



Merrilands School Newsletter

Issue 7
Friday 4 June 2021

'A CARING COMMUNITY INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNING'

Tēnā koutou katoa

There has been lots happening here at school over the past few weeks and I've been in envy of all the learning experiences happening across the school.

We are constantly mindful of how we can make sure our school's vision 'comes to life' in everything we do here at Merrilands School. Today you'll see and read about how we are 'inspiring lifelong learning' for our students through opportunities to explore and connect with the environment. Children are born with curiosity. We have seen curiosity and engagement in learning shine through as our students have visited our rivers, mountain and local environment to explore through a scientific and social sciences lens.

Kaitiakitanga is a theme being woven into learning this year. As guardians of the environment including our bush and water ways, students are learning about what lives within these spaces, what different species need to survive, and how we can support them to continue to survive and thrive. Thanks to all the parents that come along on these outings to support students and teachers to make this inspiring learning possible.

We are really proud of the following students who have completed their Level 1 SHINE card and have been presented their Level 1 band:

Year 5-6:
Owen Bosch, Jackson Brayshaw, Tamahae Stirling, Emmaly Bridger, Cerys Williams, Kingston Rangitonga, Harper Scrivener

Year 3 -4:
Kavahn Watene, Michke Grobbelaar, Marlo Doherty, Blake Gillum, Ellie Gillum, Katie Henderson, Charlie Ashton, Ojzhan Rangitonga-Karaka, Kaziem Rangitonga-Karaka. Jessica Peng, Hiwa Chin, Sol Lee

Year 1-2:
Lochie Ward, Celestina Manunui-Kavafolau, Cameron Inwood, Michael Pihema, Lana Grobbelaar, Clarke Gillum

Please be aware that the Junior and Middle School Assemblies have swapped around so we will look forward to the Junior School leading assembly next week. We love having family and friends join us so if you can come along we'd look forward to seeing you.

Ngā manaakitanga
Michelle Cronin
Principal

Key Dates for Term 2

| JUNE | |
|----------------|--|
| Tue – Fri 8-11 | Support Staff Week |
| Fri 11 | PJ & Pizza Day – Home & School Fundraiser |
| Fri 11 | Assembly 10.15am – Juniors |
| Mon 14 | Home & School Meeting 7pm |
| Fri 18 | Yr 5/6 Interschool Exchange vs Moturoa at Moturoa |
| Wed 23 | BOT Meeting 6.30pm |
| Fri 25 | Assembly 10.15am – Middles |
| Mon 28 | Home & School Quiz Night |
| Wed 30 | Reports home |
| JULY | |
| Thu 1 | Teacher Paid Union Meetings (school will remain open) |
| Fri 2 | Yr 5/6 Interschool Exchange vs Marfell at Merrilands |
| Tue 6 | Student Learning Conferences from 1pm. School closes 12.30 |
| Wed 7 | Student Learning Conferences from 1pm. School closes 12.30 |
| Fri 9 | Assembly 10.15am – SHINE Assembly followed by SHINE TIME |
| Fri 9 | Term 2 Ends |
| | |
| Mon 26 | Term 3 Starts |

PLEASE NOTE THAT ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK IS BEING PRESENTED BY THE JUNIOR TEAM – YEAR 1 & 2 STUDENTS.

(Swapped with the Middle School team who will now host on the 25th June instead)

