

Helensville Primary School

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

During the holidays I got an answer I wasn't expecting. I caught up with a family member who has recently completed university study in higher level maths and physics, and is now working in this field. I'm always interested in what someone at this stage of the education system thinks we ought to know back in primary school.

29 Rata Street

Helensville

Ph. 09 420 8005

Fax. 09 420 8023



Where we know what it is to be a learner

Aim High - Arohia Ake

NEWSLETTER NO. 6

4TH MAY 2016

I was expecting him to shed some light on what sort of content we ought to spend more time on, things like, 'Make sure your children know how to solve problems involving fractions,' or 'Give them plenty of work on measurement,' or maybe even 'Introduce them to trigonometry in Year 4.'

He didn't hesitate with his answer. 'It will help the children at your school if you make sure they:

- face *hard* problems
- experience problems they can't solve *in a day*
- have some problems they can't solve – *at all*'

Obviously we don't want to discourage our learners, but there is definite value for students as they move through primary school in discovering what to do with a problem that is hard. The strategies they learn to use with a rich maths problem, which they might revisit over several days, are transferrable into other areas of learning.

With both schoolwork and homework, if something is hard, it's helpful when teachers and parents explore with children what to do, how to approach the hard problems. When we coach them to come back to it, play around with it, work with others on it, do the parts they can or stay with it for even a little bit longer, they become better equipped to be successful as learners.

I asked for clarification on the suggestion that our children should also meet problems that they can't solve *at all*. The answer? '*Because that's what happens in real life. There isn't always a solution. In my field of work, we can have a team of experts working on an issue that in the end we just can't fix. Sometimes, we have to know when to drop it and work to find another way of doing things.*'

It would be great for us to hear from you, our parents and caregivers, about the ways you support your children's learning at home. Please send in *any and all* ideas, however small, of how you support your child to do homework, encourage them to read or write, to practice maths facts or whatever it may be. I would love to hear

from you! If you could share these with me when you see me around our school, or flick me a brief email (eileenb@helensville.school.nz), we will then collate these (without names) into a future newsletter. The more ideas we get to share, the better supported our children will be!

At Helensville School, we *ALL* know what it is to be a learner.

Kia Manawanui

Be Stout-hearted

Kia Kaha

Be Strong

Eileen Brunton



Portfolios will be sent home this Friday. Online portfolios will also be available for parents to access.

The mobile dental clinic will be arriving at Helensville School on the 10th May 2016. The clinic will be open for appointments and the enrolments of pre-school children.



Whole School Assemblies

If it is raining heavily at 1.30pm, our whole school assemblies will be postponed to the following week. Please phone the school office or check the school website, if you are unsure.



Should you wish to pay for anything online, our school bank details are:

12-3139-0003226-00

Please provide family name and details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 2 2016

3rd-4th May	Senior Team First Aid Course
5th May	Home and School Meeting @7pm in the staffroom. All welcome.
6th May	Science Roadshow
13th May	Triathlon at Parakai School—Year 5-8 (no save day)
23rd-27th May	Senior Team on camp
31st May	Goal Setting Day - OPEN FOR GOAL SETTING MEETINGS ONLY
1st June	Goal Setting afternoon—School as normal
2nd June	Rippa Y3-6 (SAVE DAY 7th June)
3rd June	Teacher Only Day - NO SCHOOL TODAY
6th June	Queen's Birthday—NO SCHOOL TODAY

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees welcomes any parents considering standing in the upcoming Board election to attend an informal chat session. This will be an opportunity to hear about what's involved in being a Board member and to ask questions. This meeting will take place in the school staff-room (in the office block) from 6.30pm to 7.00pm on Thursday 12th May.

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Helensville School Ski Team

Last year saw fantastic results from our skiers with our top team gaining second place in the North Island Primary and Intermediate School Ski Championships (NIPS) over the 4 days of giant slalom, dual slalom and Skiercross events.



