

NEWSLETTER

TO ENABLE OUR LEARNERS TO BE LIFELONG
ACHIEVERS WHO CAN THINK CREATIVELY
AND CRITICALLY AS PART OF A CARING
GLOBAL COMMUNITY.



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PRINCIPAL'S PRATTLE

Kia ora koutou,

Over the next few weeks all schools in New Zealand will be involved in Union meetings to discuss the current collective agreements. This means that schools in Hawkes Bay, including ours, will be closed for instruction on Thursday 28th June from 1pm onwards. These meetings are legal entitlements and if called upon to attend by NZEI (the Teachers Union) we must do so. As a staff we would like to inform you that although entitled to legally close schools, it is an option we would not have preferred. We apologise for any inconvenience that this causes because we see you, as parents and whanau, as an important part of our school.

Whanau and whanau/school relationships are vital to the learning and well-being of our learners and we see you as our greatest allies in that learning process. Together we can achieve so much. Together we make a real difference. In saying that we would hope that you would also support us in our bid to better education in New Zealand via this bargaining process. The truth is that for us there is a whole lot more to the bargaining process than just salary increases. As a staff we know only too well how hard staff work for our learners and what our profession entails. So, there is a great deal more to the bargaining than is often commented on within the media.

There could never be enough in 'the pot of gold' for education, health and social services across New Zealand - lets be realistic about that! But we are also finding that in education more and more teachers are dropping out after five years of teaching, there are increasing levels of 'burnout' and fewer and fewer willing to take on leadership roles. We are losing too many to other sectors of the workforce where remuneration and conditions are seen to be more highly valued. Increasing salaries can and will address that.

We are also asking that teachers have more release time to plan and prepare, and that the same applies to Leadership positions. We are asking that Special Needs resourcing is improved by creating a SENCO role in all schools (Special Needs roles) and that greater support be given to struggling learners through more Resouce Teachers nationally. We'd like to see the staffing - pupil ratio lowered so that there are more teaching positions within each school. All of these concepts have the potential to greatly improve all that we do in schools for all of our learners.

Please bear with us over this process. As stated, for the staff of TPS this is less about us and more about the 'big picture' in education.

Marty Hantz

Reason #701 why you've got to love kids. A note left on my desk.....

Dear Mr Hantz,

I think school should finish at one o'clock so my teacher can go home and put on her slippers and rest.

From Ella

WIG WEDNESDAY – WHAT A SUCCESS!

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting Wig Wednesday. It was great to see many creative hair do's and fantastic wigs! In total \$677 was fundraised for Child Cancer. Fantastic stuff!

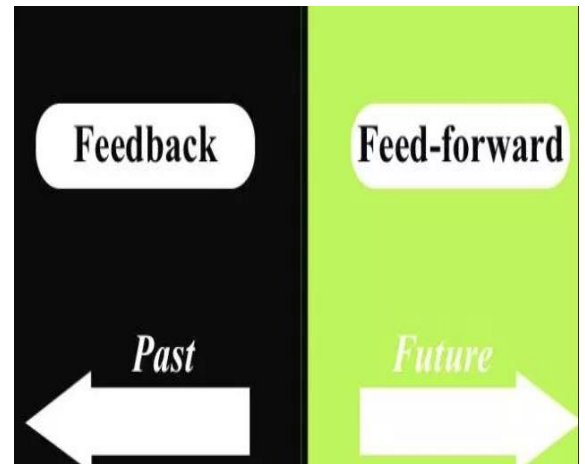


SELF-MANAGEMENT MATRIX – FEEDBACK AND FEEDFORWARD

In a nutshell the difference between these two concepts is that Feedback generally tells us what we have done well and what needs work; Feed forward tells us what we need to work on next to improve.

What we are trying to do here is encourage the learners to provide both feedback and feed forward for each other and, when given, to action it. Learners at the highest levels tend to seek that information, eager as they are to keep on improving.

It is important to note that our feedback and feed forward is firmly focused on the learning criteria ... gone are the days when we make comment about the quality of handwriting when we are learning to use metaphors! No mixed messages!



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Like most large organisations we try our very best to look after all that work at TPS and who use our school. We have a Health and Safety committee within the school to oversee this and ensure that all of those potential hazards are dealt with as fast as possible.

Recently we have had the tiles at the school front door and tiles by the Marimbas re-laid as these were uneven. We have also had a number of raised concrete edges ground down or re-concreted.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY....

Can't help but marvel at the numbers of our community who use our facilities outside of our school hours. The most recent addition to our school facility, the astroturf on the school field continues to be used so regularly. This is now including the Hawkes Bay Hockey Association who use our pitch on a Saturday morning for around 40 budding little hockey players. How neat is that!

TRAFFIC CONGESTION – AWESOME PARENTS!

A really big thank you to all of the parents and families who have been so amazing with the changes to parking due to the footpath extension on Church Rd. We have been delighted with the patience and understanding of all involved. So pleased with this ... and I reckon our neighbours will be too!

On a similar note, please remember that you cannot park next to the crossings or on yellow lines – there have been a ticket or two issued because of this by our local lads in blue.

CREATIVE WRITING by Emily Lange

On June 6th a group of 8 students from the year 5 and 6 Whare were busy learning about Green Lipped Mussels because they had been chosen to go to the Meeting of the Minds at the National Aquarium.

I had the privilege to be one of those people. There was also Sistina B, Georgia R, Lincoln G, Ivo B, Leo P, Jack P and Malachy C.

We learned about how green lipped mussel filter water. Did you know they can filter up to 350L a day?! We did an experiment putting flour into saltwater with a mussel. What we noticed was that the mussel started to filter the flour.

We also had an opportunity to open a green lipped mussel and study its insides! It was really disgusting!

Everyone did an awesome job. Well Done!



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