

Wednesday 30 August 2017
Week 6, Term 3
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QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

“Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace.” Confucius

From the Principal

Education Policy

I am disappointed from an educational perspective to read one of the major political parties wants to extend National Standards and testing of students. You would think that over the years prior to this policy we didn't know where our students were at in relation to the curriculum and that we didn't report to parents. Also I don't understand how more and more testing will raise student achievement. I feel we as teachers are lucky that parents around the country have largely not bought into the league tables published to compare schools, we are grateful parents remain focused on their own child/ren.



Cascades Visits

This term, Mr Kavanagh and the students in Room 19 have been doing weekly visits to the residents at Cascades Retirement Village. As a result of last term's inquiry, the students decided that they wanted to participate in a community project to help others as part of their "social action". Each week, the students read books, perform to the residents, serve afternoon tea and play games. This is a rewarding experience for the students in Room 19, as they are learning that caring for others makes them feel good. The students are developing their ability to connect and learn from others.



First Aid Training

Mr O'D, Vic, Mrs Poole and I updated our First Aid Certificates last week. It needs to be updated every two years. The rest of the staff renewed theirs last year. I acknowledge the willingness of all our staff to have a First Aid certificate in support of your children.



Word Mania

This term Room 12 have been involved in a spelling competition called Word Mania. It has finished now but yesterday this box of goodies arrived. We think it's a thank you for doing so well.



Fence

I inform you that the fencing of the school will begin on 11th September. Once it is finished parents and caregivers will have to sign in at the office during the day if they need to pick up their child, drop off lunch etc. As indicated before I see this as a great opportunity for us to improve safety for the children during the school day. It means they will be safe from straying out of the grounds and also it will eliminate the school being used as a thoroughfare during the day which has caused problems in the past.

Outdoor Classroom - Landscaper

I am pleased to report that on Friday I have a meeting with a landscaper who is interested in putting in a tender for developing our Outdoor Classroom.

Parent Participants Needed

This year there is a researcher spending time in the school and there is now an opportunity for parents to get involved in the project. The invitation containing all the details is attached to the email with this newsletter.

Charufti Day

A reminder about the Junior School Charufti Day is scheduled for Tuesday 19th September.

Diwali Celebrations

The Indian Parent Support Group have decided to hold our Diwali celebrations at the beginning of next term. Anyone willing to help is invited to contact Reeta 021 701 427

Stories from our Students and Parents

Oxford Pies

Top selling class was Room 2 who enjoyed their shared lunch provided by the PTA. The PTA thanks all those who supported this fundraiser. I has one of the steak pies for tea last night - very nice it was too.

Sports Draws/Notices/Reports

Football Draws for Saturday 2 September

Ham West Dynamites vs Western United Holsters @ 09.00 Ham West School 3

Ham West Strikers vs Forest Lake Totara @ 10.00 Ham West School 3

Ham West Rockets vs Vardon Strikers @ 09.00 Ham West School 2

Ham West Pukekos vs Western United Bandits @ 10.15 Bremworth Park 3

Ham West Stars vs Northern United Brazil @ 09.00 Grosvenor Park 4

Ham West Kingz vs Wanderers Jaguars @ 10.00 Ham West School 2

Ham West Phoenix vs Northern United Rapids @ 09.00 Ham West School 1

Ham West Hammers vs Southwell Yellow @ 11.30 Southwell School C



Football Results for Saturday 26 August

Ham West Dynamites lost 3-2 to Te Awamutu Terriors.

Ham West Strikers beat Ngahinapouri Comets 6-2.

Ham West Rockets beat Wanderers Falcons 4-2. PoD was Lachlan Payne & Lapuke Hunt.

Ham West Pukekos beat Morrinsville Tigers 7-3. PoD was Arav Raman & Talia Hewett.

Ham West Stars beat Rovers Dragons 5-4. PoD was Lachlan Stark.

Ham West Kingz lost 3-0 to Western United Rustlers. PoD was Brendan Judd.

Ham West Phoenix beat Te Awamutu Tornadoes 3-2. PoD was Devesh Kumar

There will be an end of season get together and prize giving on Saturday 16 September at 10.30am. We will have a shared lunch and a game of football for those that want to join in.

More details coming home in the next week.

School Notices/PTA Notices

Help Please - Spare clothing needed - small sizes

The school office are looking for donations of small sized uniform (Size 4/6/8) to have as spares for children that fall over in the mud etc at break times and may need changing. Please drop these off at the school office. Any items that you can donate will be greatly appreciated.

LOST

Miriam Adams has lost her school jersey. It was a size 6, newer style with the quarter zip. It's named on the white label under the black sizing label at the neck - it'll say either "Mim Adams" or "Miriam Adams". Please check your jersey labels at home. If found please bring to Room 8. Her parents would love to find it. Thank you

Hearing & Vision Technician

Will be at Hamilton West School on Monday 11th September. Please let the school office know if you do not want your child to be tested.

Year 5-8 Production 2017

This term the Year 5&6 and 7&8 syndicate production is happening! It is called 'The Adventure in the Wild Wild West' in which a group of students are set on a journey to find the school values, visiting different lands along the way.

The dates for the production are Wednesday the 27th and Thursday the 28th of September, with an evening show each night and a matinee show on the Thursday. Tickets will be on sale from Week 7. Further information will be available soon.

This is a great opportunity for all of the Year 5-8 students to shine on stage and they are very excited to show off their performing arts skills!

Disaster Plasters

We are at the end of our Disaster Plaster fundraiser. A huge thank you to all who went out and did their best to sell these. I can tell you that, at this stage, we have raised over \$4000 which is amazing!

We are still waiting for a few students to bring back money/plasters. Can you please bring this back ASAP with a name on either the envelope or box?

Special shout out to rooms 1 and 7 who have bought back all their money/plasters already.

We have worked out our top sellers and they will be awarded their prizes at assembly on Thursday morning. There is also a prize of a pizza lunch for the class that has sold the most, so get that last bit of money in. Cut-off for the class prize is 8:55am Thursday morning.

Entertainment Books

All books that are not required are now due back to the office immediately. If you wish to purchase the book your child brought home then please do so asap.

Community Notices

To parents and caregivers of Hamilton West School:

Experiences of parental engagement within a New Zealand school

Researcher: **Megan Smith**
Faculty of Education, University of Waikato

This research is exploring **parental involvement** at Hamilton West School so we can

- identify factors that affect the way schools and parents relate and work together, and
- consider how that might be improved

This is an invitation to **parents & caregivers of Hamilton West School** to attend in **September**:

- A small (5-6 people) **discussion group**
 - of 90 minutes
 - day and evening options

For more details or to join please contact: **Megan Smith** at megan.pearce.smith@gmail.com

or text your name and 'Ham West parent' to 0274532475