This year sees a new format for the championships with week one (Monday 22nd August - Thursday 25th August) being Year 7/8 students only and week two (29th August - 1st September) for Years 1- 6 students only. There is also the option for Years 1 - 8 snowboarders to enter in week three of the newly renamed Snow Championships (Monday 5th September - Thursday 8th September - please note this is also the week of AIMS). Given we now can't go as a full school team, for safety reasons, all students that attend must be accompanied by a parent for the entire competition. The approximate cost based on last years figures to enter and attend the week will be \$300.00 per student. Trials (or the first practice day) will be at Snow Planet on Tuesday 14th June, with 3 practice days set as Tuesday 21st June, Tuesday 2nd August and Tuesday 9th August. We will leave Helensville at 11.00pm for a 12 - 1.30pm session in the dome. The cost of these sessions will be approximately \$40.00 each. Please email Andrea Clarke andrea@helensville.school.nz or see her at the school office to register your interest.



Welcome

A very warm welcome to our new students and their families:

Suraya, Taylor, Ari, Lewis, Connor and Riley

It's lovely to have you at our wonderful school.

Coming up...

- **Friday 6th May**
Science Roadshow
Please remember to pay your \$5 entry fee
- **Saturday 7th May**
Year 5-8 Netball starts
- **Saturday 14th May**
Year 1-4 Netball starts
- **23rd-27th May**
Senior Team Camp

Pasifika Group

The purpose of this group is to share and celebrate our Pacific Island students and families.

Along with your help we can make this group something to really be proud of and celebrate. We extend an open invitation to all Pacific families within our school that would love to share what they know.

We meet every Wednesday at 12:20pm - 1:00pm in the school hall.

All welcome

For further details please email
warataht@helensville.school.nz

Homestays are still needed for our next group of International Students returning to us again from Kowloon Bay St John Baptist Catholic School in Hong Kong, arriving the afternoon of Sunday 19th June - leaving on the morning of Wednesday 29th June.



Here to experience NZ schooling and family life, students stay in pairs and will need all meals provided. Please contact the office or Andrea on 09 420 8005 for more information.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your family!



The Science Roadshow is coming to Helensville Primary this week.

Science Roadshow is a fun, exciting and interactive learning experience of science for children.

Available to all Year 3-8 students.

\$5.00 entry fee per student (this has been subsidised)

Room 22's has been writing using the five senses.

Here is what we have come up with...

I closed my eyes as we headed for the bridge. I held on tightly to the seat in front of me. Suddenly, I was being thrown around like a ragdoll. I covered my ears as the engine screeched.

(Pippa, Room 22)

Crash! Boom! I was hurt. The constant pain was unbearable. Everyone had disappeared... had they forgot about me?

(Hayden, Room 22)

My eyes opened slowly, still stuck in the deep, deep sleep. I slipped and slid to the kitchen table, sluggishly gobbling my breakfast.

(Emma, Room 22)

Bang! The whole bus creeps to a sudden stop. I hear panicked screams. My anxiety instantly creeps in.

(Kayla, Room 22)

I look out the doors before they close abruptly. Broken glass surrounds the bus. Bright red bricks had fallen everywhere.

(Stacey, Room 22)

I strolled excitedly over to the massive bowling balls. I wondered how heavy they would be. As heavy as a ten-pound weight, the muscle man in the gym is lifting.

(Jasper, Room 22)

We all watched Levi as he got a strike. He was jumping up and down like a kangaroo on hot coals.

(Nathan, Room 22)

I see a crumbled convertible bus. We had crashed. I am in shock. The piece of shiny, grey metal has impaled me.

(Caleb, Room 22)

Room 20 have been eating some delicious, brown, mouth watering sweeties this week. Read on to see if you can guess what they have been eating.

Bang! My mouth has exploded. It was oozing out like a herd of stomping elephants.

Myah

Crunch! The crackling brown block ran down my tongue. Bang! The firework holder set off. Bang, bang, boom.

