



Helensville Primary Newsletter

Issue number 5

23rd April Term 2, Week 2, 2020

A message from our Principal...

One of Albert Einstein's famous quotes is

**"Stay away from negative people.
They have a problem for every solution."**

Staying positive in these extraordinary times can be stressful and a challenge. We appreciate all that you are doing at home to keep your children engaged in their distance learning.

The work that we are seeing is creative, fun and purposeful and the attitude of the students being so immersed in their learning is a credit to you supporting them.

It has been so exciting joining in on some class Zoom sessions and hearing the many stories, experiences and fun things that have been happening during lockdown. I have seen videos, dress ups, fitness challenges, dancing, maths contests, book reviews, art projects, diary writing and many more.

Keeping the connections between school and home is a vital link to make the transition back to the classroom as positive and stress-free as possible. We want all our school Whānau back together as soon as you do, however, it needs to be managed safely and constructively and we are developing plans to make that a possibility.

You are doing a fantastic job under the circumstances, so stay as positive as you can and remember -

**"Tough times don't last.
Tough People do!"**



Aim High – Arohia Ake



From Our Bubble to Yours

A glimpse into our bubbles...

My bubble has seen lots of baking, craft, movie watching, distance learning set up, Lego building, walks to feed the ducks and plenty of fun family activities to pass the time. Now that my husband has returned to work and Jaxon and I are doing classwork for most of each day, our household is a little busier. We have set up some routines and things are humming along nicely.



Kim Godek

I am certainly enjoying staying in my PJs for a little longer each morning and spending extra time with my two beautiful kids and husband, but at the same time I am missing being at school and seeing the kids from my class, Zoom meetings have been a nice way to keep the connection going.



I'm enjoying family time in Lockdown. We went camping down the hill in our paddock at Easter.



Kia Ora tātou

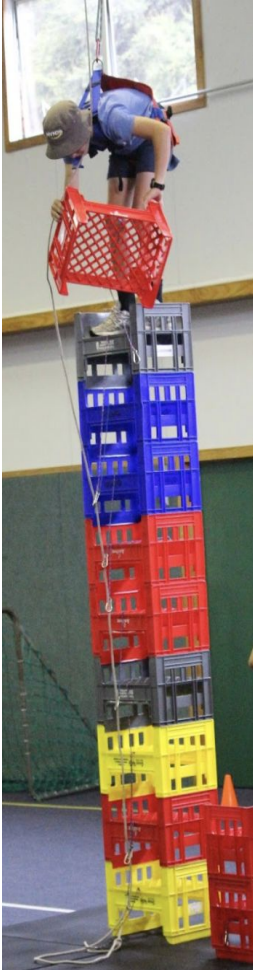
Miss your face!



I am missing all of you, your laughter, mischievous smiles and I miss helping you out.
xx

Rimu Camp

A little more insight into Rimu camp from a few students.



Camp Crate Stacking

The sound of the tight harness clipping in, set a tsunami of excitement mixed with nerves washing over my brain. It was my turn. I grabbed the old milk crate, placed it down, hooked the clip to the rope, this was the start.

Crate after crate, my stack was getting higher. The noise of when they clicked calmed me, like a flower in spring. Then suddenly the calmness was blocked out by fear and dread. The stack was tilting. I crouched down, my legs shaking uncontrollably, bracing to fall. But I didn't. I had saved my stack, my work.

Almost at the roof now, I hooked in another. My group tried to tell me to stand, but I remained crouched, my knees locked, the key to them long lost. Again, my group below asked me to jump, but I couldn't bring myself to do it. I was not touching the roof today. My instructor told me to kick out, knocking it down- so I did. It was over. I went limp, relaxing in my harness as I got lowered. Relief swept over me as I touched the ground.

Ruby Anderson

N.B: Our Board of Trustees are currently working through the issue of future camps in the school curriculum and we will keep you posted.

Raft Building

As I finished the last knot I shouted “Eureka!” in my mind. Now there was the challenge of trying to launch the raft... We planned and finally found our strategy. Two people (including: Austin and I) went to sit down on the rocks to carefully lay the raft in. We started to lower it in, but our hands slipped (probably from the gracious amount of sun block on our hands). We heard noises of terror; CRASH, BOOM, POW! As if it was caused by dynamite our raft “exploded”.

