



Howick Primary School

Term 2 Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Our first week in term 2 has simply flown by in a massive hurry. Thankfully, the fine weather is making for a very good start to the winter term.

We are incredibly fortunate to welcome two new staff - Lorraine Shen is joining our burgeoning New Entrant department, where we have enrolments rushing in the door. We have employed Anna Arcuri to be our curriculum coach and mentor across the school, bringing her many years of experience doing just this in Queensland and Victoria. She will also be teaching in classes on some days.



Our beautiful **Junior Playground** is being **officially opened this Friday at 2pm** so make sure you have your best dress pressed and your shoes shone. We have special dignitaries coming - including our local MP. Come and celebrate the fruition of all the hard work and fundraising.

You are Invited
to our
Junior School Playground
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Friday, 11 May at 2pm



**Howick Primary
School**

I'd like to specially thank the wonderful group of parents and staff who came to school last weekend for a **working bee** to tidy up our school grounds and prepare flower beds for our Flower Festival early in term 4. We also prepared the new growing area for our Education for Sustainability programme. Check our new planters and the outdoor classroom area where we will hold some community learning experiences in the near future. (How to compost. What is Permaculture? etc) This was made possible by the generous nomination of our school by grandmother of one of our students, Kim Harris, who won us a \$5000 voucher at Mitre 10. The outdoor classroom was designed by a young Permaculturist, Chris Anderson, who gave his time for free so our students will be able to benefit from the opportunities that will abound in this space. Huge thanks to Joe Barker of JFB Builders who was the chief builder and helped us source best value materials and Andy and Anika Haigh of Daltons Landscape supplies who supplied stones, base course and garden mix at a discounted price for all the new beds. We are incredibly grateful for these valued contacts so if you have the ability to help us source goods at great prices or donated, please get in touch with me. l.callister@howickprimary.school.nz



Coming to the garden area soon is a seed and plant raising area under the "Trees for Survival" programme, sponsored by one of our grandparents Susan Howe of Mike Pero Highland Park. This is an amazing programme that will provide a great focus and practical action restoring trees to waterways and conservation land.

Without your support, such projects would not be possible. We are incredibly grateful for generous donations of time, contacts and money to help us to provide better learning facilities and opportunities for our children to thrive.

During the winter term, our biggest cost is covering for sick teachers so can you please help us out by ensuring you keep sick children at home and collect them quickly when we call you so they can recover well and not transfer germs to our staff. We have had sick children waiting for hours for parents or emergency contacts to collect them. Please ensure we have your most current phone contacts as it is quite distressing for your child when our office staff cannot make contact quickly with you.

Our school policies are available online through a website called "Schooldocs". To check any policies out

1. Go to www.schooldocs.co.nz
2. Click **Search for your school**.
3. Start typing the school's name and then select it from the dropdown list.
4. Enter the community username and password. (**howickprimary / willoughby**)

This month we welcome your comments on the policy for "Reporting to Parents".

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Grandparents' Day is on Thursday 7th June - following Queen's Birthday weekend. This is a fabulous opportunity for Grandparents or "elders of significance" to come back to school. Please invite all the grandies who are able to join us. We will serve scones and cream for the adults for morning tea. More details closer to the time.

For Hire - Office Space “The Clinic” at the top right hand entrance of the school. The old speech clinic has been refurbished for use such as counselling, music tuition, consultation etc. If you know someone who might be interested in using the space, it can be rented for hours or days as required. Please contact Marsha at the school office for more information.

Campaigns by NZEI -

Mana taurite - Support Staff



Kua wai te wa - for Teachers



NZEI are campaigning for Support Staff to be paid at a fair hourly rate (currently below the “living” wage) but as our Teacher Aides are mostly paid through government funding, the school is not able to meet a pay rise through the already-stretched operations grant. The government must act on the plethora of promises it made to safeguard our children. Our Teacher Aides do valuable work to support teachers and learning. They deserve better working conditions.

We have a serious teacher crisis in New Zealand which is exacerbated in Auckland with our high cost of living. Here are some scary statistics:

- Over the past 6 years there has been a 40% drop in those training to teach
- 40% of new teachers leave the profession within the first five years
- 35% of our experienced teachers will be eligible to retire during the next 10 years and many are leaving early.

We are fortunate to have a full complement of staff here at Howick Primary, however your children are at risk in the future if these gaps in personnel are not filled and teachers retained and trained. We have had a high rate of teacher turnover at Howick Primary school as many have moved away from Auckland or out of teaching altogether. Some of this is due to incredible expectations being loaded onto teachers through paperwork, never-ending assessment and compliance. We have a reduced pool of specialist support as the population grows incredibly but specialist staff are not replaced when they leave or the ones who remain are stretched over larger and larger groups of higher needs children.

Please support our teachers in the bid to improve the quality of learning and teaching able to be provided for your children. We will have another paid union meeting later in June and we will be planning to keep the school open for business but the programmes will be worked around non-union staff during the meeting. You will receive warning when the next Paid Union Meeting is.