Tobyn

The delicious brick like orb smelt like 1000 marshmallows melting over a fire. The firecrackers shot off like they were going to explode me. Pop! Pop! Pop! Aaaahhh, so delicious, I said silently in my head. That was marvellous, I want more. The marvellous liquid danced down my throat.

Markus

It was so yum it made my tongue turn into a lollipop.

Kaydee

The brown variety fire bomb feels like it was marshmallow world. My taste buds were having a party.

Mayank

As I slowly put this toffee, crunchy, monster in my mouth it slowly rushed down my throat. My tastebuds are burning because it tastes so good. My mouth filled with toffee flavour.

Can I have another, pleaseeease?

Layla

The crackling thing exploded in my mouth as the texture ran down my throat. I saw the block glaring at me as it fizzed up. The brown mud was crackling and it also tickled me down my throat. I feel the sugar as it crackled and fizzed like fireworks.

Mila

Boom! The magma crushed into the solid chainsaw, my mouth. It was as if I had tasted colours that didn't ever exist.

Eli

The delicious brown square dribbled down my chin.

Elle

The golden slippery thing drizzled down my throat.

Miller

The shady orb was there, standing still like a tree. The smell flew across the classroom with a soft, golden taste. The caramel was oozing around me, telling me to taste the lumpy, wavy orb.

Ashleigh

Miss Dawson hands me the brown brick. It gleams at me like light hitting a mirror.

Kai

The clumpy brick swirled around in my mouth. The river of awesomeness gushes out. The scent on my fingers never left my nose.

Tarek

I can smell the gloominess of the sticky caramello. Yum, delicious. The slush was slopping down from my top teeth to my taste buds.

Kiwa

The HPS Home and School Committee are proud to present:

A MOTHERS DAY HIGH TEA PARTY



Don't know what to get Mum for Mother's Day this year? The Home and School Committee at Helensville Primary School have the answer!

As part of our fundraising mission for the Senior Playground, we are putting together a gorgeous event for Mother's Day. Your ticket purchase will significantly help us get closer to our goal.

Details:

When: Sunday May 22nd 2016

Where: Te Whare Oranga o Parakai

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Cost: \$25 per ticket

What: High tea (nibbles and tea/coffee/juice) and entertainment by Emma Painton and Holly Limmer (winners of the Jam Bus song writing competition 2015)

Raffles and spot prizes on the day!

This is a great opportunity for mothers to get together, share some laughs and be social. Anyone is welcome to purchase a ticket and everyone goes home with a gift! But get in quick as there are limited seats!

Tickets will be available from the start of Term 2.

Mother's Day Raffle

HOME AND SCHOOL

Great prizes worth over \$200.

Tickets went home to sell over the school holidays.

Last chance: Return all tickets and money to the office by Thursday morning at the latest.

Next Home and School meeting is this Thursday, 5th May @ 7pm in the staffroom

All welcome!



If your child has succeeded or participated in sporting events outside of school, we would love to hear from you.



Winter is on its way!

When the fields are closed at morning tea and lunch time, only children with a change of clothes will be able to play on the top field.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE GOLF CLINICS

South Head have been running free junior golf clinic for any keen kids.

Last clinic is on May 9th.

There are two sessions on the day:

11.30am - 12.30pm and 1.00pm - 2.00pm.

Phone 09 420 2838 for more details



Do you love reading?

Are you available from 9.00am - 10.30am one morning or more a week? Do you know someone else who might be?

We have a very successful parent reading programme in the staffroom that has been running for many years. This a fun time giving students some extra reading mileage, positive reinforcement and confidence.

We need more adults to support this programme - if you are interested please email Mandy Duggan mandyd@helensville.school.nz or pop in to the school office and leave your name and number.

Thank you

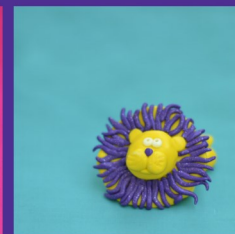
Mandy Duggan (Co-ordinator)



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