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Kia ora whānau

We are so happy to have everyone back on board for term 4. This is a busy term with lots of fun events and is full of learning right until the end of the year. We have a few updates and some areas where we would really appreciate your feedback so please read below.

Health

Thank you to the many whānau that completed and returned their Health Surveys. The results strongly supported our current health programme.

We need your feedback!!

In the next week some questions will come home to help us set the direction of the school for the next two years. We really want to further build our school to create a space where every child experience success and is proud of who they are and where they come from. To do this we need your feedback. Please be honest and dream big. This will come home in paper form, there will be an online link, discussed at our whānau Hui on **(Tuesday 3rd November at 6pm)** and we'll have some questions at assemblies. As always, we will bribe you to complete these with House points up for grabs (and some of us, like Arawa, would appreciate the points!!!).

Changes to student leadership

We always want to make the leadership opportunities and how we appoint leaders as robust as possible. From this year our student leaders will be appointed at Prize Giving- including our Head Students. This means Year 7's will give their speeches the year before they become year 8's and means that the current year 8's (who know them well) are able to vote. To make the election process even stronger the seniors and staff will use criteria where each candidate is ranked 1-3 on leadership skills such as Shows resilience and initiative/ Is kind, approachable and an upstander. This year our Head Students will also MC Prize Giving and take a leading role in the night.

Mrs Wheeler

We sadly have received Mrs Wheeler's resignation effective the end of this year. Laura has had a year's leave to take on a role as a special needs teacher for Aruhunga and has discovered her new passion! She is going to continue working there, doing amazing work and supporting tamariki across the wider Tararua.

Whānau Hui

We would love to see you at our Whānau Hui on **Tuesday 3rd November at 6pm** in the staffroom. This is an important meeting as we reflect on our last strategic plan and discuss possible next goals, with a special focus on our Māori students and whānau. We would really appreciate hearing as many voices as possible so please join us. It is an informal chat where big decisions have been made that positively impact all of our learners. Children are welcome and kai is provided.

Education Review Office (ERO) visit about attendance

We are very grateful to the whānau, students and staff who spoke to ERO when they visited recently seeking our feedback on the new approach to attendance. Frustrations were shared about the harshness of the new alert email systems mandated by the government and successes were also shared about large increases in attendance created by us working as a team- an approach we see as much more successful. ERO contacted us and wanted to pass on their thanks and gratitude for the honest, passionate and considered feedback people gave them on this new approach.

Ngā mihi
Caroline



NEW SKILLS



CONFIDENCE



TEAMWORK

We have been incredibly lucky to have Miles from True Hoops working with our whole school over a five-week period. True Hoops NZ is a New Zealand basketball coaching and player development service founded and led by head coach Miles Pearce.

Our tamariki have thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills, building confidence and developing their teamwork throughout these sessions.

Maths in Te Kākanō

Te Kākanō students have started a new maths topic: algebra! So far, we have been exploring and creating patterns. We will continue to build our understanding by learning how to extend patterns, find missing pieces, and create growing and number patterns. We are excited to discover the different ways patterns work and how they help us solve problems!

Upcoming Events



FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER
TEACHER ONLY DAY



MONDAY 26 OCTOBER
LABOUR DAY



FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER
KIDSCAN MUFTI FUNDRAISER & RURAL DAY



THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER
DSS ATHLETICS DAY



THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER
PRIZEGIVING



TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER
TERM 4 ENDS

DANNEVIRKE & DISTRICTS LAMB & CALF DAY 2026
90 years and still going strong

Date:
Tuesday 10th November
Registration: 9.15am - Judging Starts: 10.00am

Venue:
Dannevirke A & P Showgrounds
Entry off Neptune Street

Entry & Eligibility:
FREE & open to any Primary School students (wear suitable footwear, no barefeet)

Food & Drink:
Sausage Sizzle & Drink available for participants (Bring your own water)

Classes & Judging:
Ribbons will be awarded to class Winners.

Please contact Craig if you have any queries
For Farms (NZ) Ltd - (06) 374 4105

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TARARUA kids market

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Are you a crafty, arty kid, and want to sell your own handmade items and yummy treats?

Come join us at the Tararua Kids Market
6th December 2026
11am til 2pm
Dannevirke Sports Centre
Anderson Street

Scan the QR code to register your stall, or find us on
Tararua Kids Market

Join ST JOHN YOUTH

Empowering young people to build confidence, leadership skills, wellbeing, and lifelong friendships. St John Youth is for everyone aged 5-18. Come learn, connect, and grow with us.

Dannevirke Division

Tuesday 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
SCOUT HALL CHRISTIAN ST, Dannevirke

youth@stjohn.org.nz | 0800 ST JOHN | youth.stjohn.org.nz