

# Pūrākaunui School Pūrākaunui School Newsletter



May 22, 2020

Term 2#1

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Hi everyone.

It has been a wonderful week here at school with everybody back on site and having a lovely time being together again. Not that we ever did, but we certainly won't ever take the simple pleasure of being together for granted. The children have all worked hard this week and we have re-established our routines and had some fun doing some new things too, such as the special dance session on Wednesday afternoon with Catherine. The kids, with Catherine's expert guidance put together a routine in less than an hour which was most impressive. It was also nice to have Maria and Harold and the Life Education mobile classroom visit on Thursday. A highlight of this staggered start to Term Two has been the arrival of new students to Pūrākaunui School, see below for visual evidence.



Welcome to our 2 new entrant students Taika and Liana who have both settled into school life very well, especially considering things have been a bit unusual lately. Liana was doing extended school visits during Level 3 and we look forward to having Liana start school officially in August when she turns 5. I like this photo a lot, as Taika and Liana are standing next to a coppiced gum tree (which happened during lockdown) symbolising both some lovely new growth in the school and in our forest lot!



Welcome also to Aurora who has recently moved to Long Beach from Dunedin and Mornington School. It is great to have you with us and it has been brilliant to see how quickly you have settled in and made friends here at Pūrākaunui School.



## Fluffy Ducks

After a hiatus fluffy duck has resumed its duties and the latest recipients for the year are Josh and Lawrence.

## Josh

This is a belated award due to the lockdown but Josh receives the award for being very helpful in the classroom. Among other things he had been doing a great job learning about the electronic library cataloguing system we have here at school and has recently shared some excellent ideas with both the teachers and fellow students, often inspiring others which is great to see.

## Lawrence

Lawrence received his award for a wonderful effort as Tuakana when we re-opened the school at Level 3 recently. Lawrence was here with a cute wee crew of juniors and he did a great job of organising collective activities with an emphasis on social distancing! My favourite activity was the elaborate set of chalk trails for scootering on the tennis court.

### **Distance Learning**

Thanks to everyone for their support and efforts with distance learning. It was a very new experience for all of us and we all had to adapt rapidly and continually. I thought the children did really well adjusting to new methods of teaching and learning. As teachers we feel like we have learnt a great deal ourselves. Hopefully it is something we won't have to do again in a hurry but if history repeats we feel like having been through this once we are better placed for any similar event in the future.

Thanks for all of the returns from home so far, please make sure any further school items are sent back to school as soon as possible.

### **Friday Lunch**

Friday lunch is all go again which is great. Some families had prepaid for a couple of lunches that didn't happen at the end of Term One but I have a list in my notebook so please just ask if you are unsure.

### **Mid-Year Parent Teacher Interviews**

We realise that a couple of families missed the Term One Goal Setting interviews due to the early end to Term One. We are more than happy to catch these up at any stage and also with this in mind as well as the Covid19 / Distance Learning situation we have just been through we plan to do our mid-year parent teacher interviews in mid-June rather than late June. I will put some more information in the next newsletter.

### **Kowhaiwhai Patterns**

Here are two nice examples of kowhaiwhai patterns done by Josh and Nicholas



### **Dates for your Diary**

Queen's Birthday Holiday -  
Monday June 1st  
End of Term Assembly - Thursday  
July 2nd  
End of Term Two - Friday July 3rd  
Term Three Begins - Monday July  
21st

Tim Cook  
Principal

