

Rāpare tekau mā iwa o Hui-tanguru: Thursday 16 February 2017

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

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Using Devices to Raise Achievement

Over the last few weeks I have had some parents asking questions about writing or written language and in particular the exercise books which I covered last week and using devices rather than pen or paper. Written language in the curriculum is about conveying ideas to an audience and there is a **huge amount of research to substantiate raised achievement levels for boys in particular, if they are allowed to use IT (or devices).**

The **benefits of using IT** and the google world from one study were that:

- Students conducted more research into their writing.
- They wrote, revised and published more.
- They received more feedback with more immediacy (which is much more conducive to raising achievement than collecting in books, and teachers marking overnight).
- They wrote in a variety of genres.
- They produced higher quality writing.



We asked our students in Year 6 whether they would prefer to use a device or paper and pen to write and **only four students** in a class of 28 preferred the latter. The reasons given for the devices, from our own students, were that they could write more, their work was neat, they could get their ideas down more quickly, they liked to see it physically as they wrote and they felt that they were writing for a real audience.

The other confusing thing for parents is that **written language is not handwriting** and **it is not spelling**. Spelling is one of the seven components of writing and is known as a surface feature. It is an interesting point that errors (like spelling) in writing have not changed since the advent of devices. The only thing that has changed is that there are more of them because children write more!

Handwriting is not a category at all; in fact NZQA, last year, started trialling digital assessment for NCEA with the goal of having all exams completely digital by 2020. This will mean that students who are currently in Year 6 will be completing their first year of NCEA in 2022 – if everything goes to plan (and the government seems determined) they will not be handwriting any external exams. This, I believe is exciting, as they will be able to demonstrate what they know, rather than what they can handwrite; perhaps something to think about.

Out of bad comes good!!!!

Most of you will know that we were burgled earlier this week and the perpetrators managed to get away with 9 chromebooks and 2 ipads. If you read the above – it has certainly not helped progress this week! What really peeves us is that this person or people have taken stuff from kids in this community! **BUT yesterday I had a phone call from the Levin Club who are hosting a Quiz Night on Saturday 18 March to help us buy replacements!!! Unbelievable generosity** - So dust off your team gear

Quiz Night

Saturday 18 March; 8.00 pm
4-6 people in a team (we keep all proceeds from ticket sales)
Raffles and Entertainment from 7.00 pm
Tickets \$5.00 per person from Levin North School or the Levin Club from Friday

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and help the community to help us – **THANKS HEAPS LEVIN CLUB!**



Rooms 15 and 17 enjoy a walk to Te Takere... It's all about enjoying our local resource and promoting reading!

Learn more about how to help your kids become better writers ...

We are hoping to have a writing hui (yet to be named) on March 15 in the evening. We are in the early planning stages but we are hoping to have a 'kid performance' of some kind, maybe some kai and follow this with a question and answer session about how we can all work together to raise the quality of writing in our school. Please put this in your phones as it would be great to have a HUGE turn out!

Lost Property

Believe it or not we are already starting to collect **lost property** and this year we have decided that at the end of each month we will be taking it to a local charity shop, as over an entire term the pile is HUGE! Please come and have a look at the collection near the crossing regularly. I can't believe some of the clothing that ends up in there!

Start of the Year Learning Conversations are Coming ...

We have scheduled **Tuesday 28 February, Wednesday 1 March and Thursday 2 March** for our learning conversations to start the year. These are

a chance for parents, teachers and children to set goals and talk through expectations. They are held over three days: **Tuesday 28 Feb 3.15 -6.00 pm; Wednesday 1 March 3.15 – 8.00 pm and Thursday 2 March 3.15 – 6.00 pm.** Once again you will be able to book your time online and let's see if we can get 100% turn out again! Please login to our website www.levinnorth.school.nz , click on the tab **School Interviews** and enter code **uxxyw** to make your booking.

SPECTACULAR SPORTS WORD

CRICKET ACADEMY

Our two cricket academy squads started their tournament yesterday afternoon down at Donnelly Park. We are the defending champions and we started our season very successfully. Both Team Green and Team Black came away with wins! Thank you to Danny Bruhn and former Levin North student Lewis Bertinshaw, for leading the teams.

Players of the day were: Central and Lakym. Well done boys.

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.**

Ngā mihi nui

Anna Cooper (Sports Co-ordinator)

anna@levinnorth.school.nz

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Religious Education

Alida Louw and her team will once again be offering religious education to children of families who want to take part. Their curriculum is called 'Life Choices' and will happen on a Thursday lunchtime in Room 16. Classes will start in the first week of March (Thursday 2 March) and if you are interested, can you give your child's name to the school office. If you would like more information, please contact Alida on 06 368 5895.

SWIS and Counsellor

Did you know that as a school we provide support for students and families through the services of our Social Worker in Schools (SWIS) and a Counsellor? Tama (SWIS) and Adi (Counsellor) are very happy to help families or children in any way they can! If you would like to know more about the support they can provide, please email gaywynn@levinnorth.school.nz.



Maths Mapping in Room 7



Science in Room 7



Frogman! – Room 7

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