

Rāpare tekau mā wha o Mahuru: Thursday 14 September 2017

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

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

We have been hearing....

I thought this week I would address some things that we have been hearing about our school from social media. It is great that we have democracy and freedom of speech and most of the time I let unfounded 'criticisms' wash over me (and our amazing team of teachers). However, in this instance I am commenting... Let's make sure that what we are saying in a public arena is based on fact NOT hearsay... (yes I am a little grumpy about this!)

Our kids only use technology from the day they start school. True/ False

We have a focus on personalised learning. In our junior school this starts with a play based approach (like most schools in the area) and VERY LITTLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY. The reason for this is that our children are learning to relate to each other in a new environment. Yes, our children do increasingly work on devices as they move through the school (look at the future of the world and the expectations of our new digital curriculum) BUT they always have a choice. The 'rumour' that our children never use pens or pencils is completely untrue. Come and have a look at what happens – any time.



Pens and pencils in hand...

Our school is beset with bullies. True/ False

All schools in Horowhenua have their share of children who behave inappropriately from time to time and we are NO different. A **very small number** of these behaviours could be classed as bullying. Perhaps the difference with our school (maybe) is that we are prepared to talk about these openly and help to educate our children so that firstly they know how to be good friends and secondly good citizens when they grow up.

School is only a part of the day and unfortunately wider society does not always set good examples. There are some pretty sad statistics around about mental health in NZ and surely we all owe it to each other to start having open conversations about this! Come along **TONIGHT** and hear about how we can ALL work together and set the examples our children need to see.



Learning through play!

Levin North is knocking out walls and creating HUGE spaces with 60 kids. True/ False

Our classrooms will be refurbished over the next few months BUT this is mainly the toilet areas in the admin and senior blocks. We have NO plans to knock down walls whatsoever, only give things a facelift (so to speak!). Please help us to dispel this rumour too!

ALL SCHOOLS IN LEVIN have recently had great ERO reviews. True/ False

All the schools in our area have recently been reviewed and all can provide an outstanding education for your children. All have incredibly committed teachers (who are people too). COME and SEE what we do BEFORE making a judgement about bypassing your **local** school.

Taking a Stand Hui tonight in Room 3 at 6.30 pm
See you all there...

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

Some classic one liners...

Some of our tamariki say the funniest things – I wish I could draw cartoons when I hear some of them.

Picture this... Child half lying on the couch, Teachers says “come on come and do some writing’... Child says – **I’m down to two bars!** (meaning he was tired!)

Same child later in the morning when I asked “where the ‘thinking’ was” stated... **The wifi is not working...** (meaning his own head wasn’t working!)

Te Mana o Tatou Kura Award

In an effort to help our children become more aware of the need to look after our learning spaces (and land) we have started an award called **Te Mana o Tatou Kura**. We are focussing on developing ‘pride in our school’ and each class has an area of the school as well as their classroom and immediate surroundings to care for and keep tidy. This initiative has coincided with our focus on Zero Waste but is also to build on our recycling and worm farm processes. You can help at home by encouraging your children to bring home any ‘food wrapping’ or better still, don’t send food that is prepacked! The inaugural winner of this award for the week 4-8 September was Room 14.



Mobile Phone Recycling: Bring in your old phones to school!

The RE:MOBILE product stewardship scheme is [accredited by the Ministry for the Environment](#). Recycling your phone saves valuable materials and energy while helping to look after New Zealand’s waterways. [Sustainable Coastlines](#), a multi-award winning New Zealand charity, has partnered with RE:MOBILE to collect and recycle used mobile phones. The proceeds from these mobiles help plant trees alongside our waterways to restore habitats for native animals, reduce sediment and improve water quality.

RE:MOBILE aims to:

- Reduce the environmental impact of unwanted mobile handsets in New Zealand.
- Increase mobile phone recycling awareness and change behaviour.
- Increase confidence in the industry by establishing appropriate standards of practice.
- Enable a collective industry-wide solution to the responsible management of end of life mobile handsets and accessories

MUMPS Case in Palmerston North

We have been advised by Dr Craig Thornley, Medical Officer of Health, that there has been a confirmed case of mumps in a patient from Palmerston North.