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

At the Week 4 assembly the following students were acknowledged for their super efforts:

| | |
|---------|--|
| Room 1 | Lucy Heremia - For making great connections with your learning and enthusiasm in all you do! Well done. Finn Ward - For putting in huge effort with your times tables and a focused attitude to all learning. Keep it up! |
| Room 3 | Lucas Harvey - For progress in Reading. You are able to find information from various places in a text to answer questions. Excellent work! Nate Phillips - For your maths skills and perseverance. You are able to explain your thinking even when questions are challenging. Ka rawel! |
| Room 4 | Zoe Schrader - For always managing yourself and showing great work habits. You consistently do your best and set a great example for others! Reece Te Riini - For giving your all at the Rippa Rugby tournament. You are an excellent sportsman and a great team player, anō te pai! |
| Room 5 | John Taylor - For the way that you go about your business. You are a hard worker and a diligent student. Keep up the great work! Izzy Musso - For always having a positive attitude and consistently showing all of the SHINE values. |
| Room 6 | Hiwa Chin - For always taking risks in your learning and giving everything your best. Jessica Peng - For always shining in all that you do. |
| Room 9 | Asher Swan - For great self-management skills this week and completing your work on time. Well done Asher. Janeke O'Keefe - You have been showing our 'Excellence' Shine Values by consistently working hard and doing your best in all areas. |
| Room 10 | Elijah Molineux - For making a great start in room 10 by always trying to do his best. Welcome to Merrilands school. Tony Van Den Bamb - For making a great contribution to our maths learning on shapes and being a wonderful helper for the teacher. |
| Room 11 | Kawana Waiwiri-Olsen - For making progress to learn the alphabet and letter sounds to read and write. Keep up the effort and SHINE! Clarke Gillum - For trying your best in class by completing your work, showing us how clever you are with numbers and learning to write new words! You SHINE! |

LUCKY SHINE WINNERS AT OUR WEEK 4 ASSEMBLY DRAW:

JUNIOR

Kyla Martin - Rm 9
Indie Paice - Rm 9
Dziah Skipper-Ngatai - Rm 9

MIDDLE

Donovan Marr - Rm 5
Dirco Stoltz - Rm 6
Saya Chin - Rm 6

SENIOR

Benji Ashton - Rm 1
Jayden Tylee - Rm 3
Emily Swan - Rm 3
Sam O'Keefe - Rm 1



ROAD SAFETY SUGGESTION:

To avoid waiting at the Kauri Street intersection to turn right onto Mangorei Road, continue driving past school towards Riversdale Drive, turn left onto Miro Street then left onto Karaka Street, then use this intersection with Mangorei Road to turn right.

Or

Turn right onto Riversdale Drive then right onto Turakina Street to turn there instead.
This hopefully will help with the backlog of traffic waiting at this intersection.

TEACHER PAID UNION MEETINGS

Merrilands teachers who are members of NZEI Te Riu Roa will be attending a paid union meeting on Thursday 1 July, with some attending in the morning and others in the afternoon.

The purpose of these meetings is for teachers to discuss the priorities for the renegotiation of their collective agreement in 2022. Issues being discussed, such as school staffing levels, directly impact on the education of your children. These meetings are a critical component of the negotiation process and it is the legal right of all members to attend a meeting and have their say.

While there will be some impact on the usual school programme that day, we will adjust classroom programmes to minimise disruption, and the school will remain open.

HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS

Following the Home & School AGM last week we share and congratulate the following people on their roles for the upcoming year:

President – Toni Stirling
Vice President – Mandy Gilchrist
Secretary – Pip Matthews
Treasurer – Megan Taylor

It was great to see a combination of new and old faces at the meeting. You are always welcome to come along so keep the date of the next meeting in your diary.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PJ & Pizza Day – Friday 11 June

Children come to school in their pyjamas for the day, with pizza for lunch. Order forms and full details went home on Friday.

Quiz Night – Monday 28 June

Start thinking about who will be in your team! Raffles and spot prizes up for grabs! More details soon.

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

E hia o tau(name)?
How old are you(name)?

E rua aku tau.
I am two

WHAKATAUKI

Ki te hāmana poipoia te tangata, e kore e mau tika

'One who tires easily does not accomplish the task'

NATIONAL MONITORING STUDY

Our school is participating in the National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement (NMSSA), conducted on behalf of the Ministry of Education. They have been carrying out national monitoring in New Zealand since 1995 and the information collected is very valuable for finding out how we can improve the education our children receive.

