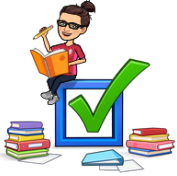



UPOKONGARO SCHOOL

2024, Term 3, Week 3 Newsletter

HE TANGATA
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PEOPLE
ACHIEVEMENT
LEARNERS



 06 3456424

 office@upokongaro.net

Kia ora koutou

Over the last few months you may have noticed lots of political voice in the education space. Some of this can be very confusing for those of us who are educationalists, let alone parents of children attending school, so I want to send some reassurances your way about some of the topics you may have heard about.

Structured Literacy

Firstly, I'd like to say that structured literacy is not new and that for many years Upokongaro School has delivered elements of it. What is new is that we now have access to funding to get our teachers training in some specific programmes that the government would like delivered. Better Start Literacy Approach is the programme that we have looked into and chosen for the Upokongaro School Year 0-3 students. Mrs Topia has been selected as our facilitator and is working with the junior teaching staff to deliver BSLA. Very soon the team will hold an information evening where whānau can come and be informed about it. Programmes for Year 4-8 will come in time and we'll keep you up to date with what to expect then.

Assessment

You may also have heard the announcement about the Minister of Education's intention to "develop a consistent, coherent system of assessment and aromatawai - one that is used throughout students' school years." This has many benefits for students, and for educators across education, however I would like to make it very clear that Upokongaro School has always had a consistent and coherent approach to assessment throughout the school. Over time we have moderated and critically discussed our approaches to assessment to ensure improvement and best practice for our students. Assessment, like structured literacy, is not new to us and the tools that are being proposed are either already being used by us or we have an equivalent to them. Please rest assured that these practices are our everyday norm.

Math

Whilst I am still waiting for the details of the structured math programme that will be available for delivery in Term One of next year, I again want to assure you that math at Upokongaro School is trucking along fine. As a coincidence of an inquiry I started into math last year, we started a structured approach to math this year called Math No Problem. It is an approach we started as a two year trial and my greatest hope is that this is one of the programmes that the government will make available. Watch this space!

Your children are doing well at school and there is lots to celebrate at Upokongaro School. The events and opportunities that students are participating in all help to ensure they learn by accessing a variety of experiences across the curriculum. Soon we will have completed the construction of our swing and sandpit and the area surrounding it ready for opening. This is part one of a larger project to add variety and engagement with our environment. With that said, I'd like to thank all the parents, friends of the school, and businesses that have helped us to make this happen, we are deeply grateful for your service and contributions.

Together we are stronger.

Arohanui

Mrs Browne

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SCHOOL PĀNUI/NOTICES

LET'S GO BIKING! MA AKE!

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It was the Senior School's turn in Week Two to go biking. A huge thank you to Abby, Esther, Kerry and Ryan from Let's Go for taking us out. We were lucky enough to bike around the roads in town, learning how to signal correctly.

SANDPIT AND SWING AREA



Thank you to our wonderful crew of helpers who, on Thursday in Week Two, braved the chilly wind to help start our Sandpit and Swing area.

Another group have also been in this week to box in these areas and put weed mat down. Keep your eyes peeled for more dates for helpers and fundraising ideas!

Our tamariki are looking forward to playing in these areas, soon to be surrounded by fruit trees.



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ACHIEVEMENT
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EPRO8 CLASSROOM EVENTS

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Congratulations to the Year 5-6 class of Te Rau Mōhio and the Year 7-8 classes of Te Ao Mārama and Te Rito, who competed in an EPro8 classroom challenge during Week Three. The students had to work together in small groups to create an Earthquake-safe construction in a 90 minute time frame. The winning groups are pictured:

Year 5-6: Rhylee, Fenix, Floyd, Alex
Year 7: Glenn, Tylah, Kaelyn, Louis and Leon.



Thank you Miss Davis for organising and running these fun engineering, problem-solving and innovative challenges.

RAIL SAFETY WEEK 5-11 AUGUST 2024



[North Island level crossing collision youtube](#)

Thank you Sam and Riley for teaching Te Ao Mārama about Rail Safety this week. The video, where Riley's Dad is the train driver, heightened our awareness of the need for safety around trains and tracks. "Phone down, eyes up," and "Pause your tunes, listen for trains," are key messages we need to remember.

FRUIT TREES

Sharon from Sustainable Whanganui taught our Year 7 crew how to prune an apple tree this week. We know to only cut 1/3 of the tree, leave the old wood and the difference between a leaf spur and a fruit spur. Our apple tree looks wonderful. We are looking forward to Sharon visiting again to plant more fruit trees and planting veges with our juniors.



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PUANGA AND PUANGA-NUI



Puanga and Puanga-nui have been very busy over the first three weeks of term. Biking took us around the school court, learning how to brake correctly and weave in and out of the lines on the court. On Tuesday 30th July, we went on a trip to the Art Gallery and Whanganui Museum to complete our Matariki Inquiry. We made manu tukutuku/kites and had fun flying them by the awa. Thank you again to our wonderful helpers who joined us on the trip and our Let's Go Biking friends.

This year, Daffodil Day is observed on Friday 30th August. As this is Upokongaro Speeches, we will celebrate Daffodil Day at Upokongaro School on Thursday 29th August.

1 in 3 of us will get cancer in our lifetimes. Please support individuals and whānau by helping to fundraise for the Cancer Society. Our efforts will go to supporting with travel for treatment, finding a cure and improving outcomes for cancer patients.

On Thursday 29th, we will have a daffodil drawn on the front court at school. Students and whānau are invited to write messages to their loved ones who are survivors, patients or who have passed on. It will also be "Yellow Day," where students, teachers and whānau are invited to dress up in as much yellow as your eyes can handle! Please bring a donation to show your support.

DAFFODIL DAY



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IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST

- Thursday 8th - Dental Van arrives. Dentists start Monday 12th
- Tuesday 6th - Friday 9th - EPro8 Classroom Competitions Year 5-8
- Thursday 29th - Upokongaro School celebrates Daffodil Day
- Friday 30th - Upokongaro School Speeches

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 10th - Aranui Cross Country for selected Year 5-6 students
- Wednesday 11th - Cluster Speeches for selected Year 5-8 students
- Wednesday 11th - Thursday 12th - EPro8 Championships at Feilding Intermediate
- Friday 27th - TEACHER'S ONLY DAY - No School

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CHROMEBOOKS FOR SALE

Chromebooks are for sale through our Mykindo app. They are \$380 and cases are \$45. It is beneficial for students to have their own Chromebook in class and we use this brand throughout the entire school.

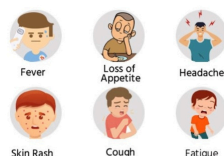


CHICKENPOX

We have confirmed cases of Chickenpox at our kura. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. This common childhood illness is caused by a virus which is quickly passed on to others. It can often start with the following symptoms: - a fever, headache, runny nose, cough, loss of appetite, feeling tired. A red rash follows 1-2 days later.

Please keep your child home until all of the spots crust over and no new lesions are forming.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CHICKENPOX



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

[HTTPS://WWW.KIDSHEALTH.ORG.NZ/CHICKENPOX](https://www.kidshealth.org.nz/chickenpox)



Sunday September 1st

Victoria Esplanade

Palmerston North

Enter Online Only
www.ibike4kids.co.nz

A fun event for kids who love being out on their bikes

Uncle Al: 0279362056

Aunty Jaqui: 0210265518

Mr C (Roger): 027 4435771

Mr Wright (Ian): 027 5003660

Miss Gascoigne: 02108587622

