

Whānau Kōtare Pānui



Kōtare Whānau Pānui: Term 1 Week 10

Kai ora whānau,

Hope everyone had a wonderful Easter break and are somewhat refreshed and ready for the school holidays coming up at the end of next week.

Our observation is that the children seem quite tired at the moment and that is in keeping with the end of the term but can also be a result of having their internal clock disrupted by the change from daylight saving time. Some early nights might be in order.

Reminder of upcoming events.

Pet Show. On Wednesday the 14th April there is a pet show that you would have got an email about. As a reward for positive behavior the students opted to have a pet show at school. It will run from 9:15am until 11:00am. The pets will be placed in different parts of the school and the students will be moving around the school in groups to check out the pets. If the children don't have, or can not bring pets, they are welcome to bring a photo of their pet or a cuddly toy instead. Here is the link to the [newsletter](#) that will have further details.

Also on Wednesday we will be having our junior school hui at 2:30pm. This is a time that the junior school can show some of their learning and awards can be presented. All junior school parents are invited and it will be held in Tui.

Next term we'll be hosting a student teacher for 6 week. Her name is Abby Lummis and she will be taking groups to practice her teaching skills. It is always great to see people taking up this profession. No doubt she'll introduce herself next term, so let all be welcoming and supportive as she embarks on this important journey.

Due to the number of students we will have next term, Julie will be back in Kōtare full time. We will be spreading the student over both classrooms however they will be working with both teachers for different curriculum areas. We will let you know in future panui what the organisation looks like. Watch this space.

'Spotlight' is the new system that Ridgway School is using to communicate with the students learning. The staff has been getting up to speed on how to effectively use the new system and the app is available to download so parents can access their child's progress.

Have a great weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Nga mihi nui,

Julie and Derek

Whānau Kōtare Pānui



Kōtare Whānau Pānui: Term 1 Week 9

That was a wonderful week at Ridgway school we have just had. It's starting to have that feel like the summer is almost over and these are the last rays of sunshine. Must be getting close to gumboots and jersey time

Just a reminder that next week is a short week, as is the following week. School will be closed on Thursday the 1st of April (no joke), for a teacher only day and then of course closed for the Easter break. Students will return to school on Wednesday the 7th of April.

Have a great week everyone,

Nga mihi nui,

Nga mihi nui,

Derek Champion

Kōtare Whānau Pānui: Term 1 Week 8

What a fantastic week to be a student in Kōtare. No doubt you will notice that you wonderful children are tired, but excited by the work they are doing at school. We have seen many students getting really engaged in their reading, they are taking their books home each day and sharing them with the people in their households. It is really important that you take time to sit and read with your children and ask questions about the books they bring home and work through their 'caterpillar words'. Our kids need to bring their book bags each day and be exchanging their books for a new one. Don't worry if they are repeating books, it just means that they are enjoying that story or they are starting to recognise words and they are feeling proud of themselves.

Morning drop offs can be difficult for some children (and parents) . We would encourage parents to do quick drop offs please. Help your child to unpack their bag, give them a quick kiss goodbye and send them inside to do their own morning rituals. Having lots of adults inside when our children are engaged in play/ learning can be a bit distracting for them and as you may know the hallways can quickly become quite congested when adults stop and chat.

I had a few inquiries about moving march cards this week. Rest assured I am keeping a tally of who is walking or riding to school and I have those cards here on my desk. I have found from past experience that having the teacher hold on to cards prevents loss.

Have a splendid week.

Whānau Kōtare Pānui



Nga mihi nui,

Derek Champion

Kōtare Whānau Pānui: Term 1 Week 7

Thanks to all parents and supporters who came out for the athletics day on Friday. It was awesome to see our young students participating in the event and showing lots of resilience during the long day, and they were amazing going to and from Newtown Park on the bus, well done to them!

We are continuing with Moving March, encouraging our students to use another form of transport to and from school. Either walking with parents to school or using a bicycle, scooter, skateboard etc. It is great for our environment, great for our health and great for our sense of community as we learn to find our way from home to school.

Reminders

We have 'discovery time' on Friday, where our students can bring a special item from home that they can share with their friends. Please make sure that this special item is not an important family heirloom or a hard to replace item. Sometimes things happen and items can go missing or get broken and we want to make sure our student this sharing time is a positive one.

