

Ko Rāpare rua tekau ma tahi o Pipiri : Thursday 21 June 2018

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A couple of 'writing' things this week and a couple of entries about developing people to be people....

This week is Matariki. Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. This cluster rises in mid-winter and for many Māori, it is the start of a new year. Matariki literally means the 'eyes of god' (mata ariki) or 'little eyes' (mata riki). According to myth, when Ranginui, the sky father, and Papatūānuku, the earth mother, were separated by their children, the god of the winds, Tāwhirimātea, became so angry that he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens (hence the stars). Traditionally Matariki is a time to remember those who have died in the previous year, and also a time for harvesting food and celebrating what is to come!

As part of the celebrations in our area, our Kapa Haka group are performing at Te Takere this Friday between 6.00 - 7.30 pm.

A great Matariki story....

It was the 26th of June and Brooke and Katie were talking. Brooke was mumbling on about something in two days. "What are you even talking about?" asked Katie "You don't know about my birthday?" said Brooke "you are supposed to know!" "Pfft" chimed in Jasmine.

"I doubt you are telling the truth" Natalie was secretly listening. She had been wanting a subject for a new black magic trick. "Natalie, you there?" Millie was sitting next to her. "Oh yeah, i'm here" stumbled Natalie. "Want an oreo?" Lily asked her friends. "Oreos are gross" Xanthe said, while eating her sushi. "CAN I HAVE SOME?!" shouted Natalie. "Here" Xanthe handed a chicken sushi roll over. Natalie thought she could use Brooke for her subject and she could do it on her birthday, the 28th of June.

HE ROLLED AROUND!

Brooke was at her house, sitting with her family, her mum, dad, brother, cousin, aunty and uncle. Natalie was watching from the bushes. She thought to herself, six people!, the rule is I can't do this trick with people close by. But Natalie had to do this.

Her trick was to see if she could get people into the sky and turn them into stars, only for a little bit. Natalie thought it'd be cool for a birthday present. She decided her family could try too. So, she chanted the words and sprayed some powder, and Brooke and her six family members turned into stars.

Then Natalie read the book, ten minutes at the most, then I have to bring them down or they'll stay there forever. Natalie waited for ten minutes, then brought them back, but they didn't come down. "WHY WONT IT WORK?!" Natalie was very worried. She read ~~THE THERE ARE MORE THAN 300~~ PEOPLE YOU MUST ONLY LET THEM STAY FOR 5

"OH NO!"

Natalie had trapped Brooke and her family permanently in the stars. Natalie looked into the stars and the next night Natalie looked once again, only to find they were gone. So, now every 28th of June look into the sky to see Brooke and her family.

Author: Natalie Room 3

Rebel Writers

Over the past ten weeks, a group of writers have been part of the **Rebel Writers Group**. This group, led by Mr D and Mrs McCallum, have been **writing to volunteers in our community** as part of a research project aimed at helping them to improve their skills. Each week the writers write one letter in a special writing book and the responders then respond.

This week we had a celebratory morning tea as this has been a VERY successful initiative. The boys have all made great progress in various ways and built some lovely 'pen pal' relationships. They (the writers) were all asked what they learned



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and enjoyed the most and Riley gave the most 'beautiful' explanation. He said, 'It is like the pen and paper become one and they are your voice'. It was enough to bring tears to the eyes of many of the adults in the room! **Thanks to all of our volunteer responders.** If you are interested in being part of the project in Term Two, please let us know! **Here they all are above!**

Now on to people being people...

Skills Shortages and Volunteers

Many of you will have children who are working with 'Adi' and we have recently had a bit of misunderstanding in the community about her role. **Adi is a volunteer at our school.** Each week she **volunteers** her skills as a **counsellor** to help our children (on a Wednesday) and we are VERY lucky to have her.

She manages to support our families and their tamariki, in between looking after her own family and working (for money!). **She is NOT a teacher** and while some of you might feel a little frustrated if she doesn't get to your child on a Wednesday, she does her best! **There is a severe shortage of people with her skills in the education sector** and we will continue to look after her and support her as much as we can. We trust that you will too!

Amazing sporting achievements.

We have had an amazing week of sporting achievements... Our girls rippa team won their tournament! Thanks to Emma Hansen and the team for all the skills training (at lunchtimes!) and the girls themselves who worked as a team! Their skills continued to improve throughout the day and this showed in the fact that they lost to the team in the first round that they beat in the final game. Well done Girls!

...and Lazarus whose talent shone in the swimming sports last week and it seems at club level. Any more medals around your neck Laz and you won't be able to stand up straight!



And still more in terms of sporting achievements

Congratulations to ALL of the children who participated so well in the swimming sports. Not only did they give 100% but their support of each other was quite outstanding, particularly Riley who leapt into the water to help a struggling swimmer! He quite literally picked the student up over his head and carried him out to safety before even the life guard could get there! Way to go Riley!

And... lastly the basketball players. Apparently last week a team didn't turn up to play so some of our children and some from another school 'formed' a team and with the support of some of our parents and Mr B, the team that had been stood up, got to play! Way to go North school - we are so proud!

Lost 'stuff'

We still have a serious amount of lost property that accumulates and as I have mentioned before, **we have a plan!** We have decided that all unclaimed items will be given to some form of charity AFTER families have had a chance to claim things.

Every third week when we have a school assembly ALL lost property will be on display. Teachers will take the children over to have a look but we all know that there are children 'looks' and mum/dad 'looks'. **You** are most welcome to come and check the lost property (at any time actually!). Next week is assembly week so PLEASE make sure you come as after next week **ALL of the clothing will be washed, put in bags and given to a good home!**

Reminder: Our School Term ends on Friday 6 July and starts again on Monday 23 July.

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You may be aware of the nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers.

While there are many more children coming into the school system, there are not enough new teachers being trained. Urgent and significant changes are needed to ensure that the teaching profession can attract the people it needs and to ensure class sizes do not start to increase.

Today Thursday 21 June, the teachers from this school will be attending a NZEI Te Riu Roa paid union meeting regarding the *Kua Tae Te Wā* - It's Time campaign. The campaign aims to free teachers

to teach and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. The meetings will allow our teachers to discuss how the Ministry of Education has responded to changes that the union is seeking.

Some of our teaching staff are members of NZEI and legally entitled to attend this meeting. The teachers will be leaving school today to attend their paid union meeting which starts at 2.00 pm.

As you know from previous newsletters, we would appreciate those of you who can, to collect your children but will also **provide supervision** for those who are not able to do this.

I appreciate that this creates some inconvenience for families. However, I encourage you to support your teachers as they strive to achieve the changes which will safeguard quality education for all children and ensure we make teaching an attractive profession for graduates.

