

# Whenuakite School Newsletter

## No 7 Term 2



12th June 2017

Greetings and Kia Ora to everyone,

**Tree Planting** on Tuesday with Rooms 4, 5 and 6, plus helpers was a perfect way to celebrate Arbor Day 2017.

The digging was not easy but we worked as teams and planted over 300 trees.

Thanks to Howard Saunders and the Hot Water Beach Reserves Committee for organising this once again.

Thanks to the parents and friends of the school who were able to help and thanks to the children for their muscles, grit and determined efforts to get those holes dug!



**Parent Teacher Interviews**—These are coming up in a few weeks time.

**Room 2** is having interviews a week earlier than the rest of the school because Mrs Collins is away for the last 2 weeks. One of her sons is getting married in England. Crystal McGovern will be teaching Room 2 during week 9 and 10.

**Room 2 interviews** will be on Wednesday Afternoon /Evening (21/6) and Thursday – day/evening (22/6).

**The interviews for the rest of the school** will be held on Wednesday afternoon/evening (28/6) and Thursday—day/evening (29/6)

**School will be closed for a Teacher Only Day for all classes on Thursday 29th June.**

Interview appointment times will be able to be made online by going to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) or by returning an appointment form.

**Bookings go live from today.** If you cannot book online and need a **booking form**, please let the teachers or office know and we will send one home.

**Booking Online (from Monday 12th June)**

- Go to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and enter **dtvm9** as the Event code.
- Fill in your name, email address and child's name then choose the Room/Teacher you need from the drop down box.
- Book a time and follow the instructions.
- If there is not a suitable time, contact the class teacher and she will organise to make a time that suits.



## Autumn illness and Chickenpox.

Lots of children with colds, coughs and fevers, just now.

Thanks for taking care of them so well. They are coming back to school well enough to not have a relapse.



There are 3 cases of chickenpox in Room 2 so far. Google 'chickenpox' to check symptoms etc and get the doctor to confirm.

Generally, children need to be kept 'isolated' for about 1 week from the appearance of a rash or until all of the blisters have dried.

## National Standards

Mid term reports inform families in writing, in plain English, about how their children are achieving against the National Standards in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

We have to do this at least twice each year.

For most children, it is an interim judgement about how we think their achievement will stack up against the actual National Standard in two terms time. So naturally our guesses are conservative and there are more children Below or Well Below and less children Above than there will be in two terms time.

National Standards are NATIONAL Standards. They have the status, importance, mana, credibility and backing of powerful politicians, highly qualified academics, the Ministry of Education, The Education Review Office, many schools, teachers and principals, and many proud parents, plus children who are At or Above the National Standard.

**National Standards & The NZ Curriculum**

	After 1 Yr	After 2 Yrs	After 3 Yrs	End of Y4	End of Y5	End of Y6	End of Y7	End of Y8
<b>Reading</b> <small>above the curriculum</small>	Green (1.0-1.4, 1.5)	Transition (1.5-1.7, 1.8)	Yellow (1.7-1.9, 2.0)	At Curriculum Level 2 (1.9-2.1, 2.2)	Early Curriculum Level 3 (2.1-2.3, 2.4)	At Curriculum Level 3 (2.3-2.5, 2.6)	Early Curriculum Level 4	At Curriculum Level 4
<b>Writing</b> <small>above the curriculum</small>	Within Curriculum Level 2 (1.9-2.1, 2.2)	At Curriculum Level 1 (1.5-1.7, 1.8)	Early Curriculum Level 2 (1.7-1.9, 2.0)	At Curriculum Level 2 (1.9-2.1, 2.2)	Early Curriculum Level 3 (2.1-2.3, 2.4)	At Curriculum Level 3 (2.3-2.5, 2.6)	Early Curriculum Level 4 (2.5-2.7, 2.8)	At Curriculum Level 4 (2.7-2.9, 3.0)
<b>Maths</b> <small>(Number Stage)</small>	Numeracy Stage 1-3	Numeracy Stage 4	Numeracy Stage 5	Numeracy Stage 6	Numeracy Stage 6	Numeracy Stage 6	Numeracy Stage 7	Numeracy Stage 7

Supporters of National Standards have their reasons but I am not a fan of National Standards. Many people are aware of their short-comings. It is especially disappointing that children under the age of 7 or 8 have to be 'graded' in this way. It can restrict quality teaching and can cause anxiety for families.

