

27 February 2018

KIA ORA KOUTOU

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Play-Based Learning - Our Junior students and staff are fully engaged with PBL or Play Based Learning and it has been great to see how their attitudes to learning have evolved. This is a research backed approach and is gaining momentum across Upper Hutt Schools and NZ as a whole. We have the best quality Professional Development that we can find for our teachers to ensure the approach we use is meeting all students' needs. We work with Longworth Education who are NZ leaders in this field.

<https://www.longwortheducation.co.nz/>

There was a great article in the Herald this week which is well worth including in this week's newsletter:

As the new school year begins, many families are deciding where to enrol their child in preschool or school. Preschools and schools offer various approaches to early education, all promoting the benefits of their particular programmes.

One approach gaining momentum in the early years of primary school curriculum is play-based learning. Research shows play-based learning enhances children's academic and developmental learning outcomes. It can also set your child up for success in the 21st century by teaching them relevant skills.

What is play-based learning?

Children are naturally motivated to play. A play-based programme builds on this motivation, using play as a context for learning. In this context, children can explore, experiment, discover and solve problems in imaginative and playful ways.

A play-based approach involves both child-initiated and teacher-supported learning. The teacher encourages children's learning and inquiry through interactions that aim to stretch their thinking to higher levels.

For example, while children are playing with blocks, a teacher can pose questions that encourage problem solving, prediction and hypothesising.

The teacher can also bring the child's awareness towards mathematics, science and literacy concepts, allowing them to engage with such concepts through hands-on learning.

While further evidence is needed on cause and effect relationships between play and learning, research findings generally support the value of good quality play-based early years programmes.

How does it compare to direct instruction?

Play-based learning has traditionally been the educational approach implemented by teachers in Australian preschool programmes.

Research has shown the long-term benefits of high-quality play-based kindergarten programmes, where children are exposed to learning and problem solving through self-initiated activities and teacher guidance.

In contrast to play-based learning are teacher-centred approaches focused on instructing young children in basic academic skills. Although this more structured teaching and learning style is the traditional approach to primary school programmes, research is emerging that play-based learning is more effective in primary school programmes.

In these recent studies, children's learning outcomes are shown to be higher in a play-based programme compared to children's learning outcomes in direct-instruction approaches.

Research has also identified young children in direct-instruction programmes can experience negative effects. These include stress, decreased motivation for learning, and behaviour problems.

What can be gained through play-based programmes?

As with traditional approaches, play-based early years' programmes are focused on teaching and learning. In such programmes, play can be in the form of free play (activity that is spontaneous and directed by the child), and guided play (also child-directed, but the teacher is involved in the activity as a co-player) with intentional teaching.

Both have benefits for children's learning. To capitalise on these benefits, an optimum play-based programme will provide opportunities for both free play and guided play.

Involvement in play stimulates a child's drive for exploration and discovery. This motivates the child to gain mastery over their environment, promoting focus and concentration.

It also enables the child to engage in the flexible and higher-level thinking processes deemed essential for the 21st century learner. These include inquiry processes of problem solving, analysing, evaluating, applying knowledge and creativity.

Play also supports positive attitudes to learning. These include imagination, curiosity, enthusiasm, and persistence. The type of learning processes and skills fostered in play cannot be replicated through rote learning, where there is an emphasis on remembering facts.

The inquiry-based nature of play is supported through the social interactions of teachers and children. Teachers take an active role in guiding children's interactions in the play. Children are supported in developing social skills such as co-operation, sharing and responding to ideas, negotiating, and resolving conflicts.

Teachers can also use children's motivation and interest to explore concepts and ideas. In this way, children acquire and practice important academic skills and learning in a playful context.

For example, research indicates the increased complexity of language and learning processes used by children in play-based programmes is linked to important literacy skills.

In play-based programmes, time spent in play is seen as important for learning, not as a reward for good behaviour. In such classrooms, children have greater, more active input into what and how they learn.

Research shows play-based programmes for young children can provide a strong basis for later success at school. They support the development of socially competent learners, able to face challenges and create solutions.

