

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 8

4 August 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,

## Sandra's Spot

Welcome back to term 3. It is lovely to be back and to have been so warmly welcomed by all of you. The smiles of our beautiful tamariki were an instant reminder of why I do what I do and why I love it so much.

A huge thank you to Liam and the team for the great job that they all did when I was away. I really appreciated having the opportunity to take the term off, have some time out as well as time to read and think, knowing that the school was in very good hands.

## Creative Engagement and Community

Over the time I was away I have been thinking about two things. Community and what I call Creative Engagement.

In the area of community I read two very good books, recommended by colleagues as I visited schools around the country.

The Abundant Community by Peter Block and John McKnight; and Community by Peter Block.

Block talks about Community as the experience of belonging.

I asked our young people in Harakeke to come up with some ideas about what it means to belong?

These were some of their replies:

-  To be a jigsaw piece in the greater picture – not huge but the puzzle won't work without you
-  To be a necessary part of something
-  A safe place for everyone to share and express themselves

- 👤 No matter what culture/ethnic group we all feel equally treated
- 👤 You can be yourself
- 👤 To have people who care about you
- 👤 Kotahitanga
- 👤 People have your back
- 👤 People say hi and smile at you
- 👤 To feel like you are not going to be judged
- 👤 Friends are family

*“We are in community each time we find a place where we belong.”*

We continue as a school to explore what it means to belong to our school community for our kids, our parents/caregivers/whanau. We are always looking to find ways of ensuring that everyone who is part of our rich, diverse, school community feel included, valued and that they have something to contribute. We will continue to explore these ideas and would love to hear from you about what it means to belong.

### **Creative Engagement**

Over time we have been thinking, talking and reading about play-based learning/ explorative learning/inquiry learning.

We are exploring this because we know, as you do, that the more engaged and in control of their learning the more our tamariki enjoy their learning.

As Guy Claxton and Bill Lucas say “Children learn best when they are fully engaged with what they are doing. For this to happen they have to be interested.”

Across the school our tamariki are engaged in a number of different forms of “exploration play/inquiry”. Read some more of what they are up to under Our Broad Rich Curriculum.

As we develop our thinking about this and try out different ways of working, we are also talking with our tamariki, observing what is happening and thinking about how this is impacting on teaching and learning. We will let you know what we are noticing over time and if you have anything to let us know as a result of a conversation with your young person or things you are noticing we would love to hear about it.



## OUR BROAD RICH CURRICULUM

### Junior Syndicate

The juniors are exploring the topic of “the Olden Days” and what life was like for people, particularly children, 150 years ago. The topic came out of a discussion that Julia had with one of the children about a book called The Way it Was. As there was lots of interest from the children, visits to Nairn St Cottage have been taking place. At school, children are looking at how children lived, what school was like, the toys that children played with and the clothes that they wore.



### Learning Through Play - Creative Engagement

At the beginning of the day tamariki in Pekapeka and Kereru spend from 8:30am – 10am engaging in activities of their choice. Providing our tamariki with such opportunities allows us to build on their interests, enables us to support and develop oral language and helps children learn to socialise and have a really positive transition to school. Often in this time, areas of interest that a child/children have identified and developed.

A bush hut has been constructed over the past week from a very large box. This has now been painted in and is being lived in during the morning!

### Takahe and Katipo

Our new topic is looking at the question: What Impact can we have on The World in the Future? We have started by looking at what Apps are available, what Apps we know and then tamariki will design an App that will fulfill a need or a purpose that they have identified and that will impact on making lives easier.

Following this students are going to design and invent something that will change the way of the future.

The classes are finishing off and delivering speeches this week.

### Harakeke and Kowhai

Speeches are well underway and these will be presented at the end of this week. A variety of topics have been chosen with a lot on the topic of how we can take care of/improve our world and life for everyone. Our kids are really motivated. It is always inspiring to hear what our young people are thinking about and have to say.

