



# Howick Primary School Newsletter 2 Term 3 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The crazy spring weather and several bouts of chicken pox have had an impact on the health of our students and staff this term. It is usual to have this wild, wet and windy weather but it seems to have been extreme and incredible to see bright sunshine with children happily playing followed very quickly by screams as children dash inside to escape the deluges, then to have the sunshine out again a few minutes later. I hope that the holidays will be more settled and that everybody can enjoy a well-earned rest and recuperation so we can all enjoy the final term, with all the myriad events and winding up for the year with energy and enthusiasm.

Coming up in the second week is our **Inaugural Annual Flower Show**. Some of you will remember something like this when you went to school and may remember sand saucers, aqua jars and miniature gardens. Teachers will be sending home lists of "findable" items so our children can enjoy the fun of creating items of beauty with nature as well as creating some fun things out of recycled bits and bobs.

These are such things as:

- Large clean and clear glass or plastic jars with screw top lids. Please remove the labels.
- Clean yogurt containers
- Clean pantyhose or knee highs
- Old clean socks
- Large plastic meat trays
- Shoebox Lids
- Large clean shallow plastic containers eg ice cream containers, take away containers, take away noodle bowls
- Feathers.

If you have any of these items, please send along with your child in the first week next term so they can be used to create fabulous exhibits.

We will be having a wonderful show for whanau to enjoy from **2:30 -5:30 pm on Wednesday 24 October** so please let your other generations and significant people know to come and be delighted by the creations. Every class will be filled with a variety of artwork, displays and beautiful floral designs. Mark it on the calendar now.



---

The Howick Primary School Website [www.howickprimary.school.nz](http://www.howickprimary.school.nz) is back up and running after a period of redesign. It is not yet fully complete but we continue to work on links and pages. Check it out and send feedback to me [l.callister@howickprimary.school.nz](mailto:l.callister@howickprimary.school.nz) if you have suggestions or ideas. We do use Facebook for instant postings but continue to use the website for more detailed information and links to the PTA and Montessori information pages. My sincere thanks to Wilbyn Mitchell who has put in countless hours to load information to make the website user friendly and a valuable repository of information.

---

It has been great to see the increased uptake of users of our online payment system Kindo. Here is the link if you are not yet a regular user [Kindo website](#) It cuts down another interface of human error and enables us to receipt directly into our student management system, which means greater accuracy of payment etc information. At some point in the future, we will no longer handle cash as this is less and less viable and parents clearly enjoy the simplicity of making payments electronically. Speaking of money, we greatly appreciate the **school donation** that families voluntarily give us to help run the school. We do rely on this as the funding we receive from the government does not keep pace with increasing costs for us to provide the kind of education you want and expect for your tax paying dollars. You can make regular donation payments if the total is too great at once through this wonderful payment system. The PTA is looking to use them soon as well to make your lives easier and save the challenge of always having to find \$s.

---

Have you been down to visit our Native Tree area - about to be signposted as **“The Pukatea, Kahikatea Native tree Planting”**. All the children took part in getting our area started. In the future we hope to add a park bench and I am also on the hunt for some kahikatea and Pukatea trees to plant there. This is an important legacy for this area since these are the trees that once spread far and wide around here. Please feel free to visit with your children and have them show you which trees they personally planted. If you know anybody who would like to donate a park bench to install in the area, please let me know.



---

We are sad to be fare welling one of our senior school teachers and Team Leader, Mrs Kumud Gupta. Kumud has won an Associate Principal position at Clayton Park School in Manurewa. We wish her well in her new role and thank her for her hard work while at Howick Primary school.

Coming in to replace her in the classroom is Ms Sally Webster, who is fresh in from Australia. Mrs Anita Munshi will take over the Team Leadership and will continue as Team Leader in 2019. Also starting in term 4, we have a new teacher in the growing new entrant classroom. Miss Samantha Harrison, currently a member of the NZ Black Sticks hockey team, will be joining Mrs Oliphant in Room 9 and 10.



Last week we held our Chinese Families consultation and two weeks ago we had our Maori families in to discuss how we can best serve the needs of our families. I believe that through these opportunities for dialogue, we can ensure that we capture a deeper understanding of your expectations and needs so that we may better plan and provide for greatest success. Unfortunately, our Pasifika families meeting had to be cancelled but we will try to have another chance to chat next term. As a result of the Maori families consultation we are planning some visible representations around the school, which we will develop together. There are five panels installed up in the back of the hall that will depict elements of our Maori whakapapa and journey. We would like to have four pou (**Meaning - (noun)** support, supporter, stalwart, mentor, symbol of support, metaphoric post - someone, a group, tribe, gathering or something that strongly supports a cause or is a territorial symbol, such as a mountain or landmark, representing that support.) carved to represent our whanau. If you know any traditional carvers who might be able to help us to carve pou, please let me know. They will be used to strengthen our whanau links and create visible markers around the school.

---

I cannot thank our amazing PTA enough. Their unfailing work to bring us fun and amazing events, raising funds for much needed school equipment is to be celebrated with enormous cheers and appreciation. Every pair of helping hands is valued so if you think you can help out for any of the PTA events, please contact Fanchelle Barker at [pta@howickprimary.school.nz](mailto:pta@howickprimary.school.nz)

Have a safe and happy holiday. See you all back in two weeks.

Kind regards

Leyette Callister  
Principal