



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S CHAIR

NEWSLETTER: 23.3.17

Ko koe ti tena, ko ahau ki tenei kiwai o te kete.

You take that handle of the kete and I'll take this one.

Often in education we refer to learning as filling up our kete of knowledge. All learners have their own kete that is filled with the things they have learned previously at school, in their families and from their experiences outside of school. We all see our role as being able to add to what is already in the basket rather than building the basket from scratch.

However, this whakatauki (proverb) is about more than just filling up the basket and sharing the load. It is about how learners can work together to make this filling of the basket a shared experience. It does not talk about the teacher and the learner either. Rather it is about how our children can share the job of filling the basket with anyone. And this proverb also does not say that the kete needs to be carried by the learner and the teacher only. This sharing of learning can happen with any two people helping. That can be parents, grandparents, coaches and even other children.

At the moment our Key Competency is Relating to Others. When I asked the children about this they did talk about things like being kind to other people as a way of relating to others. They said things like, "If someone is hurt I can get them an icepack" and "Helping people that are hurt in the playground. It is important to be good at relating to others when that happens" or "It means introducing myself to others if they have just started at school." These are definitely great ways of relating to others.

Some children took it to a deeper level however and thought about how relating to others had an impact on their learning. The children said things like, "In class it means including other people's ideas in what you are discussing. You can also be encouraging and include people in what you are doing" and "Sharing things, like pencils of mine, with other people is a way that I can relate well to others." Some even talked about how relating to others meant sometimes they needed to not work with others, "It means that if someone is talking and distracting me then I can ignore them and keep on with my work."

It is interesting that our children saw the benefit of sharing the load in their learning. Many of them understand the importance of how working with other people can improve their learning and improve themselves as people as well as making others feel included. We know that if we support our children to see how those around them can help them to learn and grow, then no

matter how full the kete becomes, there will always be someone there to help carry it and someone who can share in filling the basket with the kinds of skills and experiences our children need to be successful in the future.

Sean Wansbrough

Principal

Assembly

Assembly is this tomorrow at 2.15. We look forward to seeing you there.

Welcome to School

We welcome Andre Jordaan to Tussock. We would also like to welcome the Jordaan family.

Around our School

The children have been involved in lots of different learning activities around the classes recently. From smoothie making to kapahaka as well as using the water table and maths. It is fantastic to see them so engaged.



Board of Trustee Meeting

The Board held their monthly meeting on the 20th of March. A report on the learning of the Key Competencies was presented to the Board. Chris Murphy spoke to the Board in his role as the lead Principal of the Opuke Community of Learning about the journey so far and about the upcoming teacher positions in the community. The Board also ratified the Vulnerable Children's Act Policy for the school. School donations for 2017 were set. The next meeting is on the 15th of May.

Vulnerable Children's Act Policy

The Board of Trustees passed the VCA Policy at the last Board meeting. This is in line with legislation that came into effect to ensure that people working with children in schools were safe to do so and fit and proper people to be carrying out these roles. This covers all workers in schools from teachers to our teacher aides and bus drivers. This act requires the school to safety check anyone who will be working with children in school. These safety checks include police vetting, asking for appropriate references and asking workers to maintain their qualifications.

As a result, when we employ someone, we are required to complete these safety checks before they begin working with us. At present this does not include parent volunteers on day trips. However, to ensure we keep in line with the law, we may need to safety check other people who work with our children, such as parent helpers on overnight camps.

We will endeavor to keep these checks to the minimum but please do not be offended if you are asked to complete one of these checks when you offer to help.

Down's Bus Driver

We are saddened to see Warwick Pengally end his association with our school and as our bus driver. Warwick's last day will be Friday the 31st of March.

We are pleased to announce that we have employed Sharon Nagel as our new driver for the Down's run. Sharon has previously been driving for Ritchies in Ashburton. We look forward to welcoming Sharon to our team.