Positive Puberty is being taken really seriously and our tamariki have many questions to ask along the way.

### Wetapunga and Tuatara

We have been working on self portraits inspired by Picasso. They are looking amazing. We do buddy play every second week which is a form of play based learning. Speeches are almost complete and we are looking forward to sharing them.

### The Trash Lab

When the weather is fine we have been opening the Trash Lab at lunchtime. Everything from the shed is put outside and it is extraordinary watching our tamariki invent all manner of creations from such a mountain of “stuff”. We have had up to 70 children engaged for the entire lunchtime making things together.

We need more things for the Trash Lab – old telephones are very popular but any manner of things that children can use to create.



## **Craft Lab**

At student council it was discussed having a Craft Lab on wet days. We are in the process of getting this up and running and would appreciate any bits and pieces that you have for this as well.

## **SPORTS TEAMS**

We have two netball teams and three basketball teams competing outside school hours at the moment. Thank you so much to our coaches and managers who are doing such an amazing job – teaching skills and strategy, teamwork, teaching how to both win and lose graciously to name but a few. Our tamariki would not be able to play in these competitions if we did not have you to support these sports.

### **Netball**

Mount Cook Dragons (the years 7 and 8 team) have just finished grading. The team has won the last five games. The team is bonding well together, they love their coaches and are playing together really well as a team. Polu Samuels and Junior So'o are the coaches and Jo Mokalei is the manager.

*- Jordyn and Le'Aniva*

Mt Cook Rons have also just finished the grading round. We won our first game of the newly graded competition. We are working on spreading out and not bunching up. Sometimes we have to play different positions and no matter what position we always do our best. Having fun and not taking it too seriously is really important. Jo Hendy is our coach.

*- Semhar*

### **Basketball**

Hoop There it Is (years 7 and 8) have been going really well. The team came third in the league last term. This week was the start of the term 3 competition. The team is improving all the time. Shooting accuracy has improved. Players are passing around much more. Dribbling skills are also coming along. April Henderson is the coach.

*- Jordyn, Le'Aniva, O'Driscoll and Deacon*

The Dunking Donuts (years 5 and 6) are learning how to work together and we have two new players. We are working on layups, subbing really quickly, shooting from wherever you feel comfortable and taking your time; making sure there is someone under the basket to get the rebounds and making sure that everyone is running down the court. Playing at ASB is really cool. Michael Kelly and John Temple are coaching the team.

*- Evan and Ben B*

Space Jam (year 5 and 6 girls) are working on layups and getting under the hoop for rebounds. Shooting accuracy has really improved and we are working together better as a team and are marking our opponents more. Basketball is really fun and we work as a team so if you do something wrong you are still part of the team and people say good try. Eva Reid is the coach and Nicki helps out as well.

