

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

17 March 2017

---

*Kia Ora Talofa Kia Orana Chao mung quy vi Malo e lelei Aloha Olá  
Halo Ni Sa Bula Fakalofa atu Ni Hao Xin chào An nyong Ha se yo  
Assalamu alaykum Namaste Ahalan Saleem Shalom Dia dhuit  
Zdravstvuyte Hej Greetings*

Kia ora koutou,

## OUR BROAD RICH CURRICULUM

### Teapot Valley Camp 2017

57 young people (years 7 and 8) and 11 adults spent last week at Teapot Valley Camp in Brightwater near Nelson.

For 23 of our young people it was the first time that they had ever been on the ferry. When asked what it was about camp that our young people loved, some of the answers were:

- You were able to be really independent and there was a lot of freedom
- It was great eating together – the dining room was like a restaurant and you had interesting conversations at the table
- You were sometime pushed outside your comfort zone doing activities you had never done before and you felt great afterwards

The **key competencies** in the NZ Curriculum and the Mt Cook School Curriculum are divided into Social and Personal Competencies and Learning Competencies. The dimensions of our Personal and Social Competencies are:

- Independence
- Responsibility
- Relationships
- Participation

As you can see, every one of these featured in the camp experience and in our young peoples' descriptions of what camp meant to them.

### **An account from Mohammad Mazreh and Scout Cadwallader**

The day started early as kids and adults had to be at school by 6:45 to make sure that we caught the ferry. We arrived at school. The hall was filled with excited energy. We chatted with our exhausted friends. Once we had been counted we got on the bus to go to the ferry.

The ferry trip was quiet. People were tired and wanted to relax. After a long bus trip we arrived at Teapot Valley Camp, just out of Nelson. When we got off the bus I felt that we were free. I felt blessed with the thought that I was here.

### **What was so great about camp?**

I enjoyed living with my friends for a whole week and getting to know them better. I enjoyed connecting with other people at camp, not just my friends.

There were so many activities and new experiences. It was challenging doing things that you had not done before and did not feel confident about.

I loved being surrounded by friends and having so much to do as well as having much time to do what you wanted to do.

Camp was “independence week”.

Being away from family meant that:

- you had to take care of yourself
- you learnt to do things on your own
- you ate together and talked together
- everyone did everything together and you had free time together

I would recommend camp to others because it is exciting, a great place to go, so many things to do.

I would recommend it to people who are not very confident. At camp it is very likely that you are going to do something that you have never done before.



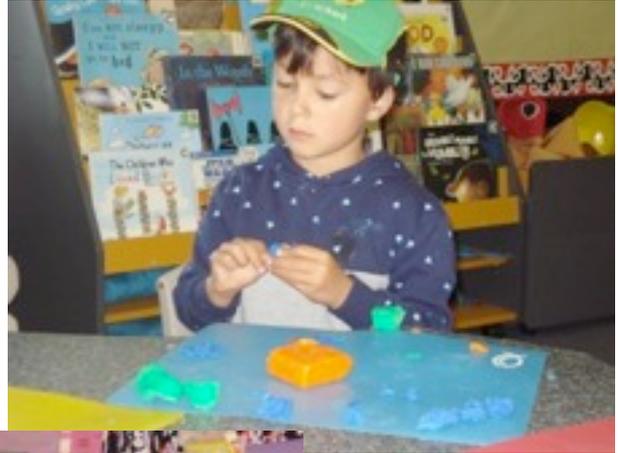




## What is happening in syndicates?

### JUNIOR SYNDICATE

In **Kereru and Pekapeka** there are lots of adventures taking place in play. Children have been making spider webs, experimenting with textures in playdough, designing maps to name but a few. Both classes visited Government House recently as part of exploring who we are in our community. **Kiwi class** are visiting Government House next week.



In **Manaia** the class have been talking about who we are, who our friends are with a big focus on social interactions. They have been thinking about how we talk to each other, how we are learners together and how we support each other.

