

From the Desk of the Principal



Tena koutou katoa, Greetings to all

Today sees the end of Term 1. It is hard to believe that 11 weeks have flown past and that by the time we return to school we will be in the last month of Autumn.

It has been great to watch our students learn and play during the term and I have noticed some really positive changes in all our students. Students are engaged in their learning, using their visuals to support their engagement in their learning and staff are also using the visuals they carry to support our students.

There has been a lot of staff and student illness this term so hopefully the holidays will allow us all to rest and enable everyone to recharge their batteries. I remember when we had terms of up to 15 weeks. I don't know how we survived those 3 term years.

You may have heard on the News yesterday that the decile rankings of schools, which decide our funding levels, will be scrapped and a new system put in its place. This new system is supposed to put more money where it is needed most. I am not at all sure how this will be decided, or how it will work. Maybe it will be based on National Standards and NCEA achievement. How would that work for us? I am becoming quite disillusioned about all the changes that are being made to education that are not based on sound research and reasoning. Change for change sake does not lead to better teachers or to better learning and achievement. I suppose it is a case of 'wait and see'.

ANZAC Day is in the second week of the holidays. Please take time to remember those who gave their lives, or whose lives changed dramatically because of our involvement in wars. I know that my dad spent 3 years in a prisoner of war camp but never spoke of it. It changed much about him though. There were things he would not eat, he would not fly or travel on a ship and his health was severely affected by the poor conditions and hardships of a POW camp. Many families became changed because of the acts of war and it is so sad that every day on TV we see wars continuing and terrorist attacks all over the world. Take time to remember.



School starts back on May 1. Have a safe and happy break. Enjoy some rest and family time.

Raewyn



Pikopiko



Easter Greeting from Rose, Ethan, Riley and Alex and the staff at Pikopiko. Here is the Easter banner we printed with fluffy pompoms. We all put our favourite stickers on it.



Rose is finishing the Easter nest cakes. We melted moro bars and added rice krispies. Sarah helped make some baskets to carry them home.



Ethan is enjoying making big circles with the rainbow ribbon.

Riley and Alex are having fun together on a favourite swing at the park in Karitane. We stop here for morning tea on the way back from riding.

