



OPUIA SCHOOL

*Manaakitanga me te Awhina
Caring and Sharing*

7 JULY 2022
Term 2 Week 10

NO SAUSAGE SIZZLE THIS WEEK - SORRY

Thought for the Day [and years to come!]

It is not our business as a school to advise parents how to run their homes. Having said that and with deep respect for our parent community and the challenges parents are facing, I'd like to share the following thoughts with you, especially as term comes towards a close and with 2 weeks of holiday beckoning.

As educators we are finding children [at younger and younger ages] are displaying the following traits more and more:

- Poor concentration and challenges with remaining focussed on tasks for longer periods of times;
- Significant temper tantrums if they don't immediately get what they want or get instant attention;
- Inability to cope with not winning at games;
- Increasing desire to stay home [on a device] rather than come into school regularly;
- Lack of resilience when faced with challenging tasks;
- Reduced desire to be with friends and an increasing desire to be alone or not go out and be with friends. More withdrawn;
- General but significant tiredness.

In talking with children, we are hearing of many instances of them:

- On devices for long periods of time;
- On devices in their bedrooms when parents think they are asleep;
- On devices late into the night;
- Arguing with parents / caregivers when they are asked to come off devices;
- On games that are definitely inappropriate for their age;
- Not being supervised when on their devices and reporting that it is easy for them to flick quickly into and out of content that a parent has told them not to access.

Our best bits of advice:

- Read up and get very knowledgeable about keeping your children safe online [see some suggestions we have put on our website > About tab > Digital Learning link];
- Be aware of the latest advice around safe amounts of screen time – see, as an example, the article: <https://familyman.movember.com/en-nz/articles/screen-time> . Parents are advised that children of the age of those attending our school should spend an absolute maximum of 2 hours a day on a device;
- Don't presume any child [however compliant, well-behaved and respectful of your wishes] is always following your instructions and expectations when online;
- Do talk to your children about why family rules around devices are so important;
- Possibly use a timer to time exactly how long a child has been on their device. The timer doesn't lie in contrast to children arguing that they have not had the amount of time on their device that you say they have had!
- Model great screen-time behaviours – a suggestion would be that the family has a basket on the kitchen table and all devices are put in there at a chosen time [7.30pm?]. Certainly, we would very strongly encourage / suggest that no child should be taking any device to their bedroom or have devices in their bedrooms.

We all, as educators, see this situation as a massive issue which can't be ignored or put in the "too hard" basket. We believe it is of major significance for the health and well-being of our children going forward. Thank you for discussing this with your children in your home. Have a lovely mid-winter break. We look forward to everyone's safe and happy return on Monday, 25th July at 9am.

THANK YOU all so much for your amazing kai that you all sent for last week's Matariki Shared Lunch.

What an absolute feast the children had. We had four tables groaning under the weight of delicious food. Thank you for sending in mainly savoury kai. There was so much to choose from and the kids had full pukus afterward. Thank you to those wonderful mummies who came and helped set it up and clean up afterwards. We hope to do it again soon so the school community can come together and meet each other. Perhaps in summer when the pool is open.



Fun Festival - Opuia:
Game 1 9:20 Court 5,
Game 2 9:45 Court 5,
Year 3&4 prize giving
10:15. Please meet at
8:50am.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

8 JULY - LAST DAY OF TERM AND
MUFTI DAY - GOLD COIN PLEASE :-)

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8 JULY - SCHOOL SHARING RIMU

SCHOOL ENDS AT 3PM



Get on board!

Nominate yourself or someone you know to be a school board member

Nomination forms have been emailed out to all eligible parents/caregivers.
Hard copies available at the school office or on request.

Returning Officer, Maree Caswell, office@opua.school.nz



A copy of the electoral roll is available to view in the school office.

What are the roles within the board?

Parent representatives

- represent the parent community. They do not necessarily need to be parents of current students at the school/kura, but must be nominated by someone who is on the school/kura's electoral roll.