## **MIDDLE/SENIOR AREA**

### **Katipo**

Students in **Katipo** class have been talking about identity – who we are and what are our similarities and differences? Children were asked to come up with a definition of identity. Ngapera came up with the following definition. “It’s like a bunch of bananas – there are different colours, brands and textures. There are many parts to the banana. The banana skin holds inside your personality and who you are”.

Katipo are also learning a new basic facts game called “Loopy” which is a lot of fun and very good for mastering basic facts.

### **Takahe**

We have been looking at our identity and what makes us who we are.

We have been doing exploration learning and linking this with growth mindset.

Exploration learning is where each student follows his/her own interest.

With growth mindset we are looking at when we face challenges we come up with a way of overcoming them

Some of the topics that our young people are exploring are:

- design a board game
- create a new PE game
- Art activity
- Mini-research project or investigation
- Amazing writing ideas
- Design activities
- Design thinking
- Fantasy maps
- Animation using photos
- Garageband

Our theme of identity is linked with the class novel.

### **Kowhai and Harakeke**

The focus for the term has been on facing challenges culminating in camp.

## **HEALTH CONTEXTS FOR THE YEAR**

This year we continue to focus as a school on eating well and being physically active.

We continue to be part of the Fruit in Schools Programme and this means that our young people get a piece of fruit each day at school. Children are regularly engaged in Physical Education and fitness programmes and for the older children different sports. Later in the year the year 7 and 8 students will be looking at Positive Puberty.

## **OUR BROAD RICH CURRICULUM AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT 2016**

**The school's curriculum connects** "base learning" and "rich learning". Literacy and mathematics are the "base learning" dimension; all other learning areas along with **values** and **key competencies**, are the "rich learning" dimension. Literacy emphasizes **oral language** as much as reading and writing. "Rich learning" is approached through integrated and topic studies.

At Mt Cook School we work to ensure that each child is engaged and also able to excel at the areas that really excite her/him and to be curious, connected, lifelong learners. In all curriculum areas in 2016 every child made progress, some made big steps and others small steps.

Last year 47% of our students were English Language Learners. It takes 5 – 7 years for English Language Learners to become fluent in English and that depends on how old a child is when they start to learn, how fluent they are in their first language and a number of other factors.

In reading last year 67% of our students were reading at or above where they should be and in the years 4 – 8, 76% were reading at or above.

In writing 58% of our students were achieving at or above where they should be and in years 4 – 8, 64%. Oral language and reading are a precursor to writing and for all students but especially ELL writing takes longer to develop.

In maths 71% of our students were achieving at or above where they should be and this was the same for years 4 – 8 students.

The majority of our Maori students are achieving at or above the standard.

For some of our Pasifika children we are still working hard with them in reading and writing.

Our achievement overall continues to improve with focused teaching and working with you, our families/whanau in talking about ways to support your young person at home.

## **PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS**

Thank you for taking time to meet with your child's teacher to talk about your hopes and aspirations for your young person for the year. It is a great opportunity for information sharing and also for the school to learn more about who each child/family is, where you come from and what is important to you. If you did not manage to come in please feel free to make a time with the teacher that works for you both.

## FUNDRAISING

### ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 2017!

An easy fundraiser for the school

Digital Membership or a Book are available again this year.

Digital membership is very popular.

This can be done by going online to:

[www.entbook.co.nz/106r791](http://www.entbook.co.nz/106r791)

If you are thinking about buying please buy through Mt Cook School.

Flyer is going home today!

The cost is \$65 with \$12 going to the school.

A great gift or something to use for yourself with many discounts on dining, arts/sports, shopping and travel.

Order early and receive the Advanced Order Certificate – there are only 15 of these!

