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Newsletter August 27th 2020

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Kia ora te whanau

PRINCIPALS BLURB

Welcome to week 6. We are still operating in COVID Alert Level 2 with our processes and guidelines from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. Thank you to all of our students and whanau who continue to work together to stay safe in a frustrating and challenging time. We had an awesome teachers only day on Friday with a day of professional learning with Kate Horton from Coaching Colab exploring learning styles and personalities. This has provided a platform for our teachers to personalise student learning programmes to ensure all students are reaching their full potential in whatever capacity that may be. We ended our day with a team building activity that pushed most of us out of our comfort zones, something we expect our students to do regularly, however for ourselves this is often challenging. Thank you to Robin, Ice Skate Tour, for teaching us a new skill of how to navigate a curling stone, while building team strategies and tactics. I am excited about the opportunities that are coming to Firth over the next few weeks. We have a new turf arriving, hopefully completed in the next 8 weeks, covering our current netball court area. Development and design is also beginning, with the native bush area and the courtyard area between the classroom blocks. While exploring the options of a new uniform so our students stand out and have a sense of identity unique to Firth Primary School.

Welcome:

A special welcome to our new students:

Welcome to Lacey Aranga, Choville & Levi Ramsey and their families. We hope your time here at Firth is enjoyable.

Car Park Safety

Please ensure that your child is escorted across the carpark by an adult during drop off and pick up times. We have noticed students being called across the carpark while cars are moving in this space. Please do not stop or park in the middle of the car park as this is creating unsafe space for our students and blocking the flow of cars entering and exiting. Safety of our students is paramount and we appreciate the frustrating and challenging restrictions during COVID level 2, however we ask that you please be vigilant to keep nga tamariki safe. We have also spoken to our students and staff so we are all working together for the safety of everyone.

Yummy Sticker Collecting

We are still collecting Yummy stickers. They can be found on all types of fruit, not just the apples. This will assist us to win free sports gear again at the end of 2020.

Oxford Pie Orders

Please remember your Oxford Pie orders are due back to school with money on Friday **28th August 2020**. Please give these to your child to give to their classroom teachers, or alternatively you can post it into the office door.

Rongohia te hau survey

Each year our Matamata Kaahui Ako surveys our families (Whanau) to gather data about educational opportunities. In our Kahui Ako, the information gathered enables all of our schools to set priorities and goals for the future. The survey needs to be returned to school by the end of week 9, Friday 18th September 2020, put your completed survey in the letter box outside the office. Each returned survey will go in a draw for a \$50.00 grocery voucher. There will be 4 grocery voucher draws. Your child/children will also receive a sweet treat.

Scholastic Book club

Issue 6 has been distributed to students. This offer will close on Friday 11 September.

Bell Times

We are trialling a change in bell times to allow more fluidity with teaching and learning. I can assure you that students are still having the same amount of time to eat. The only major change is that the brain breaks during the day are determined by the students and teachers of each class.

9.00 am school begins

11.00 am morning tea - students play

11.30 am students sit and eat

11.40 am students in class

1.00 pm lunch break - students play

1.30 pm students eat lunch

1.40 pm students in class

2.50 pm school ends

Tell us what you think?

We are looking at making some changes to our uniform to create a unique sense of pride and belonging to Firth Primary School. Our current uniform is often confused with Hinuera Rugby Club and Hinuera School. We have consulted our students and staff and iwi within the Kahui ako, regarding ideas for a new and improved uniform that stands out in our community and identifies our students from Firth rather than currently confusing them with our Hinuera whanau. The name of our school and our vision is on the lapel. The kowhaiwhai pattern represents our Firth Journey, sporting, academic, kaupapa and whakapapa of our community. We would like your thoughts regarding the colours, collar vs no collar, whether you would be interested in a compulsory uniform which we would phase in over a period of time. Please email principal@firth.school.nz with any questions, queries, opinions and thoughts.



TURF IS COMING.....

This is a design of what our turf will look like with similar colours.



Important Term Dates 2020

Term 3 - Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September

LAST DAY OF TERM 3 - Friday 25th September

Term 4 - Monday 12th October - Wednesday 16th December

Whanau hui - Tuesday 18th August 2020, 7 pm - postponed

Wednesday 2nd September - Firth School X Country

Wednesday 16th September - Inter School X Country



Keep up-to-date with what is happening at Firth Primary School on our Website. Firth Newsletters are now available at www.firth.school.nz. Firth Primary School Facebook page. We have a facebook page - please 'like' our page to keep up to date with what's happening.

Kia kaha, Nga mihi
Michelle Ryan
Principal