



NEWSLETTER

Term 3, Week 5: 21st August 2024

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School Bank Account: 12-3290-0003608-00 ASB Masterton

Please remember to notify the school office of any absences before 9am each day.

Please remember to **SLOW DOWN to 40kms** between the signs near our school. Remember you must **SLOW DOWN to 20kms** when passing a stationary school bus!!



Term 3 Dates to Remember

Local kindy visit: Friday 30 Aug

Y7 vaccinations: Thurs 5 Sept

Middle & Jnr rooms Karawhiu workshops: Thurs 5 Sept

Board mtg: Tues 10 Sept, 6.15pm

Local kindy visit: Friday 13 Sept

Life Ed: Tues 24 - Thurs 26 Sept

Last Day Term 3: Fri 27 Sept

First Day Term 4: Mon 14 Oct

We are gratefully supported by:



Team 'Mr Sold!'
Steve Chapman
027 687 5809



Furniture Movers

021 082 4455

kapailogistics@gmail.com

2024 School Term Dates

T1: Wed 7 Feb - Fri 12 April

T2: Mon 29 April - Fri 5 July

T3: Mon 22 July - Fri 27 Sept

T4: Mon 14 Oct - Thurs 19 Dec

We are gratefully supported by:



Jen Bhati - Property Brokers
Real Estate Agent
022 516 9053 jen.bhati@pb.co.nz

Arrival Time at School

Just a gentle reminder that children should **not** be arriving at school before

8.15am

Ahihi marie, whānau! Happy Thursday (or as many call it - 'Friday-Eve'!) Today's newsletter is a long one, so better grab a coffee and a comfy seat . . .

Replacement Y5-8 Football Tournament: We had 20 very keen kidlets from the Middle and Senior rooms travel into town to play football at St Teresa's School yesterday afternoon. This was a make-up mini tournament to replace the big 5 schools one which was cancelled in Week 2. The weather was absolutely magnificent and everyone had an excellent time! Sadly, the teams from Featherston School were unable to play due to staff illnesses at their kura. Which brings me to my next point . . .

A huge thank you: to all of our parents for your patience as we juggle our teaching staff to cover classrooms. Please know that ours is not the only school being hit hard with staff and student illnesses, and we are doing the absolute best we can and always with the best interests of our learners at the centre. Over the past 5 weeks, we have averaged around 10 children away sick most days. Into the mix of teacher sick days, we also have to cover an increase for all teachers in their CRT (Classroom Release Time). Terms 3 and 4 this year see an increase to 4x CRT days per term per teacher (double that of 2023), and in 2025, this will increase to 5 days per term per teacher. Every school across the country is fighting a battle to find enough relievers, and sadly it won't be getting any easier in the short term. One of my non-negotiables in terms of getting a reliever in is that they MUST be familiar with our learners, which is why I will always try to staff a classroom with people that are well-known and here in our school often. Children learn best when they have good relationships with those who are teaching them. One of our school's core philosophies is that we all know each and every learner in our care, and that goes for whomever I get in as relieving staff, too. If you have any concerns at all about our reliever situation, please don't hesitate to come and see me.

What the rest of the school did here yesterday: With most of the older ākonga away at football with Kerri and Ronel, we were left with just the Junior and LJR rooms along with about 8 Middle Room children here for the afternoon. As you'll see from the photos below and on the next page, we had an absolute BLAST! The fabulous weather meant we were able to go outside for most of the time, and Anna organised a mini-tabloid sports out on our turf area. The Seniors left here set up and managed 10 stations of different activities, from balancing boards to basketball shots, scoop ball to vortex throws, and loads of other things in between. Every station was based on essential physical skills that children need to develop, but mostly it was just about FUN!



Funding our learning support assistants and other things: With our chocolate fundraiser well on the go, and the formation of our Whānau and Community Group, I've been asked what it is that we are fundraising for. Often times, any funds raised will be targeted for a specific activity, such as Senior Camp (every second year) or replacing the trampoline mats like we had to do earlier. However, some of the things we need to fundraise and budget for are things that may well surprise you! Every school is given an annual Operations Grant within which we have to budget to cover ALL our expenses and activities, including transportation (eg: into swimming or sports events) repairs and maintenance, power, phone, and all general classroom resources. What we get given in our Ops Grant each year is based entirely on our student numbers.