This is the first notified case of mumps in MidCentral DHB for 6 years. The notified case is suspected to have had contact with a person with presumed mumps from outside the region. You will be aware that a large outbreak of mumps is currently occurring in Auckland; cases have also occurred in other regions.

Mumps is a viral infection that causes fever and painful parotid (facial gland) swelling; the illness lasts 7-10 days and usually resolves without problems, but can result in serious complications such as swelling of the testicles, and inflammation of the brain lining.

Please see your GP if you suspect a member of your family has mumps. Children will need to stay away from school (and sport teams) for 5 days from start of parotitis while awaiting test results.

We advise good hand hygiene and cough etiquette for all suspected cases to reduce transmission.

If your child has not received the MMR vaccination and you would like them to have this, this is free at your local medical centre. This is particularly important for anyone not born in New Zealand.

Beach Clean up at Waitarere Beach this Saturday 16 September Come along from 9.00 am onwards and help our community!

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Ngā hākinakina (Gymnastics) and he kaiwaiata (the Choir)

Congratulations to ALL of the children who this week represented our school at the Horowhenua Gymnastics Festival (run by the gymnastics club) and the 'Kids for Kids' Choir performance in Otaki. We were very proud of all of you – thanks to all of the teachers and parents who made your participation in the 'events' possible.



Our choir: You were amazing!!!

Sending good messages and practising what we preach...

We had an incident this week of a parent coming in to school to 'sort out' another child. Just a word of caution – **this is not appropriate** and is actually a serious breach of school policy, as we are entrusted with keeping your children safe! We will always sort out issues between children IF WE KNOW; you would be surprised just how many times that there are two sides to a story and no one has told an adult – it is important that time is taken to find out exactly what has happened. If this happens in future we will have no choice but to call the police.

ALL visitors must sign in at the school office and ALL complaints about other students must come through a teacher (or one of the school leaders).

SENSATIONAL SPORTS WORD

Term 3, Week 8

TACKLE RUGBY COMPETITION UPDATE

Due to an extremely busy end of term, and of course the weather, our latest game against Fairfield has been rescheduled. We also hope to play a catch-up match against Taitoko next week, as well as our scheduled game against St Joseph's on Wednesday.

GYMNASTICS FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 13 September, schools from around Levin gathered at the Levin Gymnastic Club, housed within the Events Centre. All the young participants then learned what it was like to be publicly 'head over heels' in this sport.

The event was well-organised with three large groups of smaller teams moving around the three practised events. Children were kindly judged on their floor routines, beam routines and vaulted jumps. Fears over remembering routines or performing in front of strangers were replaced with feelings of relief and excitement once the children had their turns and realised that everyone else was feeling the same.

This Gym Festival was all about participation and all the children came away pleased that they had tried their best at some very unique skills. Other pleasures were found as well, from hopping like a mob of kangaroos while crossing the Club's springy floor-mats, to making fast friends with children from other schools while awaiting their chance to perform.

We are all very proud of the bravery and manners shown on the day, and many children are keen to try more gymnastic skills soon. I am sure that the Levin Gymnastic Club would be more than happy to help in this regard! Many thanks to Mrs Campbell, Miss Cook, Anna-Marie, Shelley and the parents who helped transport the children to this event, who stayed to support the children in each team, and who helped record the experiences.

Bruce Clark

Teacher in Charge – Gymnastics

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SOCCER

Next Friday 22 September, Mr Perigo is escorting the Year 5 and 6 Futsal teams to a competition being held in Palmerston North. The teams have been practising and it should be good fun! We wish our children all the very best.

A reminder that our interschool soccer season begins in **Term 4**. More information will come out soon. As usual there will be a request for support in coaching or managing.

And finally...

SCHOOL APP

Remember to download the school app if you want to get more information about sports or school activities. Contact the office if you want to know more!

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Netball, Basketball and Hockey uniforms need to be returned to school washed and dried please.

SPORTS BOARD

For those of you who are not familiar where this is or what it is, inside the office to the right, there is a board which has photos and sports information on it. Feel free to check it out, talk to the staff in the office or email me.

"Start unknown, finish unforgettable."

~ NIKE ~

Ngā mihi nui

Anna Cooper (Sports Co-ordinator)

anna@levinnorth.school.nz

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