Naming clothes is coming up again. I have collected a variety of items over the last couple of weeks and luckily found their owners, however I have noticed that some of those named clothes have started to fade due to washing. If we could just check that your child's name is clear on their hats, hoodie etc.

On that note, I noticed a slight chill in the air last week, "winter is coming" well hopefully not too soon, however a good idea to make sure your child has something warm to put on, should it get colder in the day, or even wet.

Have a splendid week.

Nga mihi nui,

Derek Champion

Whānau Kōtare Pānui



Kōtare Whānau Pānui: Term 1 Week 6

A warm and fuzzy welcome to Kōtare Coen and Olivia. We are thrilled to have you shine your light in our whānau.

And welcome, welcome, welcome back Derek!!!! You have been missed!

It's been a special four days for me, teaching and getting to know our tamariki better while Derek was poorly. We composed music 'beat circles', and then performed for our class. The children also had their first ukulele lesson.

Have a look at their illustrations and the [Kōtare kids latest told stories](#)

Also, as promised here is the slide show that was used at the picnic evening [How to help your child learn to read](#)

Reminders:

Athletics day is next Friday 12th March. Thank you to parents who have made themselves available to help.

Of course going ahead with the day is dependent upon the government decision relating to COVID made this Sunday. If we stay at Level Two the day will be cancelled, of course.

'Moving March' started this week. The children love the stickers they receive in the morning after walking or scootering to school. Keep them on their feet for the rest of March!!!

Have a splendid weekend.

Nga mihi nui,

Julie Hanify

Whānau Kōtare Pānui



Kōtare Whānau Pānui: Term 1 Week 5

What a wild week we had with all those changes in weather. Gosh I'm looking forward to a sleep-in tomorrow.

All our little tamariki had a brilliant time learning this week... as they do. The reading groups are moving along nicely and all appear enthusiastic about their developing reading skills.

Like last week, Julie was in on Thursday and took the kids through some wonderful science experiments where they were able to poke a pencil through a bag of water without spilling any of the bag's content. Very WOW!!!

Thanks to all those who came out on Tuesday evening, it was amazing to see you there and I hope that you were able to attend some of the workshops. If you weren't able to catch a workshop, please feel free to pop in after school or send an email if you have any questions about how you might support your child and their learning.

Reminders

You should have all received an email about the upcoming athletics day at Newtown park on the 12th of March. Please consider helping out on this day if you are able to. These events are amazing for bringing a school and its wider community together.

Your child should have brought home a bookmark with a 50% discount for 'Staglands', I can see that it is part of the 'Children's Day' celebration March the 7th. I have added a link to other events that are happening around the country as part of this important acknowledgment of our most valuable resource, our children, our people.

Also, it's 'Moving March' coming up next week. Children are encouraged to walk, ride a scooter or a bike to school and home. Each time they do there will get a stamp on an entry card that gets them into a draw for prizes, but it is also important that we are showing that there are alternatives to transporting ourselves around our community that are healthy for our minds, our bodies and our environment. Those of you who are a distance away from the school but would still like to participate, try parking the car down by the bowling club...or further and walking with your child the rest of the way.

Have a great weekend,

Derek Champion

Whānau Kōtare Pānui



Kākā Whānau Pānui: Term 1 Week 4 [Ask me about my picture and I'll tell you my story](#)

This week happened...and it was awesome to see all the children doing their best to follow covid 19 level 2 guidelines for keeping ourselves safe. Also thank you to all the parents who kept us safe by remaining outside the class during drop off and pick ups or who signed in when they needed to enter the room. To all, big thanks!

On Thursday Julie was teaching our wonderful learners and she did some story drawing on papa ma (whiteboards). Our learners then spoke their stories out to the whole class. We have linked some photos above. See if your child can tell you their story.

We also had a fire drill this week and the students all reacted well and listened to their teachers. What an awesome crew we have!

Reminders

Next week there is a school picnic and information evening on Tuesday 23rd from 5:30pm to 7:00pm bring your own food and beverage. If there are any questions you have regarding your child's learning or anything to do with the school, there will be someone there who will be able to help.

Please remember we are still in summer so the students need to be wearing hats and please, it would be very helpful to have all hats named.

