

# Maungakaramea School Newsletter



3 February 2017 - Term 1 - Week 1

## Principal's Message

Dear parents and caregivers,  
Welcome back to school for the new year! I hope you all had a fabulous break with your families and enjoyed the amazing weather we have been having.

We are very excited about our whole school camp this term at Lonsdale Park and are busy finalising details. If you would like to come on camp please send your forms in as soon as possible so that we can complete the planning. On one day we have O'Neill Surf Academy taking the children for surfing lessons at Matauri Bay so this is a really great opportunity for everyone to try something they may not have previously had the chance to.

During the Christmas break we have had a change of Commissioner as Derek Birt unfortunately had to resign for personal reasons. The Ministry have appointed another commissioner, Larry Forbes. He will be at our community charter meeting and BBQ, which we will have on Wednesday 1st March at 5.30pm. Please come along and meet Larry and give us some feedback on our Charter goals for this year. We would really value your ideas. Larry will also hold a community meeting at a later date and will put a notice out in our next newsletter regarding his plans.

Our swimming sports are planned for Tuesday 28th Feb, which is the week after camp. We will send out more information regarding times

etc as soon as things are finalised. We also have four weeks of netball coaching from the 9th March so are also looking forward to that.

We have had a few changes in the holidays as we have renamed the classrooms and our house groups have also been changed. We now have three house groups – Pohutakawa, Nikau and Kauri. We will be putting more emphasis on house activities this year and children will be earning points for their houses in a variety of ways. Our classes are now renamed as we move to teams rather than room numbers. Room 1 becomes Piwakawaka team, room 3 is Kereru team and room 4 is Korimako team.

I am really pleased to introduce Sue Abbott who is team teaching with me in Korimako this year. Sue is teaching on Wednesdays and Thursdays and I am teaching the rest of the week.

If you ever have any questions, ideas or anything else you would like to discuss, please feel free to come in and see me. I would love to hear from you.

A huge thanks to Tania and everyone that worked hard during the holidays to maintain our school pool. It looks fabulous and has been well used during the past few days! Without your support we would not have been able to open the pool to the community during the holidays. Well done.

Kind regards  
Kath Edwards  
Principal

## Noticeboard

- \* **Parent/Teacher/Child Interviews** - A notice went home yesterday to inform you that these will be held in week 3 on **Wednesday 15th February** from 3.30pm-6pm. Please return your reply slips by next Wednesday 8th February with your preferred time slot. Thank you.
- \* **Lonsdale Park Camp** - Camp notices and permission slips went home this week with all the details of our upcoming school camp. Camp will be from **Tuesday 21st February - Friday 24th February**. We need plenty of parent help/transport so if you are able to help out please let us know. Permission slips are due back next Tuesday 7th February. Thank you.
- \* **Welcome** - Welcome back to all our old and new students. We hope you all enjoy your year at MGK School this year.
- \* **Birthdays** - A big happy birthday to Hannah who turned 10 in the holidays and to Scott who turns 8 this week. Also to Paige H, Caleb, Jacob and Jordan M who all turn another year old next week.
- \* **Swimming** - Please remember to send your children to school with togs, towels and goggles (if required) everyday. This month is going to be a hot one and we also have swimming sports coming up so the children will be doing lots of practise for this.
- \* **Hats** - Please ensure ALL children have sunhats at school. If they do not have a hat they are required to stay in shaded areas only during lunch breaks and outdoor activities. The school have bucket hats and caps for sale for \$10. Please see Tania in the office if you would like to purchase one.
- \* **Accounts** - Statements will be going next week. The school is unable to add items to accounts for longer than one month therefore we require parents/caregivers to pay their accounts asap. Trips and camps still require immediate payment prior to the start of the activity. If you have any payment concerns we are more than happy to discuss payment options with you. Please contact your child's teacher or the office if you have any concerns. Thank you.
- \* **Lunches** - If you are able to spare a little bit of time on a Wednesday and/or Friday morning we are looking for someone to help organise lunch orders on these mornings. Aprrox 9am-9.30am. Please phone the office if you are able to help. Thank you.