Whether your children are 'winners' with National Standards or whether they don't quite make the grade, please know that there is a lot more to learning and to becoming a 'good person' than achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Please celebrate your children's successes. Every child has challenges in their learning, relationships and life. It is important they always have the **self-belief** that they can succeed and that failure only means, they may not be there yet.

# ICONZ: PUT ON THE BLACK SHIRT ...

*ICONZ: an Adventure, Activity and Values Based Ministry for Boys. It's about:*

- Faith, Blood, Mud Fire, Water, Speed, Smash and Build
- Action packed life skills programme for boys aged 5-7
- Letting boys be boys
- Unashamedly biblically focused
- Award system based on practical life skills
- Blokey and Boys Only
- Strong male role models

Contact: Robyn Balfour

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E: robyn.balfour2@hotmail.com

Meeting at:

Kuaotunu Hall

Wednesdays, 6.00pm- 7.30pm

[www.iconz.org.nz](http://www.iconz.org.nz)



# AND DISCOVER A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF FIRSTS

## A Message from Catherine Sell—School Community Officer



### Online Safety For Parents

In my role of School Community Officer I look after 35 schools, and over the last 3 years I have been contacted by almost every school for assistance with cyber safety related issues. The issues range from relatively minor concerns around unwanted texts, to young people obtaining sexually explicit images of their friends and posting them on line.

The age of some children involved is alarmingly young, and in many serious cases there are strong indicators that the child has had access to pornography, which may be considered psychological abuse when viewed by a person under the age of 18.

The problem is not going to go away and criminals are in our area. The rule of optimism means we think the baddies are in Nigeria and we doubt our children would be at risk, however, they are.



Make family and friends aware of what you will and won't allow when posting photos online – and leave the personal information out. You wouldn't ask your child to go to the supermarket and give a stranger a photo of them sitting on their bed, so why would it happen online? And it is – a lot! This draws the wrong type of person to you, and just like adults, if the friendship/relationship breaks down, your image could be used to destroy your reputation, and future.

Predators troll the internet for images with clues to a potential victim's location and identity. A photo posted of a child in school uniform, or a sport's team uniform may be enough to start a connection.

Declaring vulnerability to strangers is motivation for the offender, for example if a child has had a fight with dad, the predator will become the confidant and listen and agree with the child. They will find common ground and this is the process of grooming.

Online requires the same parental oversight as the physical world. We may be tempted to tell children to get in the real world when they are on their devices, but our children have grown up with the internet and it is 'The Real World' to them. It is all they have known.

Make sure your child can talk to you about anything, and consider your response because if you have the wrong response your child will not talk to you about problems. It is up to parenting relationships and values to protect the child, regardless of whether it is the Internet or physical world.

Netsafe is an excellent source of information for all internet users. Check out these 10 things to think about at <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/online-safety-for-parents/>

1. Set expectations
2. Understand what they do online
3. If you don't understand it, try it
4. Set a good example
5. Teach them the basics
6. Setting up social media
7. Give them the tools they need
8. Online bullying
9. What about 'sexting'
10. What if something does happen?



## Winter Sports—Rooms 4, 5, and 6.

The Winter Sports Day is on Tuesday 4th July, Coroglen and Te Rerenga will join us to compete in 7-side Netball, Ripa Rugby, Soccer, Uni Hockey and Indoor Games.

Whenuakite will have 9 teams and each team will play all of the games so we will need help with team managers, umpires and referees.

A note will come home this week asking for help but if you don't have children in Rooms 4, 5 and 6 but would be keen to help, please let us know.

Recently Year 8s have been running coaching sessions and training games, plus visiting tutors have been giving expert coaching.