We still boarded (well, tried to board) and our bodies were shocked by how freezing cold the water was as we were shoved off the raft by gravity. Now that we reflect on the moment we could’ve done several things differently, but we had fun and it was just a moment in time.

By Rossi

The Burma Trail

I could hear the chilling screams of the other children coming from the mammoth bush. Carefully sliding the black, ancient blindfold over my bloodshot eyes, I let the teacher lead us into the looming bush. I could feel a very lean rope which took us into a never ending nightmare; I was trembling like I had seen death.

The excitement drained from my body as the dreaded fear entered. I sniffed up a reek smell of gasoline and body-odor. As I walked into the living agony I didn’t know what to expect...

It was like an eternal nightmare as the enraged chainsaw roared to life and the hair-raising cackling echoed through the mournful bush. But the horror was just getting started!

Kai Wilson

Celebrations



Emily Rendall (Rm 11) and **Aoi Asada** (Rm 18) have both achieved a Gold Mathletics Award this week.



Aim High – Arohia Ake

HPS Good Sort

We're excited to share with you this new initiative to celebrate people who do amazing work at Helensville Primary School, those who go the extra mile to help our kids and make our school awesome!



Whaea Shaz

Our very first GoodSort is Sharon Thompson, better known as Whaea Shaz. Helensville born and bred, Whaea Shaz always looks out for other people, rallies around and helps people when the need arises.

You will recognise Whaea Shaz from the school's front office.

Her current role is Office Assistant, working alongside Sharron King.

According to Whaea Shaz, "There is never a dull moment in the office, believe me, and you really have to know pretty much everything. Working in the office also gives me the opportunity to see and hear the needs of students and families in our kura. A big part of my job is helping meet their needs wherever possible. Something I really enjoy doing."

Whaea Shaz's history with Helensville Primary School goes back a long way. Her Grandmother attended the school in the 1920's; her father, his siblings and cousins all attended too. Whaea Shaz and her siblings attended before, eventually, her own children attended until 2013.

Prior to working for HPS, Whaea Shaz was a HIPPY Tutor for two years based in what is now After School Care. HIPPY is a home based early education programme that works with families, particularly those most at risk, to build the confidence and skills of parents to create a positive learning environment for their children.

Whaea Shaz believes that "Being a tutor gave me the confidence and skills to help prepare my own children for school and, honestly, if you have a child 3-5 years old please check it out. You will love it." Working on the school grounds with HIPPY eventually led Whaea Shaz to starting work as a Teacher Aide for HPS in 2006.

Outside of school Whaea Shaz is a trustee with South Kaipara Youth (SKY). SKY is a programme for young teenagers in the community that need a place to go, to have some fun and meet other youth, founded in 2000 by Jeanette Cummings.

"I'm passionate about caring for other people's needs and I think that stems from having an amazing whanau that I'm very proud to be part of" Whaea Shaz says. "Mum and Dad would be my inspiration for sure. Spending time with my family plays a very large part of who I am when I'm not at school."

After 14 years with the school, Whaea Shaz knows what it is that makes HPS special.

"At HPS we have a staff of amazing people who care for each other and look after each other, making sure we work well as a team. Everyone contributes in different ways to bring the best to both the students and the wider community."

"Helensville is a small community with a big heart. We have a huge number of people in the community that contribute daily, whether it's running the breakfast club, donating fruit, snacks, shoes, clothes or just simply checking in that everyone is okay. A massive thank you. You know who you are."

A big thank you to Mama's Brew who kindly donated a box of their delicious kombucha as a token of gratitude to our Good Sort.



Community Notices

Check out our new Community Notices page under 'More' on our school website -helensville.school.nz

"Creativity is as important now in education as Literacy and we should treat it with the same status."

Sir Ken Robinson



You may know **Creative Matters** from our after school art class on Thursdays at Helensville School. This term we are continuing our classes online only - www.creativematters.co.nz

Creative Matters at Home has a number of fun creative opportunities for your children online, created and presented by Mandy (CEO):

- Free creative art sessions available on our You Tube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/CreativeMattersNZ>
- A term subscription (only \$97) for a series of 8 in depth creative lessons launching next week - FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD. Keep an eye on our website for updates and how to subscribe.



Aim High – Arohia Ake

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