

19 August 2024

Principal's Pen

Kia ora koutou parents & whānau

Welcome to Week 5. At the end of this week the third term will be halfway done and dusted. It is good to see your children coming to school prepared for the possibility of a change in the weather and or temperature without notice. While the fields feel dry on top at times, the ground directly beneath the grass is sodden. I know the kids are all itching to get out and run on the grass, but we need to protect it as best we can before it starts to properly dry out. Every year we lose the use of the field because of rain for at least the first half of Term 3.

As you will have heard following the announcement about structured literacy being mandated in New Zealand schools from the beginning of next year, there is also now a still to be developed 'structural maths' mandate from the Government. This will by all accounts be developed around the refreshed maths curriculum. We do not know the details around this yet and only heard about this new mandate the same afternoon it was announced by the Prime Minister. We will let you know more in due course when we know more.

Cross Country

It is cross country time of year and this week (Thursday) see's our Year 3-6 cross country held at the Northcote Rugby Grounds. This course offers a few challenges for the runners and will be hotly contested by all involved. Get along and cheer on your kids if you have someone running.

Speech Finals

Last week all our teams held their speech finals in the hall. This is an annual thing and while not everyone is comfortable undertaking public speaking, your children were all amazing! It always fascinates me how children from as young as five can get up in front of their peers, and in the finals their family and whānau, and deliver their speech. I know you will all be so proud of your children's efforts, whether they made the finals or not. It is an awesome achievement. Well done to our teachers across the school for the excellent preparation and support you gave your classes. Our judges, and particularly our external judges, made mention about the excellent quality and structure of the speeches given in the finals.

Property

On Saturday night between 9.00pm and midnight, we had a visit from five or six unwelcome visitors. These people stacked up the children's picnic tables to gain access to the very highly mounted outdoor speakers fixed in three different places around the school. They offending people were caught on our CCTV but mainly had their faces covered with their hoodies or scarves. In all these people were at our school for over an hour and two of the three locations they carried the tables to and stacked them up to get to the speakers were in very well-lit areas, one viewed from Onewa Road which was very busy. They didn't rush and were obviously not too concerned about being disturbed. It is so frustrating (to say the least) to have this happen. It is pretty low to steal from a school. These speakers were replacements for our first six outdoor speakers that were previously stolen. The new locations were much higher, but these people still managed to steal the speakers. The speakers are used regularly to locate children around the school. The cost of replacement is prohibitive, and we will discuss what options are available to us moving forwards, but we can't keep replacing them just to give them away to the next lot of people who decide they are more worthy of our paid for speakers than us. If you saw anything primarily between 9.00pm and 10.30pm Saturday night, please let us know. A Police complaint has been made. St Mary's School also got hit after us on the same night and they lost all their speakers also.

Kind regards

Andy Brown - Principal

Upcoming Dates

Upcoming dates are published on the homepage of the school website and on the Calendar section in Hero.

Term 3 2024

- Monday 19 August - dental van onsite
- Wednesday 21 August - New parent meeting - staffroom - 9.15am
- Thursday 22 August - NPS Cross country - year 3-6
- Friday 31 August - NPS Daffodil Day celebration
- Friday 6 September - Teacher Only Day - school closed
- Monday 16 September - Board meeting - 6pm