

CENTRAL NORMAL SCHOOL

TE KURA TUATAHI O PAPAIOEA

Term 2 Week 4

Whaia Kia Tutuki ~ Strive to your Potential

22 May 2019

Tena Koutou Katoa, Ni Hao, Guten Tag, Bula Vinaka

On Tuesday we held our final Board meeting for the existing Board as it is the triennial cycle for Board elections. At this meeting we farewelled four Board members who are stepping down from their roles on the Board. We would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Katrina Kokko, Gill Hannan, Dat Lieu and Roly Fitzgerald, for their significant contributions to the Board and our school during their tenure on the Board. Each trustee brought with them their own respective skill set, which supported the strong governance of our school.

If you are considering standing for the Board, nominations for the Board close tomorrow at 12 noon. If you would like to know more about the Board of Trustees, please see Matua Regan.



Pā Ropata

On Monday many of us attended Pa Ropata's powhiri as he was welcomed into his new role at the RTL service. It was an absolutely beautiful powhiri as Rob was passed over to his new team. Our tamariki in Akomanga 15 and 16 who attended were absolutely amazing with their waiata and everyone commented on how superb they sounded. With Rob's departure, Whaea Mahi in Akomanga 14 is the Team Leader of Te Arawaru, with Whaea Hine teaching in Akomanga 16.

Strike and Staffing Crisis

As communicated to you last week, teachers across New Zealand, both primary and secondary, will be on strike next **Wednesday 29 May**. This means that our school will be **closed** for the day. We acknowledge the disruption this causes, but appreciate your support and understanding. So, why are teachers striking?

- More resources (staff and money) to support children with additional learning needs and behaviour needs. There is an ever growing number of children who require additional support to meet their personal needs and schools do not have access to sufficient resources to properly support all learners.
- Getting more people training to be teachers and to keep them teaching (recruitment and retention). Between 2010 and 2016, teacher training dropped by 40%, while the number of children enrolling into schools continues to grow.
- A pay increase for teachers to try and attract more people into teaching and to keep teachers teaching.

The staffing crisis is a very real issue and almost all schools in New Zealand are finding it increasingly difficult to find staff. When I first became a Principal in 2010, you would often have in excess of 10-20 applicants for a teacher's position. Now, there can be as few as 1.

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PTA Meeting - Tuesday 28 May 6.45pm

With the staffing crisis, it can also be very challenging to find relieving teachers. Relieving teachers are needed when our teachers are sick, need to look after their own unwell children, or when they are away attending professional learning and development. As we head into the colder months and the winter terms, the increase of colds, flus and other ailments occurs. When we are unable to source a reliever and a class needs to be split - please know - **we do our absolute best** to ensure your child's learning is not compromised. When classes are split, children are put into other classes, where they either continue with their own learning, or participate in the learning of the class they are in. Often, this is a wonderful opportunity for our older children to support our younger children, through a tuakana/teina relationship. If at the end of the day, you go to your child's class and they are not there (because their class has been split), it may be that they are in another class. Emma and Angela in the office will have a master list of where the children are. We sincerely thank you for your support and understanding.

New Murals

The new murals that are being designed and painted for our school are coming along beautifully. The children are taking a great deal of time, pride and Mana with the creation of these murals. Each mural will depict one of our five values. We can't wait to have these new murals up in our school.

Change

This term our big concept for learning is Change. Focusing on one large overarching concept, allows classes to explore a range of rich tasks and experiences that meet that concept and can also integrate multiple curriculum areas. Room 2 have been focusing on the change of seasons and had some wonderful fun collecting autumn leaves. This in turn led to conversations about why the leaves fall off the trees and also provided a prompt for their writing.

In the interests of **Health and Safety...**

- We **ONLY** allow parents/caregivers of our Special Needs students to drive into our school carpark. It would be impossible to allow all our parents to drive in and out to collect their children.
- **Please** do not park on the yellow lines. This severely reduces the vision for other drivers and our road patrollers.
- All pedestrians should be using the designated pedestrian crossings for safe crossings of our roads.

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