



# WHAKATANE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

## Newsletter 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

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### FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - MATARIKI DAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED

Kia Ora Whanau,

It is with some genuine excitement that the school enters the final two weeks of the term as there is a lot to fit in! Next week the school travels to Gisborne Intermediate for the annual Sports and Academic Exchange. This event is one of the main events on the school calendar for the year. This exchange has been going on for over 30 years and has enabled a strong friendship and bond to develop between the two schools. The school is taking three bus loads of students and staff down for two days of competition. The aim is to do well but also reconnect with friends that we have not seen for a while.

Next Friday sees the Country celebrate the Matariki Holiday weekend, which acknowledges the Maori New Year. The students have been learning about Matariki over the last few weeks and the significance of it. One way to celebrate Matariki is to get together with whanau and friends, prepare a fantastic meal and spend some quality time connecting with each other.

This week I was fortunate to visit a number of classes, especially this morning. It was great to see the fun factor and engagement levels so high especially as it is the last day of a busy week. The students were clearly enjoying their learning and were able to give a clear account of what they were doing when I spoke to them. I was particularly impressed with Te Whanau O Wainui Te Whara who were taking part in a syndicate-wide initiative around Whakawhangaungatanga that included some STEAM activities. The students were learning to work with other students from across the syndicate and the aim is to build connections each other. This initiative occurs twice a term. Well done to the Syndicate Leader Mrs Kendra Lowndes and her team of Ms Samantha Byrne, Ben McDonald and Sarah Morgan for their enthusiastic lessons.

The last week of the term is also shaping up to be a very busy one as well. There is the school cross country on Tuesday, July 2nd. We hope as many whanau as possible can be present to help cheer on the students. During the same week, there is also a Parent Teacher Hui, where whanau can meet with their child's teacher and discuss their academic progress. We strongly encourage all whanau to make an appointment and come and hear how well their child is doing.

Have a great weekend, and go the mighty Chiefs!

Nga Mihi  
Mike Webster

Nga Mihi  
Mike Webster

### SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

Our parent/teacher/student interviews will be held on  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July from 1.00pm - 6.00pm and  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July from 3.15pm - 6.00pm

The portal for you to book your appointment is now open

Go to: [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz)

THE BOOKING CODE IS: zu27b

or phone the office to book

Please note that school will close at 12.00pm on  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July (buses run at normal time of 3.00pm)

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July is a normal school day

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Board Meeting

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Gisborne Exchange

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Matariki Day - Public Holiday

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - School Cross Country

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Parent Teacher Interviews -  
School closes at 12.00pm

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July - Parent Teacher Interviews -  
normal school day

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Last day Term 2

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE NEWS

A group of students were lucky to have the opportunity to learn more about the microwetland project they started last year.

Thomas Everth, a lecturer at Ecoquest and the maker of a Methane Flux Meter visited the Environmental Science room last week and ran a session teaching the students more about carbon and methane gas. He also measured the amount of methane that was coming from the microwetland project. The methane measurement was low which is good, and indicates the wetlands may be doing their job by removing carbon from the atmosphere without producing a high level of methane. It was great to see the students so engaged in what Thomas had to say. He is also going to make and give a Methane Flux Meter to Whakatane Intermediate school. (See pictures below.)

Regards Helen Dobbins  
(Environmental  
Science Teacher)



### GISBORNE EXCHANGE

We need payments to be made urgently for students travelling to Gisborne Exchange next week. You can pay at the school office or by online banking. Our bank account number is: 123253 0016645 00  
Thank you to families who have already made payment.



MISSION STATEMENT

VISION

WISDOM  
KAREKA

## LIT QUIZ NEWS - BEST WEEKEND EVER!

By Emily McGougan

At 8:00am Alannah, Daphne, Elizabeth and I (Emily) met up at the van shed on Friday morning. It was pouring rain, and we hoped it wouldn't affect our flights (eek!). An hour later we were at Rotorua airport, checking in. Our flight was delayed by 40 minutes, then... "FLIGHT TO WELLINGTON CANCELLED" came over the loudspeaker. Booking in another flight at 4:25pm, CANCELLED. Flight for 7:00am the next morning, CANCELLED.

We decided to go to Motion for lunch, and we did the new ninja course they had put up, coming back to the fantastic news that we could fly out of Tauranga! We arrived at Tauranga airport, then started waiting for our 4th flight booking. At 6:15pm we boarded and an hour later we were in Wellington... at last. After a hasty Subway dinner we went to our accommodation and crashed, exhausted.

The next day we roamed around the city looking for breakfast, before eventually settling on bagels. We walked to Te Papa, then walked back to our accommodation to get in our uniform for the 1.00pm competition at the Wellington National Library. Mrs Burns tried to find a taxi for five, but with no luck. Apparently it was a 32 minute WALK, so we basically SPRINTED to the competition.

The competition was really intense, but we managed to relax, and we buzzed 3 times in a row and got all of those questions correct! One correct answer was worth 2 points, and an incorrect one was -1 point.

In the end, we came 7th out of 17 teams from across NZ. While we were disappointed, we had lots of messages of support from our families and teachers, even the BOT Chairperson telling us how proud they were of us.

Afterwards we saw Te Tiriti O Waitangi, along with the Declaration of Independence and the petition Kate Sheppard took for women's right to vote. We went to a DELICIOUS sushi train for dinner, and came back to our hotel room, and "went to sleep" as far as Mrs Burns knows, but maybe ate a few lollies...

Our last morning saw a quick breakfast from New World, then a shuttle to Wellington airport, and a picture with Smauge the dragon. Thankfully our flight was not delayed OR cancelled, and we got back to Tauranga all in one piece. After driving back to Intermediate we said goodbye and thanked Mrs Burns.



The Lit Quiz Team would also like to thank the Whakatāne Ōhope Community Board for their grant which helped support the team get to Wellington.

We also thank our whanau for their amazing support and for attending the competition with us.

Regards, Stacey Burns, Teacher in Charge.

The girls are pictured above.

## VISUAL ARTS NEWS

Yeehaa! The last of the year sevens coming through to Visual Arts this year! Once the students had a wee look at Frieda Kahlo's self-portrait artworks, they moved onto drawing their own self-portraits and symbols that represent them, using sketching pencils and adding colour with watercolour pencils. Later they created clay monster faces and then decorated them with pastels, watercolour and acrylic paint.

Looking forward to starting 'Delicious Delectables' with the Year 8s.

A self-portrait sketch by Belle Mikosch from Room 18 and some clay masks by Rooms 20 and 23 are pictured below.

Regards, Mrs Holder (Visual Arts Teacher)



## OTAMAKAOKO NEWS

Otamakaokao had their very first Tech Intensive last Thursday, where the students got to choose an activity to do with 'Kiwiana'. Some of the activities the students got to do were create their own chocolates; cook a pavlova; make fry bread; experience the beauty of Kohi Point and Otarawairere; explore survival strategies at Thornton; create some weaving with harakeke; create their own mosaic tile; make a manu tukutuku (kite) and learn to make their own fishing rod. The feedback from both the students and adults involved has been awesome. We are so lucky to be able to give our students these amazing opportunities! See the photos below.

Regards, Nicola Laurent (Otamakaokao Syndicate Leader)

**TO CONTACT  
THE  
DENTAL CLINIC  
PHONE  
307 1548**



**FREE STREP THROAT  
TESTING AND  
HEALTHY SKIN CHECKS  
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT  
SCHOOL**