Board chair

- leads the board
- chairs the meetings
- works closely with the principal to ensure seamless communication between governance and management
- cannot be the principal, staff or student representative

Principal

- is a full member of the board
- is the educational professional leader of the school/kura
- is the board's chief executive officer (CEO) and chief advisor

Staff representative

- is elected by the staff (teaching and non-teaching)
- is not a staff advocate (they must make decisions in the best interests of all students at the school/kura using all the information available)

For more information click on this link: [School Board Elections](#)

PRINCIPALS' APPRECIATION WEEK

PRINCIPALS LEADING OUR SCHOOLS
OUR COMMUNITIES OUR FUTURE.

Principals not only set policy, but they also work tirelessly to make sure the school functions at its utmost best. Tomorrow, at school sharing, we will show our appreciation to Mr McGowan who quietly works behind the scenes to make sure Opua School runs like a well-oiled machine. You are most welcome to join us in celebrating and thanking Mr McGowan tomorrow from 2-3pm.



THE NZEI HAS A NEW CAMPAIGN TIME 4 TAMARIKI WAWAHI TAHA

NZEI (the union for educators) has unfinished business. In 2019, they took key steps towards a fairer, better resourced primary education sector. But there is still work to be done.

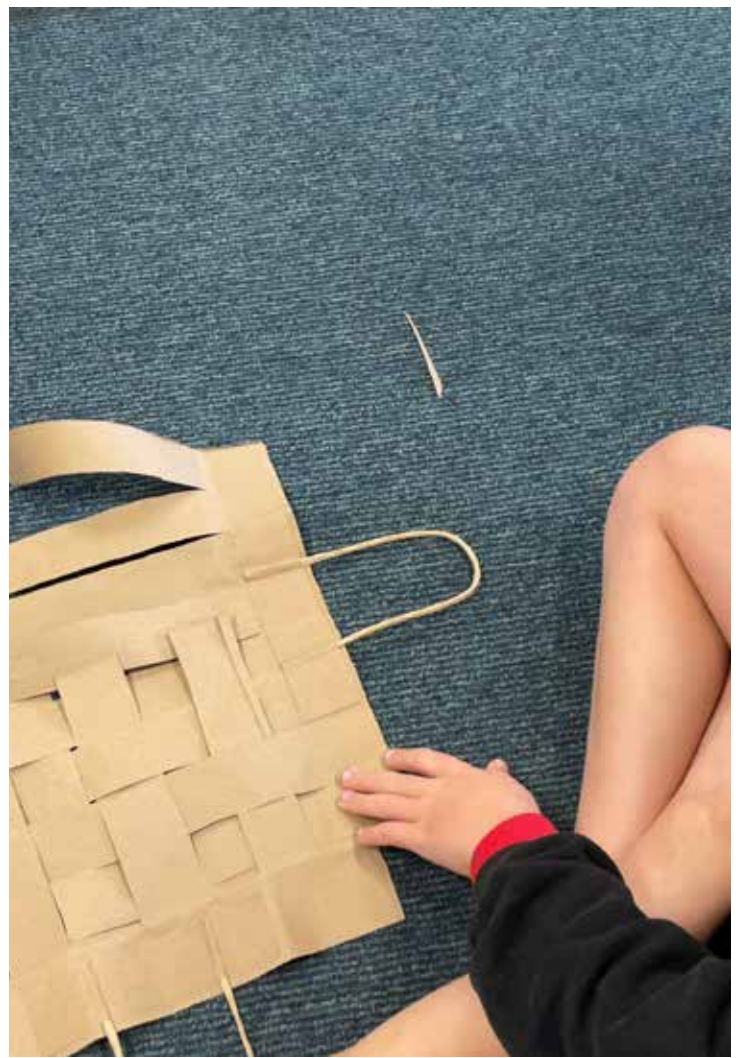
In 2022 we are calling on the Ministry to take bold action to ensure that all tamariki have the education they deserve.

