

Waimata School Newsletter

“Whāia te iti kahurangi... To be the best that I can be”

End of Year Reporting

Our Kaiako have now completed the majority of their report writing for the year. Currently they are working with your children on adding their thoughts, perspectives and opinions to these reports. With the final part to complete these being... your comments as parents & whanau.

The kaupapa behind this process is to be as authentic as possible in our attempts to provide a holistic view of progress and achievement for each of our taura. We pride ourselves on providing opportunities for our children to learn, grow, and develop in a holistic manner, celebrating success wherever it is achieved and learning from our mistakes whenever they happen. To be true to this we acknowledge that this is not just seen through our eyes as educators. In order to achieve the depth of perspective hoped for, we will also use the feedback of the students and you as whanau to help provide a greater insight into these end of year reports.

Please keep an eye out at the beginning of Week 8 where a draft report including teacher and student comments will be coming home. Whanau will have the opportunity to read over the content of the report, talk to their tamariki about it and add your perspective of your child's all round development in 2020.

Prizegiving Assembly

Our end of year Prize Giving Assembly is happening Week 9 Monday 7th December @1:00pm. We would love to see you come along to tautoko our award recipients and farewell our Y6 students after what has been a most interesting year!



(Above: Our Y5&6 athletes competing as part of the Waihi Cluster at the North Cluster Athletics this Tuesday @ Bethlehem College! Ka mau te wehi!!!)

2021 Back to School Stationery

We are once again partnering with Office Products Depot to supply our School stationery packs. These are purchased online and delivered directly to your whare. Fridge magnets will be in your child's End of Year report envelope with the website address where you can make your orders!

Ultimate X-Country Date Change

We have had to make an adjustment to the running of our Ultimate X-Country to next Tuesday 24th November. Please ensure that your child (Yr 3-6) comes to school with appropriate shoes to run in and a spare change of clothes for after! Also a big thanks to those of you that have got behind the sponsorship/fundraising efforts for this event. Please ensure all money raised and sponsorship forms are returned ASAP.

Drop off & Pick up Times

Just a friendly reminder that Teachers are generally not on sight prior to 8:00am and after 3:30pm in the afternoons. If you arrive before this time you will need to wait with your child and please get in touch with the office if you will be running late for pick ups.

Parent/Whanau Report Comments

Dear Parent/Caregiver

We are very excited with the changes we are making to our reporting for 2020 and beyond. Actively seeking student and parent/whanau voice is vital in helping generate a true holistic picture of your/our students development at the various stages of their educational journey.

Traditionally reporting has consisted almost exclusively of Teacher voice, with a narrow perspective heavily weighted towards academic progress and achievement. Whilst this is more than fit for purpose in a kura that places a higher than usual emphasis on this specific area of development, this fails to provide space for observations of development within other important learning areas like social awareness, personal characteristics, values, sense of community, cultural capital, independence etc. As well as somewhat judging a child's 'worth' through the eyes of those with a specific lens... uninformed of other elements of their development through those fortunate to be able to see this child from a different perspective.

As different as this method may be from past reports, its actually really just the first small step towards redefining how we (school, students & whanau) as stake holders collaborate to review, create, and revise the opportunities for growth within our tamariki.

So what do we want from you...?

- Your input into the progress you have seen your child(ren) make this year... specifically from your perspective, from anywhere, at anytime, about anything that you feel needs to be celebrated! This does not have to be directly related to school at all. Remembering we are hoping to report on their progress as a person not just in relation to school itself.
- Feedback for your child on the perspectives shared by the Teachers and themselves in the report. Maybe elements of the report that you are proud of, positive reinforcement of areas that may need continued work and development, or even just an acknowledgement that you are committed to helping them extend their development going forward!
- Most importantly we want your input to be yours! Don't try to give us what you think we want to hear as Teachers. You are writing to your children when you make your comments. You are the fortunate ones that are afforded the special gift of seeing your child(ren) through a lens that no other can, harness this and use it to empower your child even further!!!

On the report template you will see the area where your comment will go. Please be mindful of the amount of room we have to fit in any comment you make, but please don't feel obliged to have to fill all of the space if you are comfortable with what you have to offer. As the saying goes 'quality over quantity'! We intend to input your comment into the Final Report as you provide it, should any comments be too long (80 words max) to fit the space we will be in touch to ensure you are happy with how we may have edited it to fit.

Thanks in advance for taking part in this collaborative effort!

***Hapaitia te ara tika pumau ai te rangatiratanga mo nga uri
whakatipu***

Foster the pathway of knowledge to strength, independence and growth for future generations