A FANTASTIC FUNDRAISER FOR THE SCHOOL

TELL ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS

PLEASE SUPPORT MT COOK SCHOOL

## READ YOUR HEART OUT!

### 2017 in the Mt Cook School Library

#### Thomas George Macarthy Trust Grant

We are very fortunate to have received a grant for our School Library, of \$2,000, from the Thomas George Macarthy Trust. Born in London in 1833, Thomas Macarthy was a businessman who moved to Wellington in 1877. He was involved in many aspects of Wellington City including the Wellington Opera House. Thomas was known for his generosity, but usually insisted that his donations remain anonymous. The Macarthy Trust's mission is to help build strong, inclusive and supportive communities, including helping children and young people develop and realise their potential. That mission will be served at our School through the purchase of new library books for our children to enjoy and to learn from. We are extremely grateful to the Trust, and to Thomas himself, whose generosity we continue to benefit from today.

#### Scholastic Lucky Book Club

Brochures for Issue Two of the Scholastic Lucky Book Club were distributed to classes last week. For those families new to our School and unfamiliar with the Lucky Book Club, it is a way to purchase books for home or for gifts, at discounted prices. The brochure has books

and other items for children ranging in ages from newborn to young teenagers. If you wish to place an order, simply complete the order form inside the back cover; payment is by cash, cheque (made out to Scholastic New Zealand) or credit card (by completing the credit card details box on the form), or you can also order online. Orders for this issue must be in no later than **Wednesday 22 March 2017**.

### Once Upon a Book

Albert Einstein once said, *“If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.”* What is it about fairy tales that would have made Einstein make this statement?

Here are some thoughts:

- fairy tales can ignite imagination ~ ‘what would I have done in the same situation?’
- fairy tales develop critical thinking ~ right versus wrong, good versus evil, where good triumphs, heroines and heroes are made, and hope wins
- fairy tales can tell us about different cultures, the same tale told in a different way.

***Most importantly, fairy tales are simply good fun - enjoy!***

Feel free to pop in and see Vickie in the library. She always has great ideas for books to read to your children and for them to read.



### Newtown Proposed Enrolment Zone

Just a reminder that if you wish to make submissions these need to be in to Newtown School by 3 April. Briar has more information in the office.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Newsletter

For those of you who are new to Mt Cook School you will receive a school newsletter once a fortnight. This will keep you informed of what is happening during the term and the year in syndicates and across the school.

### School Donations

2017 donations are \$20 for the year or \$5 per term. If paid by 31<sup>st</sup> March they are \$15. As you will be aware our school donations are very low. As a board we have made the decision keep the fees low to ensure that they are affordable for all of our families. We also have families who offer to pay more. If you are in a position to pay more the board suggests an amount of up to \$100. The school would be very appreciative of any additional

funding without changing our donation amount. Thank you for your support with this. Just a reminder that this is a donation to the school and that you can claim it on your tax.

### **CARPARKING – PLEASE DROP OFF ON TORY ST**

Just a reminder that drop off and pick up needs to be on Tory St or the slip road from Martin Square and **not anywhere in Sages Lane**. Thanks for your support with this.

### **School Hours**

School begins at 8:55am and finishes at 3:00pm. It is very important that children arrive before the bell goes in the morning. The first few minutes of the day in class are vital for the setting up of the day. Please make sure that your child arrives on time. We know that there is the occasional emergency but in general we expect children here at 8:55am. ***On Tuesdays school will finish early at 2:55pm for staff meetings.*** If you are picking up your child at 3:00pm please be punctual. The school is not responsible for children after 3:00pm and children must be picked up on time. Remember that there is After School Care if you are unable to pick up your child at 3:00pm. Please encourage your young person to be at school 8:45am each day.

### **Lateness and Absences**

Please contact the school if your child is going to be absent from school. Also, if your child is going to be late, we need to be contacted too. These procedures are in place as a precaution. If your child hasn't arrived at school by 9:15am and we've not heard from you, we will need to contact you if we are able to. If your child arrives late, we ask that they, or the accompanying adult, come to the office first so that we are aware that the child has arrived at school. Please help us with your co-operation on this important safety issue. The only reason that your child should be away from school is if he/she is ill. For our children to get the best education possible they need to be at school.