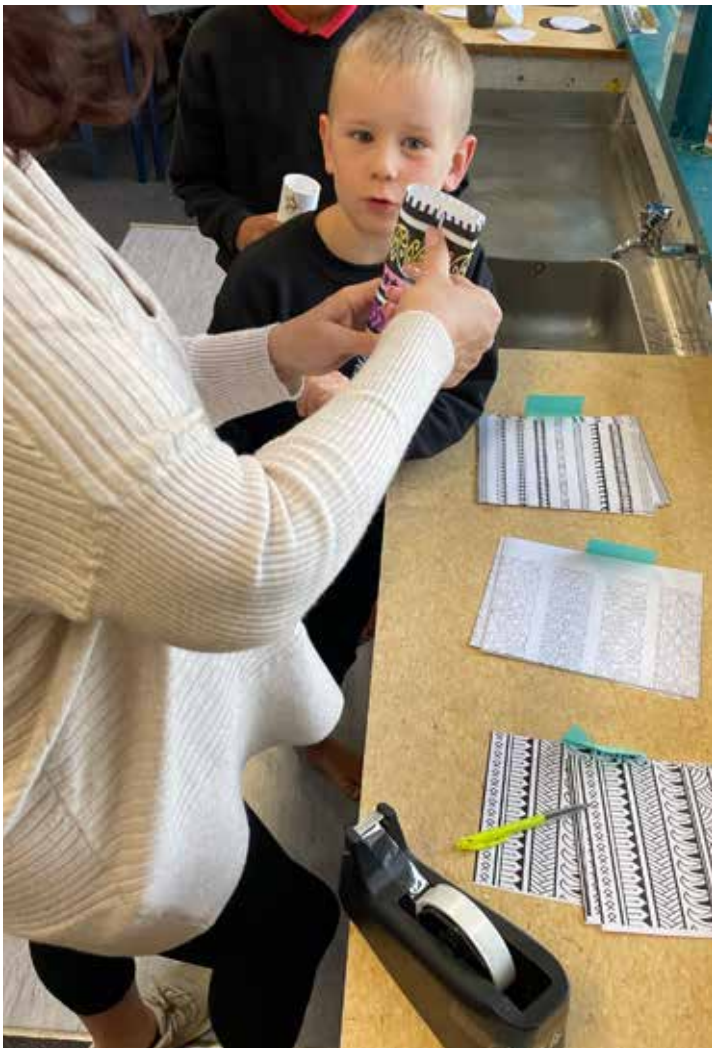
- Address widespread understaffing
- Value and recognise teachers' work
- Enough time for teachers to complete their work during work hours
- Support for teachers working with high needs students
- Recognition of the importance of cultural skills
- Greater support for health & safety in schools
- Job security for relievers

HERE IS A [LINK TO AN IMPORTANT VIDEO EXPLAINING](#) JUST WHAT IS AT STAKE.

WANTED
WOOD CARVING/WHITTLING CHISELS
PLEASE LET MAREE KNOW IF YOU HAVE
ANY THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO PART
WITH. THANKS

Last Friday the children had a fun day doing something a bit different. The four houses, Kowhai, Totara, Rimu and Titoki, went to four different learning stations where teachers and support staff had a range of fun activities with a Matariki theme. Ms Halse and Kylie showed the pupils how to weave, Mr Acton and Gaye played Tapuwae on the court, Ms Ridge and Mrs Going had string games and a range of craft activities and Mr and Mrs McGowan helped the children make their own Matariki telescope. It was a great day and the senior pupils did an amazing job of leading and looking after the younger ones. When it came to school sharing at the end of the day it was apparent that everyone had had a marvellous day and, with that amazing shared lunch it was a perfect way to celebrate Matariki.









BAKING DAY IN ROOM 5



PIC • COLLAGE



BAY OF ISLANDS SWIM CLUB

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

KAWAKAWA - TE PAPA WAI POOL

MONDAY – WEDNESDAY 11/7–13/7 and 18/7– 20/7
SESSIONS 10AM–5PM

GROUP SESSIONS \$15 FOR 30 MINS

OR \$40 FOR 3 (30 MIN) SESSIONS

PRIVATE 1-2-1 SESSION \$40 PER SESSION

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

EMAIL TO ENROL: boiscmembership@gmail.com

**REMINDER: BEGINNER SWIMMING PROGRAMME FOR TERM 3 STARTS
23rd JULY. BOOK NOW!**