## Beach Fun

In the weekend I went to Glinks Gully

beach. I went with my family.

The first thing I did was go down to the beach. When I got down there we lined up in our age groups for a running race. Finally the race started and I was running faster and faster but at the end I slowed down a little bit. I was proud when I finished the race because I noticed I came third. I went to the table and got my prize, I got \$2.00.

Then it was the sack race. Everybody tripped over in this race because the sacks were too big, they reached up to their shoulders. When the race finished I saw that I came 2nd. I then went back to the table and got my prize. I got \$4.00.

Next I walked back up to the bach and had something to eat because I was so hungry!

Then I went back down to the beach and had a swim. The swim was cooling and fun. Then I went back up to the bach and got dressed. Then I went and played.

It was a fun day because I got to spend time with all my cousins and family.

By Pippa

## A Day at the Museum

In the holidays I went to Auckland. In Auckland I went to the museum with Mum and Dad. At the museum there is a volcano with pretend smoke over it. In the volcano there's a pink card that you put around your neck and it has a spark symbol on it. There is also a spark symbol on the wall and you put your card over it and you get a song on your ipad, iphone or tablet. In the museum there are some dinosaurs skeletons in there. I liked how big they were. They were nearly as tall as the roof. It was a good day at the museum.

By Jamie



## Spike!

By Jethro Clark

Meet Spike! He's the coolest and smoothest guy in town. I'll tell you

about him. He has a sweet gold chain that sparkles so high that it makes the gods cry!

He has future glasses that ray gun you to ash and dust. His pistol has a finish of diamonds and pink camo. This guys hat is dashed with baby blue sparkles.

Spike has a golden smile and his teeth are strong enough to shatter anything you can think of. His favourite toy is his hover board, it is so fast that it will go 1000 miles a second! He is strong

so he can hold on and not be forced off while riding.

He has swag because nobody can deny a guy who is so fly. So there, I have told you all I can about Spike.

## Nitro Circus

By Maz

It was Sunday, and I was feeling so amped for Nitro Circus! When I got there I had to line up and wait. We were in the VIP section so I was handed a lanyard covered in the words Nitro Circus.

The bikes revved up and the crowd went wild.

It was so scary when Catfish picked 4 people from the crowd and they had to go on a motorbike and do a backflip with 4

people on the bike! It was really nerve wracking to watch!

I got my hat signed by the best BMXer in the world, Ryan Williams! I had lost my voice from yelling so hard! Ryan Williams did a quadruple backflip on a BMX bike just after signing my hat! How awesome is that!

I said to Mum "this is awesome! Ryan Williams just did that!"

I saw Miss B there, she yelled my name and I was excited! I got to give her a cuddle.



## Dates to remember

**6 Feb** - Waitangi Day Holiday

**15 Feb** - Parent/Teacher/Child Interviews

**21-24 Feb** - Lonsdale Park Camp

**28 Feb** - Swimming Sports

**1 Mar** - Charter Review / Community BBQ

**7 Mar** - Y7/8 Technology

**13 Apr** - Last Day Term One

## Community Notices

### • Welcome to Portland Kindergarten

Portland Kindergarten have vacancies, we are taking enrolments now. 8:30am – 2:30pm Monday to Friday. 2-6 year olds. No Fee's. 100% qualified teachers. If you are interested in a placement for your child, please contact the kindergarten staff on 4322533 or email [portland@nka.org.nz](mailto:portland@nka.org.nz). Alternatively you are invited to visit the Kindy at Portland School Rd (inside the school grounds). We look forward to meeting with you. Ngā mihi nui.