Collaborative Teaching - Our focus in our Senior School in future focused teaching and learning in line with our Mission - "Learning Today; for Tomorrow's World" is on creating 21st Century collaborative teaching environments. The building work for this is due to start next week in Kea/Ruru. As a result of this Kea and Ruru will be moving into the school hall while this is taking place. This will impact on our use of the school hall so that assemblies will be suspended

until the classes have moved back into their completed rooms. The present programme looks like Kea/Ruru being in the hall until after the next break then Kiwi/Paua using the hall as their teaching space until work is completed.

Drumming for All! - Next week we welcome back Rhythm Interactive on Tuesday morning at 9:30am. This is a great whole school activity where everyone gets a drum and gets to join in, in creating amazing music. If you fancy joining us pop along! <http://rhythminteractive.co.nz/>

Parent Teacher - Next week is our scheduled week for Parent - Teacher meetings. You can expect an information sheet to be filled in before the meeting to come home on Thursday or Friday this week. This will enable you to give us some information to help meet your child's needs. Go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and use the code xzvkw. This will then prompt you to select your booking time with your child's teacher. If you have any problems, or would prefer us to book a time for you, please call the school office. Thanks.

Sports Update - Good luck to our tamariki taking part in the Ki-O-Rahi tournament today at Upper Hutt College. Thanks to the parents who are helping with transport as well as Youthtown who provided some great coaching. Floorball has started and Flippaball starts again tonight - good luck with your grading games!

Reminder- Nzei Paid Union Meeting - There is a Paid Union Meeting coming up on the 19th March in the afternoon. This means all teachers will be attending to discuss issues around pay and conditions. Please place this in your calendar, and while we will not be officially closing the school, there will only be a couple of staff on site so we would really appreciate it if you could **make arrangements to have your child picked up at lunchtime (1:15)** so that we don't have too many children to look after that afternoon. A signmee will come out at the start of March to gauge how many students will not be able to be collected.

50th Anniversary - TOMORROW IS THE LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION (AND PAYMENT MUST BE MADE AT THE TIME OF REGISTERING).

Please make payment to Plateau School 50th Reunion, 01-0771-0207296-01.

Please use your name as a reference. <https://www.facebook.com/plateau50/>

Plateau Facebook - All our blog posts, Flickr photos and recent school news are gathered on our Facebook page making it the "one stop shop" for school events.

www.facebook.com/plateauschool

There are also two associated facebook pages and our Flickr page which has a TON of photos from different events for you to peruse:

<https://www.facebook.com/PlateauHomeandSchool/>

<https://www.facebook.com/plateau50/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/plateauschool/>



We are also on Twitter (@plateauschool)

And youtube as plateauschoolnz

Makahika Camp - Year 5/6 Camp -Camp fees are due by **tomorrow, 28th** February. Please pay this amount in full by this date unless you have made other arrangements with Sandra. Please look out for a camp notice coming out soon.

OTHER NEWS

Cookie Fundraiser - We will be selling Cookie Time Easter Cookies in a tin (similar to the Christmas tins last year) as a fundraiser. More information will follow.

Top Schools Competition - See Cath Brattle in Kiwi Room if you are keen to take part ... it promises to be another great, fun-filled event again this year.



HOUSE-KEEPING



Subway - Subway lunches are available every Thursday. To order please go to www.subway.co.nz. Select "Online Ordering" then "Subway School Lunch Programme". Close off for orders is 8.45am that morning.

If you have any issues with the ordering process, please contact 0800 782 273.

NO ORDERS WILL BE NOW BE TAKEN IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE, SO PLEASE ENSURE YOU PLACE YOUR ORDER ONLINE BEFORE THE CUT-OFF TIME. THANKS.

If we get 50 online orders, Subway Rimutaka will donate sports equipment to our school, so make sure you give it a go this week!

NETBALL NEWS

Hey Guys

Registrations close this Friday for all netball registrations - please let the office know ASAP... if you played last year or the year before, I still need to know!!!

We cannot have a year 3 team to go ahead without a coach!!! I'm happy to help

out with guidelines for training sessions etc; please contact me if you're interested.

I also need someone to maybe shadow me this year as this is my last year as School co-ordinator for the Plateau netball teams! It mainly is the organisation of the teams, and then coaches take over from the start of the season! Please let me know if you're interested.

First games played are on Saturday 5th May At Heretaunga College!

Thanks again and remember to get those registrations in ASAP. At the moment we only have enough students for one team!

