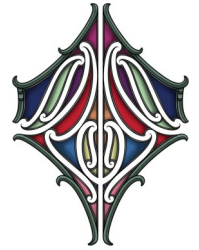




Mokoia School Newsletter

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Last week we had several certificates handed out. Due to being away from school, I don't have access to the photo of the information. Look out next week for this information.



PTA

The PTA have been working hard to help raise funds for the school. These funds help us do amazing things by contributing towards events and resources—for example they help us with arts resources for Pet Day and contributed towards the Senior trip to Waitangi.

This week they helped with cooked lunches for our tamariki, in order to help us raise money for the school. In June they will be running two events—a sip and paint for the ladies and a children's winter-themed disco. If you can, please support these. They are fun events that will enable us to support the school.

Amber's grandmother has also donated several sets of handknitted slippers for us to sell, to keep our tootsies toasty this winter. We are selling them at \$10 a pair, and they come in three sizes—small, medium and large. I tried one on for the photo, and it was SO cosy. Get in quick, because they will be selling like hotcakes. Just see Monica in the office.



Dates for Your Diary

Term 1

3 June	King's birthday—school closed
5 June	Rippa Rugby Tournament Seniors only (pp day 7 June) 2 parents needed. Sausage sizzle-\$3
10 June	Dance workshop—leave 9am on bus
14 June	Bhana cup practise
15 June	Sip and Paint—Ladies fundraiser—see flier
21 June	Winter Disco
26 June	Bhana Cup (pp 3 July)
27 June	Winter festival in Hawera 5-8pm
28 June	Matariki (school closed)
5 July	Teacher only day—school closed for instruction. Last day of school.

Teacher Only Day

You will have heard in the news that the government are focusing on education. Recently they announced that all primary schools will be teaching structured literacy from 2025. Structured literacy is a way in which we explicitly teach the different components of reading and writing, to help children make sense of it easier. It is something that we already do to varying degrees. Teacher Only Day will give us the opportunity to hone our skills and ensure that all staff (teachers and teacher aides) are skilled up and on the same page.

Below is an excellent clip that explains structured literacy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcDZWmtLvQE>



Attendance.

Having had ERO in recently, one of the areas of concern was regular attendance. The Ministry's definition of regular attendance is 90% or more. As a school, it is our duty to follow up when children are not attending regularly.

If your child's attendance is of concern, we will be inviting you in to discuss what your needs are. We want to support you to give your child/ren the best education that we can. This means that if we can support your attendance needs, or point you in the right direction for help, we will do so.

Attendance that is of concern, and that we can't address in school, will be referred to the attendance officers. The attendance officers have access to more resources than we do, and are specialists in this area. They work hard to support whanau who are struggling with attendance.



We appreciate that most parents are calling in the morning to let us know about absenteeism. Just a reminder, registers close at 9:30 and after that absenteeism is recorded as "truant".

World Book Day

Dress-Up day was a blast— with so many kiddies dressed up and talking about books that they obviously loved. Photos will go into your child's learning journey books, which will be available at the end of the term, as your child's mid-year report. Until then, can you guess these story characters?





Not happy? Write a letter!

Time to put into action all those persuasive letter writing skills that you gained at school!

Whilst I was at the Rural and Teaching Principals' Conference this week, we were reminded that change from the government often comes when we stand together. Most recently we saw this when parents and teachers opposed the announcement to axe school lunches. Very quickly, this decision was reversed.

I have a favour to ask of you– please stand with the principals in opposing two major policies. The first is to stop fund Reading Recovery and the second is to divert funds to the creation of charter schools. Both policies take away from our special needs children.

Reading Recovery is an essential intervention for those struggling with early literacy, and as many parents will tell you, it has really helped our struggling Mokoia children to get on the reading ladder. If your child benefited from Reading Recovery, please write to the minister and tell her how important it has been to your child's learning journey.

The second announcement– to create charter schools (which were abolished in 2018) -will divert much needed money from children with special needs, thus creating greater inequity for our tamariki.

Currently our school receives very little funding. Typically, we receive 3/4 hour a days funding from the ministry. This means that we pay for two of our teacher aides out of our operations funds and our savings. We are not alone in this, and we are very fortunate to have savings that we can call on– many other schools do not.

Today, we calculated that if every school were to have a share of the \$153 million pledged to charter schools, each school would have \$60K . This would mean that we could properly fund teacher aides. It means that there would be greater equity for students of all abilities.

Please address your outraged letters to Rt Hon Erica Stanford– you can email it to E.stanford@ministers.govt.nz or post it to Minister of Education, Freepost Parliament, Private Nag 18888, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160.

Letters don't need to be long and if you ask for a reply, she is obligated to do so.

We are stronger together!

