



NEWSLETTER - Term 4, Week 8

3 December 2019

Kia Kotahi - Working Together For A Brighter Future

Dear parents and whānau

This week the pupils and teachers said goodbye to Mrs Reid who has been working with us periodically over the last few terms. She has been with our school developing the knowledge of our teaching staff around digital competencies and different ways of incorporating devices into the learning programme to accelerate pupils' learning. It has been beneficial having her with us, and she has been extremely popular with the pupils too. Thank you, Mrs Reid, for the work that you have done here.

Recently, a number of Kiwitahi pupils attended the Inter-School Athletics competition. I was very pleased to hear of the successes of these children against such a large pool of individuals from other schools. It may sound like a cliché, but it's great when small schools like ours compete so well against large schools with enormous pools of talent. It's a credit that Coen placed 1st in the 7-year-old boys high jump - an enormous achievement for him. Well done.

I'm glad to report that the swimming pool is almost ready to go. P&M Painters have completed the painting job and after the recent hot weather we have had, the pool has dried well and is ready to be filled. I expect that the pupils will be able to swim in the next week or so. As mentioned earlier, there will be a key available to school families and community members. We will send out more information closer to the end of term.

On Monday, William and Baylee were recipients of Altrusa International Literacy Awards. The awards were held at the Westpac Events Centre, Morrinsville, and entitled both children to select books up to the value of \$30. The awards were made for impressive progress in reading and writing over the last academic year. Both children, and their families, should be extremely proud.

Finally, a note for members of the Kiwitahi community: it has become apparent to me that a school may be considering sending a privately-run van out in the direction of Kiwitahi with the intention of bussing primary-aged pupils from the country into town. Something that I would like to make clear to our community is that Kiwitahi School is here to educate Kiwitahi children. Our school has proudly been serving our country community for over 100 years and we will continue to do so, with our unique lens as a thriving rural school. Schools are built as institutions to educate and develop the next generation. The best school for children should be their local school. Kiwitahi School is, and will remain, a school with children at its heart and an honest, reliable and consistent devotion to serving country children in a country environment. If you have any questions or concerns, I am very happy to speak with you at any time.

Mr Jensen

IMPORTANT DATES

MIS Orientation - Thu 5 Dec

Te Aroha Christmas Show and Swim - Fri 13 Dec

Last Day of School - Thu 19 Dec

Thank You Morning Tea - Thu 12 Dec

Final Assembly - Wed 18 Dec

AWARDS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Cooper Macartney, Max Petherick, Sofia Bonnar

MERIT CERTIFICATES

For knowing all the sight words and reaching Star Club - Lennox Thomson

For joining small groups and counting all the objects - Jakob Cadman

For working towards his writing goals - Cooper Davison

For correct punctuation when writing a conversation - Tommy Labao

VALUE AWARDS (Cooperation)

Evonne Thompson, Juani Martyniuk, Samantha Leigh



Sofia instructing Lexus using only up, down, left, and right to get to the finish



Skyla and Baylee giving each other instructions to make an alphabet letter

Room One has had an exciting time over the last few weeks learning about the first steps to coding. This is a new part of the New Zealand Curriculum and comes into effect next year as part of the revised technology programme. Students are expected to become capable in using digital technologies to achieve their learning outcomes.

Room One has had the privilege of a learning expert, Mrs Barbara Reid, to help us with this. Over the last two weeks we have been focusing on using a couple of free coding apps, one called Scratch Jr and the other Lightbot Hour. Alongside working with these apps, we have been doing a lot of mapping using coordinates and learning about giving directions and instructions. The step by step logical process of moving from one point to another, fits well with learning the first steps to coding.

Boys Intermediate Uniform For Sale

3 x size 12 pants

1 x size 14 top

1 x sports top

1 x size 12 sweatshirt

1 x size 6 sandals

1 x size 5L new winter shoes

Phone 021 728 313

RAFFLE

Skyline Rotorua Luge and Gondola

Voucher for a family gondola ride and 6 luge rides to share
(2 adults, 3 children - expires 29 Feb 2020)

Tickets available at school for \$2 each up until prize giving day, where it will be drawn.

Relief Milker

Available some weekends before Xmas -
Friday afternoon to Sunday.
Experienced and reliable.
Phone/text Scott 027 415 7799

Wanted

DOWN COWS for pet food, \$50

Phone 021 213 3518