



NEWSLETTER - Term 4, Week 5

10 November 2020

Kia Kotahi - Working Together For A Brighter Future

Dear parents and the Kiwitahi community

The Year 6 pupils had a wonderful time away at camp last week. We stayed at Tikitapu/Blue Lake, just to the south-east of Rotorua, from Wednesday through to Friday. It's on occasions such as these that you realise what a mature, respectful and well-behaved group of children we have in our school. Despite the rain, the children were extremely patient and understanding as we had to adjust plans to meet weather requirements.

Normally, school camp is held for the whole (or most) of the senior room. For a few reasons (both covid-related and non), I made the decision to take the Year 6 group away on their own this year. Principally, I'd like to reschedule the timings of the school camp to coincide with better seasonal weather. We're aiming for our annual camps to be held in Term 1, beginning next year. We're already putting plans together for this.

For the 2020 camp, however, the children were able to take part in a number of activities that were completely new, and some other activities that they had done before, but were able to extend upon. We arrived at Tikitapu/Blue Lake and set up camp in the Top10. Following this, we took a walk around the circumference of the lake, taking in the view between the Blue Lake and Green Lake in particular. When we returned to camp, we borrowed the Top10's kayaks and took a paddle out on the lake. Always up for some horseplay, we all decided to paddle as fast as we could, knock into each other, and thoroughly drench each other where possible. Evidently, this was followed by a dip in the freezing waters of the lake. We all enjoyed nachos for dinner on the first night.

Day two saw us hit with a band of miserable rain that pattered away for most of the day. We were able to change our plans slightly. The highlight of this day was the Zorb action - each of the pupils (brave or not) got inside the Zorb and rolled down the hill, banging into the sides and bumping all over the place. Doing this in the rain was an adventure, but we were treated to a hot tub at the bottom - living like kings! Following our Zorb, we spent the rest of the day at the Rotorua Aquatic Centre where we continued our water-based activities into the late afternoon. BBQ sausages for dinner, followed by an early night for tired children, and adults.

The final day of our camp took us to the 3D Trick Art museum in Rotorua. We had lots of fun experimenting with different art work scenes and taking photos that captured the 3D effect. We finished the camp with a walk through the Redwoods at Whakarewarewa and a game of go-home-stay-home in the woods.

Special mention must be made to Mrs Labao for her accompaniment on the camp, as well as her organisation of the catering and much of the liaising with accommodation and activities. Also thanks to Dennis Leigh who joined us and entertained us in our moments of down time.

Please check in on our school Facebook page where you can find photos of our time away.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri 13 Nov - Tauhei Athletics

Tue 24 Nov - Graeme Higgs Visit

Tue 15 Dec - Prizegiving

Tue 17 Nov - Morrinsville Athletics

Thu 3 Dec - Summer Show

Wed 16 Dec - Last Day (clean up)

AWARDS - Term 4, Week 2

Students of the Week

Brody Macartney, Bryony Wayne

Merit Certificate

For knowing all the alphabet sounds - Hazel-Rose McLaren

For knowing all the Early Words - Tegan Petherick

For trying hard in maths - Max Petherick

Value Award (Responsibility)

Brax Aitchison, Juani Martyniuk

In other news, since our last newsletter, our pupils have been very busy learning about our local area in Kiwitahi. We've been away on a number of trips. Our first was to the Morrinsville Museum, an outstanding place to visit for such a small town. We were able to see the old cottage, which came from Kiwitahi originally, hear the stories of the people who lived there, and smell the scent of the old wood. We've also seen how farming has developed around here in recent decades. Following this, a week later, we went to the Firth Tower in Matamata. This is another outstanding place of learning for another small New Zealand town. Here, we took part in a Victorian school lesson in the old school room with a bespectacled and costumed school mistress who threatened us with the cane if we didn't listen (just to clarify - it was a role play). We explored the grounds and learned about the sorts of buildings that were around in the Kiwitahi area in the early days. Although Kiwitahi didn't have a jail, Mrs Cook had the bright idea of locking the children in the jail, accidentally (on purpose?) locking them in the dark. Our redoubtable school mistress had to come and unlock the door.

Thanks to Sarah and Scott at Seaton Park, we were also able to go up to the horse stud to see the work that is done up there rearing foals. The horse stud sits on a beautiful site, and the trip was well worth it. As you'll know, our school is predominately filled with farming families, but working with horses is something that a lot of children have never seen before.

A couple of notes for our community:

- Graham Higgs is coming back to visit the school and to recount some of his tales to our children as part of our history unit. If you'd like to see him, he will be here on Tuesday 24 November. You're most welcome to come in and join us.

- Our Summer Show is scheduled for the evening of Thursday 3 December - 7.00pm at the Kiwitahi Hall. The children would love a big turn out. Gwen Bonnar has put together a tremendous show. There is no charge for this event.

- Swimming Sports will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 10 December. All are welcome to this event, too.

- Prizegiving will be held in the Kiwitahi Hall on Tuesday 15 December at 1.00pm. Preceding this, at 11.30am, we'll be holding a picnic lunch for all families and community members on the field. Again, everyone is welcome at this event, too.

Finally, as always, our school pool WILL be available over the summer break. You'll know that we're not about making a profit but rather helping to cover our own costs. Codes to the gate will be available for \$25.00. We encourage you all to get in touch later this term (we'll publicise) and pick up your code. The pool is yours to be used and enjoyed!

Best wishes
Mr N Jensen



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