

Ko Rāpare iwa o Hui-tanguru : Thursday 9 February 2023

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Haere mai, Welkom, Afio mai, Huānyíng, Yōkoso and Bienvenida to all families and whanau to Levin North School for 2023.

As you can see above **our (kura) continues in 2023 to be quite a melting pot of different cultures** and ethnicities which is great for our young people. It is a real opportunity for us to focus on our values (see the bottom of the page) as we **embrace and celebrate everyone's uniqueness**. Our goal is to treat every child as a whole person (not just a head on shoulders to be filled to quote Sir Ken Robinson).



This year before your children returned we, as teachers as well as setting up our classrooms and school for 2023, spent two 'intensive' teachers only days January 27th and January 31st.

January 27th was organised as part of the kaupapa of the **partnership between Muaūpoko and The Horowhenua Community of Learning (Kāhui Ako)**.

Educators spent the day learning about the people of our area (local iwi) and aspects of tikanga. We learned more about our



local area in 'the great race', aspects of Rongoā Māori (using Kawakawa), Harakeke (gathering and flax weaving), fishing and the history of Taitoko/Levin for our newest educators.

Once again this was an absolutely outstanding experience for all of us and given the curriculum direction of Aotearoa Histories essential for us all. We would like to publicly acknowledge the Muaūpoko Tribal Authority who were the MOST outstanding hosts, kaiako and helpers. Nga Mihi nui ki a koutou!!!!

The photos are some of our teachers 'learning!.

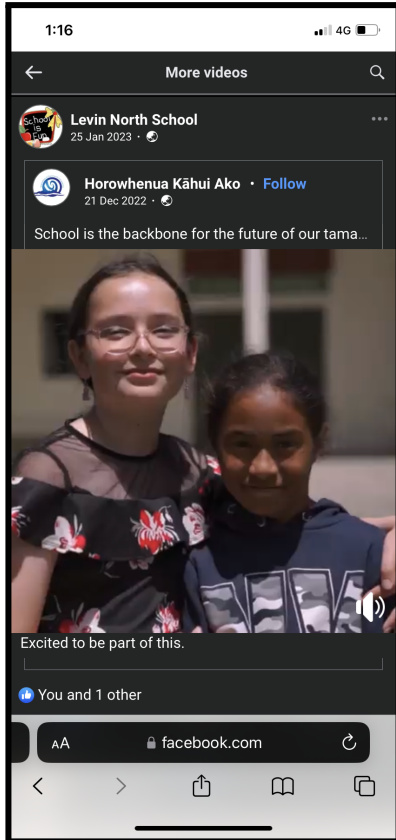
Manaakitanga *We value ourselves, others and the environment,*

Kotahitanga, *We own what we do, we have a sense of being together , we belong,* **Manawanuitanga:** *Determination to do our best and never give up*

Our own Powhiri

Last Thursday we welcomed new families to our kura. This was the first time for a long time (Covid!!!!!!) that our **Muaūpoko partners have been able to help** us in the powhiri. **We really appreciate the partnership approach and it felt right to have our iwi support us in our school- our kids felt very important.**

Thanks also to the new families who were brave enough to have this new experience.



Attendance

Some of you may have seen the campaign that our Kāhui Ako has been running across Horowhenua (and of course our two film stars Aria and Lavender (beautiful! 🍌)). There has been a short video on facebook, some 'stills' at the Focal Point movies and of course some more 'stills' on the big screen in town.

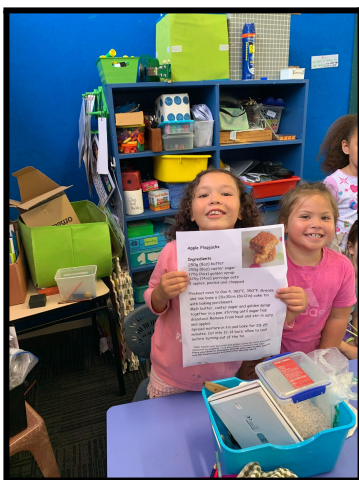
Post Covid, attendance at schools across our entire rohe hasn't been great so this campaign is part of trying to encourage whanau to get their kids to school. To date it has been shared a staggering 47,000 times - wow!!!! Although our own school is pretty good overall, we do have some little people who are only here on average 7 out of 10 days every fortnight. This doesn't sound too bad (maybe!) BUT it equates **to one entire term every year. Over 6 years at school it equates to MORE than an entire year!** This has a HUGE impact on learning at school and often means that kids who shouldn't be struggling are.

We appreciate that some of you as parents and caregivers may not have liked school but we can absolutely assure you that your kids do!!!! School has changed HEAPS - especially ours!

Please help us to BE the SCHOOL that achieves 90% attendance - now that would be amazing!

FREE Lunches continue

The quality of these has improved so much over the last year (thanks Emma Hansen and the teachers for giving their feedback) -it is great to see kids giving them a go.



This year we are looking to have 'sit down' meals in our hall (marae style) as the spin offs in terms of kids eating together in this way is HUGE. Some children may still choose to bring their own lunch and they will join us in the hall.

We continue to encourage **water only as a drink** and **nutritious food** as this is what kids' bodies and brains need. We are not the food police BUT it would be great if you could keep the treat foods for home... (chippies etc...) We also will be continuing to send all packaging home (as much as possible).

..Images are from room 11 making apple flapjacks!



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Whanau night February 16th (5.30 (Free sausage sizzle) - 7.00pm)

We are planning a whanau night on February 16th- this is the first time for a long time so come along and either have a sausage or three or bring a picnic!

This evening will be just as it says, a time for you to come to school, have a look around and do some stuff with your kids. We will have:

- The pool is open- have a swim!
- The skateboards and ramps out- learn to skate
- The unicycles out - learn to unicycle
- Classrooms open so that your kids can show you their new environment- see where they spend their time
- Games going on the field
- Meet their teacher

Nothing formal will be happening - it is just a low key get together... NOT a reporting evening!

Images....

Our pool is open and WELL used! -

It was very funny watching ex North student Sam Anderson from Horowhenua Kapiti Cricket association trying to get five year olds to follow instructions LOL - what a great start to our year!



Music lessons

These will start again on Monday 20 February with Rawiri - please let Andrea know if you would like your child to continue or start these. The cost is \$10.00 per lesson for guitar, drums, keyboards or vocals.

Come and meet the Levin North School Board of Trustees

February 20th 5.30 - 7.00 (approximately) in our staffroom is the first BOT meeting for the year. If you would like to come along and meet our board or just see what happens in the background you are most welcome!

IMPORTANT: Contact Details

At the start of each year we try to ensure we have **up to date** contact information for your child/ children. This is now even more important as ALL reporting is done through 'email' or the HERO app. **So if your phone number, email or physical address or emergency contacts have changed** can you please call in or email Andrea. office@levinnorth.school.nz.

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