### **After School Care – Monday to Friday, 3:00pm – 6:00pm**

The YMCA continues to provide After School Care for our children as well as a school holiday programme. They have been working in the school for a year and we are very pleased with the programme that they are providing.

For further information you can contact them on 027 782 0794 or pop in and see them in the school.

### **School Lunches**

Cube bakery continues to provide school lunches this year on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. These can be ordered before school in the office. Children then come to the office at lunchtime to pick up their orders. Menus are at the office.

Sushi Tuesday – Tuesday lunch is sushi that must be ordered at the office by 8:45am or online - [www.wrapitup.co.nz](http://www.wrapitup.co.nz).

### **Addresses and Phone Numbers**

If you have changed your address or phone number recently please let Briar know. It's really important that we have accurate information. Thanks a lot for your help with this.

## School Banking

School banking continues this year. We believe that it is really important for our children to have an understanding of financial literacy and how to manage and think about money. Too often our kids think that the source of money is the "hole in the wall".

ASB have a very good school banking set up. If your child does not have a bank account and you would like them to do so pick up a form from Briar at the office. For children to be filling in the deposit envelope and bringing it into school and placing in the box gives them a great sense of where it all starts and how savings work. School banking day is Thursdays.

## BOT (Board of Trustees)

Our Board of Trustees members are:

-  Phil Hawker - BOT Chair
-  Frances Fraser
-  Jo Hendy
-  David Lloyd
-  Sue Perry
-  Sandra McCallum - Principal
-  Lliam Carran/Simon Depree - Staff Reps

The next meeting is to be confirmed.

## Mobiles at school

Some students need to bring mobiles to school to make contact with parents/caregivers at the end of the day. These will be locked in a teacher cupboard for the school day and returned at 3:00pm. Remind your young person to hand these in to the teacher on arrival at school. Thanks a lot.

## MP3Player/iPods

These are not permitted at school. If they are brought to school they must be handed in to the teacher to be locked up until the end of the day. We cannot take responsibility for these.

## DATES FOR THE TERM AND THE YEAR

### Important Dates For Term 1

-  Term 1 ends Thursday 13 April

### Important Dates for 2017

-  Queens Birthday Monday 5 June
-  Labour Day/Long weekend Friday 20 October - Monday 23 October

### Term Dates for 2017

-  Term 1 Thursday 2 February – Thursday 13 April
-  Term 2 Monday 1 May – Friday 7 July
-  Term 3 Monday 24 July – Friday 29 September
-  Term 4 Monday 16 October – Tuesday 19 December

***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”***

***— Nelson Mandela***



***Hei konei ra***

***Sandra, Liam, Julia, Moira, Jacinda, Ned, Gina, Sandy B, Nicki, Kelly, Marije, Sam, Simon, Jason, Diane, Stu, Louise, Robyn, Diana, Briar, Makshud, Nui, Karen, Vickie, Pippa, Sarah, Rachel, Shannon, Ria, Emily & Shenee***

**INVERLOCHY  
EPICUREAN  
ARTISTS TALKS  
SERIES**

24 March  
5.30 – 7 pm  
Inverloch Art School  
3 Inverloch Place  
Te Aro  
Wellington

Come and  
enjoy an  
evening with  
**Terry  
Stringer**

**Terry Stringer** is a leading New Zealand sculptor. He trained at New Zealand's premier art school, Elam School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland. He graduated with Honors in 1967 and in the following years received virtually every significant scholarship and award available to New Zealand artists. In the late 1970s he was awarded the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council Scholarship three times. He is a key figure in the history of art in New Zealand, a sculptor with an established reputation. This was acknowledged in 2003 when he was the recipient of the country's national honour, the ONZM (Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit).

Limited tickets available on Eventfinda (\$20)

Wine and nibbles included

