over will be competing in graded running races in both sprints and middle distance.

Students will be racing in age and gender races starting with 8 year old girls.

House Relay Races - Year 3 and 4 race.

- Year 5 and 6 race.

## 2020 School Terms

Term 1:

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Term 2:

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Term 3:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Term 4:

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Note school also closed: 6th February - Waitangi Day

7th February

27th April - Anzac Day

1st June - Queens Birthday

26 October - Labour Day

## Additional Teacher Only Days

Arising from recent employment agreement negotiations, all schools across NZ have been given an entitlement of 8 days over the next two and a half years to be used as Teacher Only Days. This was in response to issues raised about increased workload and expectations being put on teachers and schools.

These days are to provide teachers and principals additional time to:

- Refresh and deepen their knowledge and practice around the local curriculum (within the context of the removal of National Standards);
- Strengthen their understanding of the use of assessment tools for learning and teaching;
- Respond to the recommendations of the education work programme in the Curriculum, Progress and Achievement (CPA) Report;
- Familiarise themselves with curriculum work changes that will become available over the term of the collective agreements.

The minister, under section 65D(1) of the Education Act 1989, may authorise boards to open for fewer days than usually required. The teacher only days, both in terms of actual days and use must be set in consultation with the Board of Trustees.

We will endeavour to provide you with as much notice as possible. Thank you for your understanding and support.