Whānau Kōtare Pānui



Week 3 Feb 15 -19 Kia ora tatou,

It has been a great week in Kōtare, with our students becoming very engaged in the learning they are doing, enjoying the company of their new classmates and discovering places to play and explore around the school.

Toys from home and Kapa haka

Kapa haka has started this week and there have been other changes to the timetable that may be worth noting. Our discovery time, when the children can bring their toy from home and share it with other students has moved from the friday morning to the friday afternoon. This is to accommodate the new Kapa Haka time slot.

Books for home

Your child should have started bringing home a reading book this week from our browsing box. In many cases this will be a new text for your child, so don't be surprised if they are unsure of the story and need your help to read it.

Emergency Kai bags

Emergency kai bags will be sent home friday. They are to be filled with healthy snack type food that will sustain your child for a short time in the case of an emergency such as an earthquake etc. They are not intended to be used as extra food

Reminders

Despite the inclement weather we experienced this week, please remember that we are in the summer term and our students still need to come to school with a sunhat and sunscreen on because we never know when that wonderful sun will show itself.

Day in the life of a Kōtare student

Some parents had trouble opening this document last week, so we are publishing it again for those who missed out. [Link](#)

Whānau Kōtare Pānui



Week 2 Feb Tues 9 - 12

Kia ora tatou,

And a special warm and cheery welcome to Naomi, Millie, Kotoha, Lincoln, Oliver, Thiago and Sadie - our new learners who started school. Wowee, what a lovely group of little poppets we have in Kōtare!

The powhiri and blessing of the school grounds yesterday was a very special way to commence our time together indeed. Thank you for coming.

Toys from home and Kapa haka

- Children can continue to bring in toys from home on Fridays. Children are not permitted to bring in toys from home any other time. Kapa Haka has now been moved to Friday morning, so Discovery will be moved to the last block of the day (after lunch) on Fridays for now.

Books for home

- If you haven't already returned the signed ICT forms, please do so as soon as possible. These can be handed into the office.
- Children can start taking Browsing Books and word caterpillars home starting Week 3 in their book bags.

Weekly Timetable

- We will be starting to share our weekly timetable and the Long Term Plan with whānau in our next Pānui, for the start of Week 3.

A day at Ridgway School for a New Entrant

- Please read this [link](#) full of info about routines and expectations for New Entrants and families

Reminders

- Wide brimmed hats are required at all times when outside during Terms 1&4. Please ensure your child comes to school with their hat and water bottle.
- Thank you for bringing in this year's stationary, we will start to use books next week so if you haven't managed to bring it in yet, please do so on Tuesday.
- If you haven't already returned the signed ICT forms, please do so as soon as possible. These can be handed into the office.
- Kotare assembly Friday 5th March at 2.30pm - parents and grandparents welcome!

Nga mihi nui, see you Tuesday! julie@ridgway.school.nz derek@ridgway.school.nz

Whānau Kōtare Pānui



Tuesday 2nd February

Kia ora whānau,

Welcome back whanau to a new year here at Ridgway School.

School starts tomorrow (Wednesday 3rd February) and teachers will open the class doors at 8:30am. All students should be at school by 8:45am. This will give your children time to put away their bags and see their friends before we start our day at 8:55am.

Remember that it is important that your child has a healthy packed lunch with some fruit and vegetables and that they bring a bottle of water from home as Ridgway School has a water only policy regarding drinks.

Because it is the summer term, your child needs to have a wide brimmed hat to wear when they go outside and have sunscreen applied before they come to school. We do have a class bottle of sunscreen that we will use to reapply before lunch. If your child is allergic to regular sunscreen, please let us know and provide a sunscreen that your child can wear.

Your child's stationery requirements have been published on the school's website and will need to be at school on the first day or as soon as possible. Please put your child's name on the books before you bring them to school.

As you know, young children are inquisitive and at times messy young things, so it is important at this age that they are bringing a spare set of 'named' clothes to school should they have an accident or fall victim to a wet sandpit.

We have a powhiri for new students and teachers on Thursday afternoon. This is a ceremony for welcoming new members of our school and it is also an opportunity for the school to celebrate and bless the grounds on which our new school will be built. The powhiri will start at 2:15pm on Thursday, and family members who are able to attend are more than welcome to do so. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Nga mihi nui,

derek@ridgway.school.nz

julie@ridgway.school.nz