

UPOKONGARO SCHOOL

2024, Term 4, Week 6 Newsletter

HE TANGATA
ANGITU
AKORANGA

PEOPLE
ACHIEVEMENT
LEARNERS



From the Principal's Desk...

A few of you have noticed over the last two terms that I have not been as present as usual. Unfortunately, I had some health issues arise during the second term holidays and they haven't been easy to get on top of. I'm only addressing them now because I'm making some improvements and feeling better every day. So that you know where I'm at during the week this term, I am usually on site, unless I have meetings elsewhere, except on Wednesday's when I work from home. Fingers crossed that I'll be back up and running in no time.

School Transport

This week I sent out a poll to gauge responses about the use and purpose of vans in our school. I did this because using the vans at the moment in its current form prevents students from accessing tens of thousands of dollars in resources. Next year, more than \$40,000, even with van payments being made, will go towards school transport that could go to learning resources. Every year I look into sustainable options for school transport considering how to keep it affordable for families and viable for the school to support.

The two biggest reasons the van service is used by whānau according to the poll was pressure on work timeframes and location to the school. I will continue to work on solutions to these issues and need your feedback to ensure I get the right fit for families and for the school. Thank you for the feedback you've provided so far, I hope I can continue to count on you to get this right.

2025

Next year is already close and we have a lot to look forward to. We will continue with termly whānau days to ensure you see how and what your child is learning. Some of these will combine with other large school events so if you don't have the Skool Loop app or are not connected to our Facebook page, please make sure you are before the start of next year.

Contacting School

With Lyana gone it will be important to check newsletters, Facebook posts, and Skool Loop notifications regularly. The office desk will not always be manned so messaging via Facebook and emailing at office@upokongaro.net is the fastest way to get a response from us. No changes to vans should be made unless you are picking up your child in which case you should notify us to prevent us from putting them on a van. We will work like this until the end of the year so please ensure to keep up with all communications.

School Fencing

Te Mahau (Ministry of Education) has approved funding to fence our property. Since the job has been put out to tender many contractors have been visiting the school to measure up the job. The end result of this project is improved safety of all our tamariki.

Until next week

Take care whānau

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FUN ATHLETICS DAY AT UPOKONGARO SCHOOL THIS MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

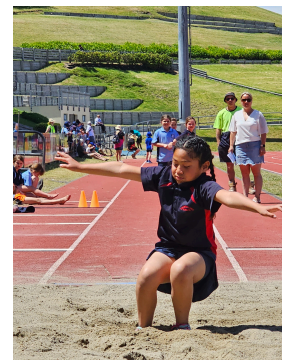
Due to the cancellation of our Eastern Cluster Schools Athletics Day, we will be having our own fun athletics event on Monday between 11am and 1pm at kura.

The 5 and 6 year olds will be doing fun jump, run and throw activities in their own tabloid athletics.

The rest of the school will be competing in high jump, long jump, shot putt, vortex, and sprints in gender age groups.

It would pay for students to wear SNEAKERS, rather than bare feet, to avoid the possibility of a bee sting. As usual, SUNHATS are a must. While sunhats may not be worn when competing, they will absolutely need to be on when waiting in line to compete. All classes are well stocked with SUNSCREEN which students will be applying before the event begins. Lastly, DRINK BOTTLES... drink bottles... drink bottles. Please remember we are a WATER only school.

You are all welcome to come along and cheer! We'd love to see you :)



NGĀ TAONGA TĀKARO AT CITY COLLEGE

The Year 7's were fortunate to have the opportunity on Tuesday 19th November to go to City College to participate in Traditional Māori Games. We had many rangatahi from City College teaching us a range of games. Thank you to Whaea

Jen from Sport Whanganui, who continues to support Upokongaro School. Also to Mr Skipper and the City College Ngā Taonga Tākaro Year 9 class.



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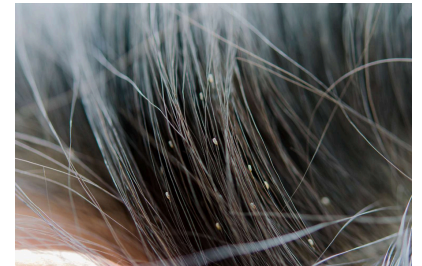
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HEAD LICE/NITS HEALTH INFORMATION

Unfortunately, nits love this time of year. They have once again infiltrated our school.

[Health NZ - Te Whatu Ora](#) - This link has information about symptoms, treatment and how to stop nits from spreading. Please encourage your child to wear their own hat at kura and to keep their hair tied up. This includes anyone with hair longer than shoulder length.

Please remember that we are supplied treatment from KidsCan. Please ask your child's teacher to pop some in your child's bag (always done discreetly!) or email office@upokongaro.net.



NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE

Classes across Upokongaro School continue to learn NZ Sign Language. It is one of our three official languages of Aotearoa New Zealand, alongside English and Te Reo.

Thank you to Mrs Vincent for organising staff training, and to Whaea Ashleigh, who continues to encourage us in our learning.



please
koa



thank
mihi



name
ingoa



Come Celebrate With Us!
Court Re-Surfacing
Grand Reveal

Please join us in celebrating the long-awaited court resurfacing.

SCHEDULE:

1:30pm	Short ribbon cutting ceremony at the big gate
1:40pm	Skills and games – juniors
2:00pm	Celebrity match on court 1

SUNDAY
01 DEC, 2024


START AT
1:30PM - 2:30PM

LAIRD PARK
NETBALL COURTS,
98 PEAT STREET

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Summer of Art

Opening Month Events
9 Nov – 8 Dec 2024



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IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

Monday 25th - Athletics at Upokongaro School

Wednesday 27th - Te Ao Mārama trip to Sarjeant Art Gallery

Thursday 28th - Last day of Technology for Year 7-8's

Friday 29th - Dance Practice, Year 7-8's at Kaitoke School

DECEMBER

Monday 2nd - Life Education Van at Upokongaro School

Tuesday 3rd - Parental Device Controls for Android Users
2-3pm

Tuesday 3rd - Ki-o-rahi at Rutherford, Year 7-8

Wednesday 4th - Parental Device Controls for Apple Users
2-3pm

Wednesday 4th - Parental Controls and Online Awareness
5-6pm


Wednesday 4th - Ki-o-rahi at Upokongaro, Year 5-6

Friday 6th - Dance Practice, Year 7-8's at Kaitoke School and
Year 7-8 Dinner and Dance pm

Wed 11 - Fri 13 Dec - Year 7-8 Camp at "That Place"

Monday 16th - Prize-giving at Upokongaro School. Reports
handed out.

Wednesday 18th - Final day for 2024

 06 3456424

 office@upokongaro.net



JUICIES

Available through the Kindo app for \$2. Please ensure payment is made before 9am Friday.

Friday second lunch pickup from the Boardroom deck.

VANS



Uncle Al: 0279362056

Aunty Jaqui: 02102655518

Mr C (Roger): 027 4435771

Mr Wright (Ian): 027 5003660