Unfortunately, due to the requirements of the VCA Sharon is not able to start until her safety checks are completed. We are hopeful that this will be quick but the police vetting time is something over which we have no control. In the mean time, Mr Wansbrough will be driving the Down's bus to ensure that our children can get to school.

If you need to contact Mr Wansbrough to let him know that your children will not be on the bus from the 3rd of April, his phone number is 0211344690.



March

Kaidyn Broomhall
Noah Gardiner
Archie Griffen
Seth Corbett

April

Kayden O'Connor
Niko Holgate

Down's Bus

You will have noticed that we have had 2 significant breakdowns on the Down's bus in recent weeks. We are hopeful that once it has been repaired this time that the MAN bus will continue to serve our school. Due to some of the roads on the Down's run we will be making a change in buses to see if different road conditions will help to reduce the inconvenience of the bus being unable to run. We are planning to switch the MAN bus to the Springburn run and the Nissan to the Down's run as a trial to see if it will make a difference. The drivers will remain on their regular runs and only the vehicle will change.

School Donations

Donations by many people help us to keep our children being able to access the kind of learning that can make a difference. These donations help us to give children the chance to do such things as experience visiting performers, purchase new learning material and sports equipment. While they are a voluntary donation they make a huge difference for our children.

At the recent Board meeting the School Donations were set by the Board of Trustees. The donation is \$20 per term per child up to a maximum of \$50 per family per term. These donation amounts will appear on your school invoices soon.

PUBLIC MEETING OF MT SOMERS COMMITTEE POOL COMMITTEE

DATE: 7.30 PM

TIME: WEDNESDAY 29/03/17

VENUE: MT SOMERS HALL SUPPER ROOM

AGENDA: THE FUTURE OF THE MT SOMERS POOL

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU COME AND HEAR WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY AS WE NEED YOUR INPUT AS A COMMUNITY.

THE SITUATION IS AT A CROSSROADS NOW AND THE CHOICE DEPENDS ON HOW YOU ALL WANT TO PROCEED.

IF THERE IS NO INTEREST SHOWN THE POOL WILL PROBABLY CLOSE PERMANENTLY

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES APRIL 2017

SWIM LESSONS

Group and individuals available

APRIL
18th - 21st

Individual lessons

APRIL
24th, 26th, 27th & 28th

BREASTSTROKE CLINIC

APRIL
18th - 21st

for children struggling with the breaststroke goal in any level.

TERM LESSONS

We are still taking bookings for Term lessons for waterbabies, pre-schoolers and school age classes.

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS

\$40
30mins

\$27
20mins

\$20
15mins

Individual lessons are:

- \$40 for 30mins
- \$27 for 20mins
- \$20 for 15mins

EA networks centre Call Stacy on 308 4035 or email stacy.hoels@adc.govt.nz Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL

Grow your team productivity

Register your team now!

Upskill your staff and develop your own management expertise to build a better business.

Our focus is to work alongside you to identify the skill needs of your team and develop a training pathway that's tailored to your business.

Starting soon

First Aid Comprehensive It is the minimum requirement for high risk workplaces, and meets the Department of Labour First Aid for Workplaces standard.	\$196
Livestock Feeding, Level 3 Suitable for people with some experience. Covers feeding, pastures, handling livestock, weather and use of water systems.	Practical + 7 course days \$395
Sheep & Beef Farming, Level 4 For stock or farm managers and those with a few years experience. Covers livestock health plan, breeding plan, feeding plan, management reports, & benchmark your farm.	Practical + 16 course days \$825

For more information contact Staz Roberts (027) 438-3196.

0800 20 80 20
www.primaryito.ac.nz

 **Primary ITO**
KNOWLEDGE TO GROW

Primary ITO, R. 2022

SUNSMART FACT

Leave wrinkles to the elephants

Your skin is like an elephant – it remembers all the UV exposure you have received throughout your life. All the sunburns, tans and time spent outdoors without sun protection adds up and increases your long-term risk of skin cancer. So it's a good idea to slip, slop, slap and wrap in summer.


SUNSMART SCHOOLS
Cancer Society