This year the study looks at children's skills and knowledge in the arts, technology, and learning languages. A registered teacher, working for NMSSA, will come to our school on 6-8 September. All children in the study will be asked to try some written tasks. They will also fill in a questionnaire about their attitudes and learning in the three learning areas.

Some children will also take part in some group activities, and in an interview with the NMSSA teacher. The activities and interview are a chance for the children to talk about their ideas, and show what they know and can do.

A random sample group of Year 4 students will take part and consent forms and more information will come home directly to these families.

KIWI RELEASE



As part of the work Matua John has been doing to connect with our local hāpu – Ngāti Tāwhitikura, we were really privileged to recently be invited by them to a kiwi release on Maunga Taranaki.

This was a joint venture involving Ngāti Tawhitikura, The Rotokare Trust, Department of Conservation, Project Maunga and schools within our area. Jessica, Onyx, Ellie and Michke from the middle school, along with Isaac from the seniors, joined Matua John and Mrs Cronin to represent our school. These budding scientists were in awe of these precious birds and learnt a lot about the cultural processes to release them into the care of Maunga Taranaki.

We look forward to continuing to work with our local hāpu as we begin our journey to know and understand our local area.



YEAR 1 & 2 TRIP – TE HENUI RIVER & PUKEWARANGI PA

The juniors recently had a wonderful trip to visit the Te Henui river and Pukewarangi pa site. We were looking at areas of importance in our local community. We were lucky to have beautiful weather and this enabled us to really enjoy our walk and make the most of looking at the river. We were able to learn about Pukewarangi pa and we could see the terraced area and pits used for cooking. As well as the amazing viewpoint for the pa.



Laura from the NP City council also came and spoke to us about pest traps in the area and what the council are doing to create a pest free area. We checked several traps with her. We then looked at the flow of water and collected samples of mini-animals to help assess the quality of the water. We looked around to find what creatures lived on and around the water. We then looked at different leaves growing on trees in the area to check the colour, shape and species which we tabled on tally charts.



We made some leaf boats and timed how fast they were moving in the water. This whole trip was a wonderful learning experience for the children to learn about Nga Awa and they really enjoyed the different activities. Our learning was enhanced by the fabulous mums and Dads who came with us and helped the children on the walk and with their learning activities.



YEAR 5 & 6 OUTING, POETRY AND CLUBS IN ACTION

On Tuesday the 25th our Senior Syndicate were lucky enough to be invited to a matinee session of the New Plymouth Girls High and Boys High production 'The Sound of Music.' The students were amazed and inspired by the singing, costumes and performances. Our students showed all our SHINE values on the trip and made the outing a fantastic occasion. We look forward to exploring more of what is sitting on our doorstep within the community.

This term our students have been working towards creating poetry and drawing on their vocabulary and language features to create vivid pictures for the reader. Here are a few great examples:

The trees were swaying as if they were singing in a waiata

Cheeky leaves, kanikani in the strong wind

Marvellous trunks winding up together reaching for ranginui

Birds sing for the trees

The branches told to wiri by the wind

Buds fall to earth like roimata

By Harper Scrivener

Mossy pohutukawa swaying like the wind

Waxy Green leaves, shivering, falling, floating to the ground

Wrinkly bark clinging to the tree like a cicada shell

Long, outstretched branches, hidden by a mink blanket of leaves.

Group poem by Reid, Lachlan, Maeleene, Harmony, and Samuel



Feed me, Feed me
Give me wai, and hihi ra.
Give me kai, give me whenua,
rich soil to protect me like a mother.
Feed me, feed me.

Watch me, watch me.
I will grow strong, wise, courageous.
I will bloom and blossom.
In return I will give you fruit,
Lush juicy fruit.
I will give you pride.
Watch me, watch me.

Leave me, leave me.
When you fade away,
And change from green to brown.
I will stand strong and be your memory.
Leave me, leave me.

By Annabelle Wilson