*- Semhar and Chelsea*

## READ YOUR HEART OUT! 2017 in the Mt Cook School Library

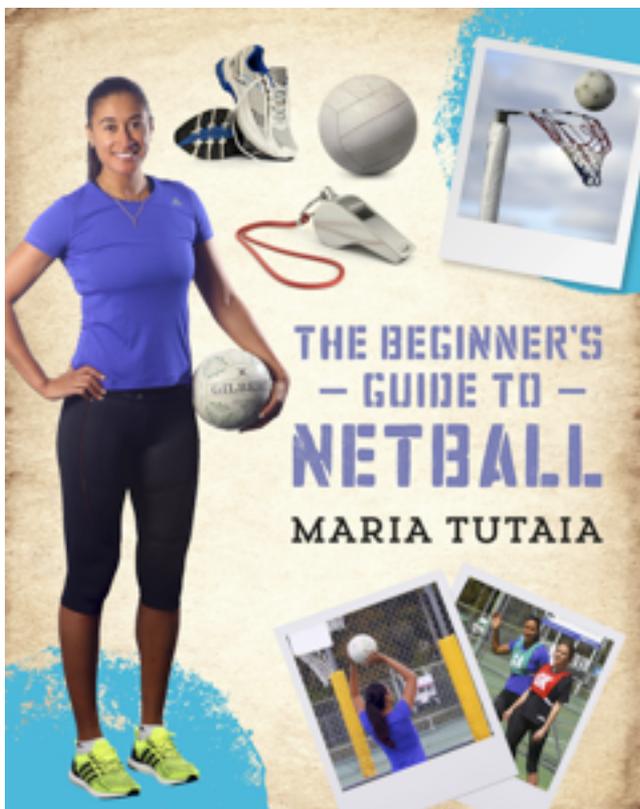
### Kids Art Works

We are doing Kids Art Works as a fund-raiser again this year. Calendars, cards, diaries, mouse mats and sketch pads, will be available for purchase. We have kept the prices for each item the same as last year, despite an increase by the supplier. Order forms will be distributed next week, and artwork will begin in classrooms over the next fortnight.

For those new to Mount Cook School, Kid's Art Works, involves your child completing a piece of artwork in class, on paper provided, that can be reproduced on a calendar, a set of cards, the cover of a diary or sketch pad, or on a computer mouse mat. If you have any questions, please pop in and see Vickie in the Library, or email her at [library@mtcook.school.nz](mailto:library@mtcook.school.nz)

### New Books in the Library

New books in the Library this month include some good titles for our sports enthusiasts. It is not easy to find sports books aimed at a younger audience but the Children's Bookshop had a good range on a recent visit! Added to our collection are: The Beginner's Guide to Netball by Maria Tutaia; Top Basketball Tips, Top Soccer Tips, Soccer Superstars 2017 and Rugby: The Players, the Skills and the Style. We also bought some lovely new picture books, including a couple of classics by John Burningham.



*'I think about all the early mornings Mum and Dad got up to take me to games and all the sitting around in the car waiting for me to finish training; all the extra hours they worked so I could have the coolest netball shoes; the shouting and cheering from the sideline; the tournament trips they paid for. They are the reason I am successful. We never had much as kids but they always did whatever they could to support us all.'*

**- Maria Tutaia**

## 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.

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.**

**A FANTASTIC FUNDRAISER FOR THE SCHOOL  
TELL ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS**

**PLEASE SUPPORT MT COOK SCHOOL**

## 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. 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**

Sushi Lunches has moved to a new website, ezlunch! From this term all orders will need to be placed via [www.ezlunch.co.nz](http://www.ezlunch.co.nz). It's the same sushi, same varieties and the same price, just a new website for orders. If you order from the school office your order needs to be in by 8:45am. Thank you.

## **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 15 August at 7pm.

## 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 3pm. 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 bought 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 3

 **Term 3 ends** **Friday 29 September, 2pm**

### Important Dates for 2017

 Labour Day/Long weekend **Friday 20 October - Monday 23 October**

### Term Dates for 2017

 Term 3 **Monday 24 July – Friday 29 September**  
 Term 4 **Monday 16 October – Tuesday 19 December**

*“The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct.” – Carl Jung*



**Hei konei ra**

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

**COMMUNITY NEWS**



If you're looking for a fun family day or want help to answer your child's tricky questions about how things work, head along to the **Week of Engineering public open day at Te Papa** this coming **Saturday 5 August from 10am – 4pm.**

**We will have a tower building challenge and Lego!** You could win a prize for the tallest tower.

The expo is a chance to indulge your curiosity, get you thinking and exploring the fascinating world of engineering. Engage in real-world projects, interactive activities, displays or watch a free screening of the Dream Big movie, brought to us with thanks to sponsorship from Opus International Consultants Ltd, NZ.

Dream Big: Engineering Our World is a first of its kind film that will transform how we think about engineering. From the Great Wall of China and the world's tallest buildings, to underwater robots, solar cars and smart, sustainable cities, Dream Big celebrates the human ingenuity behind engineering marvels big and small, and reveals the heart that drives engineers to create better lives for people around the world.