(continued on next page)

Classroom teacher staffing, however, is provided outside of our Ops Grant by the Ministry, but again this is wholly determined by our student numbers. Our student roll fluctuates (and mightily!) every year, and Jo and I get VERY twitchy around October when we see what our next year's roll numbers are likely to be, which then has a knock-on effect on what our teacher staffing will be, which then has a knock-on effect on our allocated Ops Grant . . . Thankfully, our amazing school board has historically put part of our Ops Grant towards enabling me to provide either 3x full time teachers, or (in the case of last year and this) a fourth part-time teacher for LJR, which keeps numbers down in both the Junior and the Middle rooms. In particularly lean roll-number years, you will have seen me go in to teach a day a week in the Senior Room across the year, rather than go down to two large classrooms. We know that learners do best when they have small classroom sizes with quality, caring and engaged people in front of them. All wages for our people we employ who are NOT Ministry-funded classroom teachers, such as Jo and Kim (our cleaner) are not covered externally – we budget stringently to be able to have them here in their part-time roles.

Our board also see what a difference extra classroom learning support does for student achievement and well-being. We fund our essential group of ladies ourselves, either through serious, down-to-the-last-cent budgeting of Ops Grant funds, or by fundraising to help cover their wages.

One other thing: no one can deny what a beautiful learning environment we have here at South Featherston School, and it is remarked upon ceaselessly by everyone who comes through our gate. However, to be brutally honest, this has been done through hard work by staff, students and parents, and on the smell of an oily rag (as my dad used to say) . . . and of course, fundraising.

Now, just a little grumble about LATENESS . . . which is creeping in again! Please have your child here BEFORE the 9am bell goes. Every time another child walks in late to a classroom that has already started for the day, they disturb what is already going on. They may miss crucial instructions for learning, then their teacher has to take time away to individually go over the 'set up' time with every child that walks in late. This could happen half a dozen times in the first 30 minutes! Coming in BEFORE the bell also enables your child to run around, mix with their buddies, and burn off some energy before the start of their learning day.



Ma te wā!
Tana Klaricich

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind . . ."

If you haven't already done so, please download our **Skool Loop** app to your phone so you can keep right up to date with what's happening at school, and receive any important notices or emergency notifications: <https://www.skoolloop.com/> If you need help downloading the app, come in and see Jo or me.

School 'Happenings' . . .

Check out the pics below!

School days, fun days!





Photos by: Kylie and Tana

Our Senior Room ākonga have been learning about persuasive writing using formal language.
I think they've done a great job!

To Mrs Bailey

I am writing to you today to request that we, as the class, would have the permission of yourself to stay inside on wet, rainy days.

As you may already know, the forecast for the following weeks to come is going to be wet, and cold, and with my concern of my fellow classmates they may get sick and that would have a higher risk of getting other students sick, which could lead to other sickness that may affect younger children in a harsher more negative way.

Almost, if not all of the time, when a wet day occurs, all of the kids stay under the shelter, which will stop the rain but not the wind. When that wind is cold those little children can get quite ill, and when they get ill that's a big problem not only for the little children that get sick but also for the other children. Lots of children use the water fountains at school even some kids that bring drink bottles, and you might think that because of the foot pedals that not a lot of germs would get spread, but when those little kids that got ill use those water fountains, lots of them suck on the part where the water exits, which can spread germs faster than you could think.

You may be thinking about the past when we were allowed inside the classroom that some students weren't behaving properly, and were being very immature, but I have a solution which I think you should take into consideration. My solution is that you create a system where each student has to prove them self and each good thing they do is one point and they have to reach quota by the end of each week. If they reach that quota they get allowed to stay inside of the classroom on a wet day, if they do not reach the quote they must stay outside under the shelter. This should solve some of the problems about not enough kindness and hopefully stop some more students getting ill.

That concludes my request to you. I hope you take my plan into consideration.

From Jack

To Mrs Bailey

I am writing to inform you today because a disturbance is arising in my life at school that you might be able to fix. If you couldn't tell by the title, I am annoyed by the wet, windy and freezing weather that has been brought about with winter, and how we can fix this, i.e: by going into our warm classroom, and that is the reason why I am sending you this email.

It is getting increasingly cold outside, and some children are very bothered by this. I would hate to be a bother to you as you have spoken about gaining our trust to let us inside the classroom before, but I would like to see if you would change your thoughts for me and the rest of your year 6-8 class members.

When body temperature drops, the heart, as well as the nervous system and other organs, cannot and will not work as well as they usually do. If left untreated, hypothermia could cause the heart and respiratory system to fail, and eventually lead to death. Common causes of hypothermia include exposure to cold weather or immersion in cold water.

So if you may allow it, it would make us very grateful. Thank you for reading.

From Senna