Parking and keeping within the road rules continue to be a challenge for some of our parents. Yellow lines are illegal to park alongside whether for 10 seconds or 10 minutes and our neighbours do not appreciate you parking across their driveways or stopping in their designated parking area. However, there is a solution. You can either:

1. Join a walking school bus and not need to park at all (see Mrs Toetu in Room 2 for more information).
2. Park in one of the back streets and enter through the back gates - Freyberg place and Juliet Avenue have lots of space to park and walk into school.

Please always remember to cross at the crossing, or if in a side street, park on the same side as the entrance so your child doesn't have to cross and risk being hit. Not every driver takes care unfortunately.

We are sending Auckland transport and the Police evidence to warn or charge repeat offenders because we take safety for our students very seriously.

Board of Trustees News:

Meetings this term: - Monday May 14, Monday June 11 and Monday July 2. 7pm in the Boardroom. Public welcome.

Bio of each of the Trustees:

Christina Bevan

Hi, I am Christina Bevan, the present Chairperson of the Board of Trustees; commonly called Chris (or Mrs Bevan - the music teacher for all the children at Howick Primary.) Married to Lee, I am the proud mother of 4 boys, aged 24, 18, 15 and 11. Our 11 year old, Quinn, started at HPS as a new entrant and is now attending Year 7 at Howick Intermediate School. I am a self employed musician, musical director and music teacher and really enjoy the time that I spend with our wonderful HPS students in music and song. I feel privileged to be a Board Member and Chairperson of the Board, representing our school community in the governance of Howick Primary.

Stu McColl

I'm Stuart McColl, one of the current parent Board of Trustees members. I joined the board mid trustee term in 2015. I'm married to my lovely wife Amy, dad to our three kiddies Zoe (8), Asher (6), and Quinn (1). As a profession I'm a senior manager for J.A. Russell Ltd, New Zealand largest electrical and data supplier, specialising in Data & Technology. I bring to the Board of Trustees a high level of commercial experience and business acumen, obtained from working in the private sector, flanked by grounded practical and technical skills. I have found the Board of Trustees environment a great place for individuals to serve as a team and utilise their combined skills to benefit the wider school. It's has been a pleasure to be involved thus far with Howick Primary School, and I look forward to continuing to help improve school life and the education of our kids.

Peter Mitchell

My Partner, Wil (Executive Officer, School secretary, PA, Vice-Chair of the PTA, the face of the school and always smiling) and I have two most beautiful boys, Bo and Miguel. We came from South Africa almost five years ago and found this beautiful school in Howick which is full of personality, potential and awesome people doing great work with our children. Our family was embraced by the community and have developed strong bonds and friendships with many of the lovely people that have children in the school and that work at the school. We are privileged to be part of this community. This school and it's community are supportive, encouraging and loving. Everyone is focused on achievement and everyone celebrates it with all their hearts.

It is a great pleasure for me to be the Treasurer of the BoT and to be working with the Communications and Marketing.

I have had many years of experience in business management and have a creative mind so I look forward to finding ways that I can contribute in a positive way that will enrich HPS and build lasting relationships. I enjoy working with the team on the BoT and with Leyette as Principal of this school.

John Scanlan

My name is Jonathan Scanlan. I am a parent elected Board of Trustee Member as of December 2016. My role is to assist and help to work through any issues, or matters arising both from the parents and caregivers, and the teaching staff of HPS. I am enjoying this role and I keep learning what and how to perform my service to the benefit of HPS children, Staff and Parents/Caregivers. I believe Together we can help to take HPS further and higher.

Mo Stewart

I am Mo Stewart and I am the Montessori representative for Howick Primary School's Board of Trustees. My daughters are 5 and 8 and both attend Howick Primary School's Montessori unit in Rooms seven and eight. As an artist I hope to bring a different perspective to the board while keeping the best interest of the school and children of Howick Primary in mind.

Leyette Callister serves on our Board of Trustees as the Principal and Kumud Gupta is the Staff Representative.

Our staff members featured in this newsletter are Mrs Lydia Snyman from Room 4 and our wonderful librarian Susie.



Food- Nachos
Movie- Anything Marvel / Pitch Perfect
Book- Footrot Flats
Author- Murray Ball
Colour- Green
Drink- Jim, Jack
Season- Winter
Sports- Cricket and Rugby
Fast Food- Pizza
Singer- Elvis Presley
Hobby- Playing Video Games and Diamond Dotz
Subject- Everything
Store- The Red Shed aka The Warehouse
Dessert- Mrs Callister's Lemon Cheesecake
Flower- Bird of Paradise
Word - Plonker



Where did you go to school?- Palmerston North.

How long have you been teaching?- I have proudly been Howick Primary's Librarian for 6 awesome years.

How many siblings do you have and where do you fit into your family? I have one brother and one sister.



Food- Lasagne
Movie- Semi Soet
Book- The Shack
Author- Deon Meyer
Colour- Pink
Drink- Coffee
Season- Spring
Sports- Gymnastics
Fast Food- Chicken Nuggets
Singer- Steve Hofmeyr
Hobby- Reading
Subject- Literacy
Store- KMart
Dessert- Malva Pudding
Flower- Carnation
Word- Great



Where did you go to school?- Stoffberg High School in Brakpan, South Africa

How long have you been teaching?- 21 years

How many siblings do you have and where do you fit into your family?- One brother and one sister and I am the middle child.

Kind regards
Leyette Callister