Thanks
Trace Powell
0272266569

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

- | | |
|--|---|
| Thursday 1 st | - Paua Trip to Carterton |
| Tuesday 6 th | - Rhythm Interactive (Paid from your Performer's Fee)
- Parent / Teacher Interviews (3.20pm - 7.30pm) |
| Wednesday 7 th | - Top Schools Competition, Harcourt Park (5pm - 7.30pm) |
| Thursday 8 th | - Parent / Teacher Interviews (3.20pm - 5pm) |
| Mon 12 th - Thur 15 th | - Year 5/6 Camp at Makahika |
| Wednesday 14 th | - Top Schools Competition Postponement Date |
| Monday 19 th | - Teaching Staff Paid Union Meeting - Please collect your children at 1.15pm if possible (more information in body of newsletter) |
| Friday 30 th | - Good Friday (school closed) |

April

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Monday 2 nd | - Easter Monday (school closed) |
| Tuesday 3 rd | - Easter Tuesday (school closed) |
| Wednesday 11 th | - School Swimming Sport |
| Friday 13 th | - Last day of Term One (finishing 3pm) |

TERM DATES FOR 2018

- Term 1 - Thurs 1st February - Friday 13th April (96 half-days)
- Term 2 - Mon 30th April - Fri 6th July (98 half-days)
- Term 3 - Mon 23rd July - Fri 28 September (100 half-days)
- Term 4 - Mon 15th October - Tues 18th December (90 half-days)

TEACHER ONLY DAY - FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER (SCHOOL CLOSED)

SCHOOL LUNCHES



School Lunches – School lunches this week:

Thursday – Subway (\$5.00 mini sub pack, \$6.00 6” sub pack). See above for ordering instructions.

Friday – Sausage in Bread / Fish Fingers In Bread (\$2.00 each)



ROAD SAFETY SPOT: SAFETY OF PLATEAU SCHOOL STUDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES: Staying safe on the school bus -

If you pick up or drop off your children at the bus stop: park your car well away from the bus stop or other children.



PUSH PLAY! - Go for a walk around Silverstream Steam Railway Museum and take a ride on the train while you are there.



GREEN SPOT - Tips for greener, cleaner living. Everyday ways for us to help make a healthier planet - Use less hot water - Buy low-flow showerheads to save hot water and about 350 pounds of carbon dioxide yearly.

COMMUNITY NEWS

KEAS

CUBS

SCOUTS

VENTURERS

ROVERS

LEADERS



Scouting offers fun and friendship, challenge and everyday adventure to 15,000 girls and boys across New Zealand. We have a positive impact on young people and have vacancies in your area.

ADVENTURE PLUS!

Keas – ages 5-8
Cubs – ages 8-11
Scouts – ages 11-14

For more information:
Please call or email us
0800SCOUTS or
LNI@scouts.org.nz



SCOUTS
New Zealand

0800 **SCOUT**

scouts.org.nz

NZHL XRACE



Find us on
facebook

Enter your family for XRACE

XRACE is the perfect experience to strengthen your child's self-esteem and empower them to be the best kids they can be. Best of all, you get to be their team mate, racing together, side-by-side to the best finish-line ever!

Our school gets a \$10 per family entry discount.
Use this promo code at the checkout to claim your discount.

FAMILY

Enter now at www.xrace.co.nz

NZHL XRACE

NZHL XRACE Whangarei - Friday, 16 February 2018 6pm

NZHL XRACE Tauranga - Sunday, 18 February 2018 10am

NZHL XRACE Devonport - Saturday, 24 February 2018 10am

NZHL XRACE Hamilton - Sunday, 25 February 2018 10am

NZHL XRACE Napier - Friday, 02 March 2018 6pm

NZHL XRACE Hawera - Sunday, 04 March 2018 midday

NZHL XRACE Palmerston North - Friday, 09 March 2018 6pm

NZHL XRACE Hutt City - Sunday, 11 March 2018 10am

NZHL XRACE Blenheim - Thursday, 15 March 2018 6pm

NZHL XRACE Christchurch - Saturday, 17 March 2018 10am

NZHL XRACE Cambridge - Friday, 23 March 2018 6pm

NZHL XRACE Auckland - Sunday, 25 March 2018 10am

Enter now at www.xrace.co.nz