

Rāpare iwa o Hui-tanguru: Thursday 9 February 2017

<http://www.levinnorth.school.nz>

<https://www.facebook.com/levin.northschool>

A Change To The Way We Do Things ...

I have had a couple of queries about why there are **no exercise books** on our stationery lists this year.

As you all know we are extremely focused on helping children to **develop a love of learning** and of course **raising student achievement** across everything we do. We are always looking for ways to do things better, so this year after reviewing some aspects of our practice, we are trialling a different approach to recording learning.

Moving to 'scrapbooks' as opposed to using lined exercise books is a progressive educational move consistent with our philosophy of meeting the needs of individuals. **We are not moving away from teaching writing, reading and maths - just looking for a better way of recording everything.** Writing in today's curriculum is not just about writing stories - it is about purposeful writing; diagrams, flow charts, recipes, brainstorm and writing across many different curriculum areas. Many of these types don't fit nicely into a traditional exercise book.

Using scrapbooks is an effort to ensure we capture ALL of the students writing (especially in the junior school) in one place. Teachers can select various styles of lines on a page (photocopied) and children choose which ones to write on. Some have a picture space with lines for writing underneath, some have wide lines, others have thin lines, yet others have no lines at all. Believe it or not, this small element of choice makes a big difference for some children, especially those who see a 'book' and panic!

We also think that it will be very easy for you as parents to see the progression in their learning. Please come and see me if you would like to know more. I will talk about writing in the senior school next week as it seems that this too is causing concern for some families.



Maths comes in all shapes and sizes!

Powhiri

Thank you to everyone who came to our Powhiri on Tuesday morning. I am told it was very well attended. I unfortunately was given a tummy bug by my grandchildren so couldn't be there! Thank you to Mr B and everyone who contributed to making it such a relaxed and inclusive event. It was great to see such a turnout from Foxton School! (Mr D's previous school).



Kids don't know the water is cold!

Scooters, Brains and Helmets

It was brought to my attention late last year that we should consider asking students riding scooters to wear helmets and, after having a look around at the speed the kids move at, I tend to agree. One small knock could cause quite a nasty head injury and I certainly don't want to be ringing any of you to tell you that this has happened. So we are asking that if your child is bringing his or her scooter to school, that they wear a helmet. Help us to protect brains!

School Donation - A big 'thank you' to parents who have paid their school donations already this year. Just a reminder that for one child it is \$60 per year (\$15 per term) and for 2 or more children it is \$80.00 per year (\$20 per term). Receipts will be issued.

Levin North School is a positive, caring community, which promotes lifelong learning, celebrates individuality and encourages participation and success for all.

Four-Year-Old Class

We are starting our Tuesday four-year-old class on 7 March. This class is an opportunity for four year olds and their whanau to come and be part of our school. It is a fun afternoon session introducing everyone to learning at North. If you would like to know more, please come and see Gaywyn Shippam, Hoani Perigo or one of our office staff.

"When I say to a parent,
"read to a child",
I don't want it to sound like medicine.
I want it to sound
like chocolate."

Mimi Fox

Technology Purchases

In our senior classes in particular, students are increasingly using the google environment on a daily basis. As a school we have a significant investment in technology but we are also happy for students to bring their own devices. We are part of Te Hinaki, a local trust for the purchasing of devices, so if this is of interest and you are considering this for your child, come and have a chat with Mr Perigo or ask at our school office for information. You are of course welcome to purchase one from anywhere if this works for your family.

SPECTACULAR SPORTS WORD

SWIMMING

Year 0-3 swimmers will be finishing at the end of Week 5 so that the Year 4-6 children can have a turn. Please bring togs; rain or shine! The pool is very warm when it's raining!

SPORT TEAMS

Thank you to those of you who have returned notices to join a sports team. Keep them coming!

Please be aware that your child will not be placed in a team unless full payment is made first.

Lunch Supplier

We have a **NEW** lunch supplier this year and there is a **NEW Menu**. This can be found on our school website with a paper copy at our office. The process will be the same as last year. Some people are still using the old lunch menu which is causing a lot of problems for our new supplier. Please ensure you use the new menu – making life a little easier for everyone! Thank you.

Paper Copy or Not

We are trying to reduce the amount of paper we use as a school so are encouraging families to read the newsletter on our **website or Facebook** page. However, if you would like to continue to receive **a paper copy**, please complete the attached form.

If you do not return the form, we will presume you don't want a paper copy.

Music at North

Nikki is offering music lessons again at North for 2017 and the form below is to gauge how much interest there is, as we have several options. We are looking at offering tuition in other instruments; this will depend on interest. As per last year the cost will be \$10.00 per lesson and lessons will be for approximately 20 minutes in small groups. This money must be paid to the school office. Please note that this year, if payments fall behind more than two weeks, we will have to stop the lessons as we had a considerable short fall in funding last year which could be better used in other ways. I know we said this last year, but this year it will happen! Please complete the attached form if you would like your child to have music lessons at school.

Fundfinders Meeting (first one for the year)

Monday 20 February at 3.20 pm in our school staffroom, is the first Fundfinders meeting for the year. This small hard working group of parents do so much for our school and they are currently looking at helping us to upgrade our school sports uniforms (amongst other things). They meet approximately twice a term and help to run various events at school. Even if you can't attend everything, come along and meet them – they welcome new members and new ideas!

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**Please Ensure You Complete PERMISSION FORMS For
CLASS TRIPS AND MEDIA PUBLICITY and Return To The Office.**

Music at North

My child would like to learn: drums guitar keyboards vocal (Please circle)

Child's name: _____ Room No: _____

Parent/Caregiver Name: _____

Parent/Caregiver Signature: _____



Paper Copy of Newsletter

Our family would like a paper copy of the newsletter.

Youngest Child's name: _____ Room No: _____

Parent/Caregiver Signature: _____