### • Futsal is here!

**Why?** Caters to boys and girls of all abilities - No cancellations due to weather - Dramatically increases skill, agility, speed, quick decision making & confidence - It's fun - Kids love it! **Who?** Anyone aged 8-15 years old. **When & Where?** Term time 2017 - Tuesdays at Whangarei Boys High 4pm-5.30pm (8-10yr olds), 5.45pm-7.15pm (11-15yr olds); Wednesdays at Kamo High 4pm-5.30pm (8-10yr olds); Fridays at Whangarei Boys High 4pm-5.30pm (8-10yr olds), 5.45pm-7.15pm (11-15yr olds). Visit [www.northlandfutsalacademy.co.nz](http://www.northlandfutsalacademy.co.nz) or contact Christian: 021 246 7328. Spaces are limited.





## Tane Mahuta

It was about 12pm and the traffic had just started to pick up and the sun rose as we got closer to Tane Mahuta, the biggest kauri tree in New Zealand. I had never seen this before so the suspense was rising.

Getting out of the car I had a big banana smile on my face. I wonder how close we can go I thought. I scuttled ahead of the rest of my family but stopped every minute or so, mainly because I did not know the way (despite the signs), and so my family could keep up with me as they were really enthralled with the experience. With every step it was so tempting to explore, not just on the track but beyond as well. When my sister caught up she taught me about New Zealand's iconic environment and how we are the closest model of the environment when dinosaurs ruled the Earth. I was only listening to the songs the tui sang as they were especially captivating.

A few minutes later we arrived at what we had been waiting to see ... Tane Mahuta. The tree was wide as well as tall. On the sides of the platform were bits of information teaching people about the legend behind Tane Mahuta, Papatuanuku and Ranginui. It

was about how he forced his parents apart to create a gap between the earth and the sky. "Wow!" I gasped at the trees presence. Imagine seeing trees like this in your backyard. This was a great holiday and I wish to return soon.

By Ayla

*The sunlight beamed down on us. A sweltering hotness boiled my skin as I leapt out of the car. It was so uncomfortable there that my limbs were cramping up. I bolted into the hotel room with my friend Lily at my side. We changed hurriedly into our togs.*

*In two minutes we were down by the pool. The sun hit my skin and I needed to get relief. "Ready?" said Lily as she swiped her foot through the clear blue water. "Yes," I replied not sure if I actually was.*

*Lily dived in and so did I. My hands breached the water's surface before the rest of my body slid in. Water droplets slid down my limbs as I slid through the pool. My fingers rippled the water as I brushed the top. An icy chill cascaded down my spine. The water felt lovely and cool as it dribbled down my body. My hair clung to my back like a stringy piece of gum on the sidewalk. I was ecstatic to be out of that car. In the following hours we splashed around and pulled silly faces just like when we were little.*

By Emily

## Silverdale

Early at dawn on the 6th of January, I zoomed off and caught the first ray of sunlight. We rushed out to pick up Paige,

Emily, BB and lastly Michaela. When we arrived at Silverdale I had blood thirsty thoughts of what I should do first!

There was the luge, the BIG SLIP, the zipline and the 3D cinema and much more... oh, and it was my birthday! By the second time I went on the luge we were racing down the track super FAST!

When I turned around the sharpest corner of the luge, Paige was trying to beat my brother Lachlan but she went off the track and then back on. The next minute she had tipped the yellow luge cart! Paige split her lip and grazed everywhere on her left side.

I didn't go on the zipline or the bungy jump because it looked FREAKY!

By Hannah

He was lying there, his pale blue eyes staring up at me blankly. I put my hand on his matted fur coat and sighed. He was still warm, but not warm enough. Ando was dead.

He had been sick ever since we got him but we thought he was just weak. Alpacas are prey animals so you do not actually realise they are sick until it is too late. Ando was a perfect example. I stood and made my way through the thick grass towards our house. The grass was wet with shining morning dew and the cicadas were already out. I don't like cicadas and I was already sad about Ando so really wasn't feeling very happy. I left my shoes at the door and stepped inside.

I said, "Ando is dead". I was not going to waste my time by saying things like 'he's gone to a better place'.

By Islay