



Houghton Valley School

Newsletter

Caring, Exploring and Inspiring Together

Ka Manaaki, Ka Rapu, Ka Whakamanawa tahi ai tātou

Thursday, 22nd June 2023

Week 9 of Term 2

HVS Reminders

- Fri 23rd June - Bake Sale 3pm – Bottom Court
- Thurs 29th June – Matariki Celebration 5pm
- Fri 30th June – Last of Term 2 2023 2:55pm
- Mon 17th July – First Day of Term 3 - 9am

Kia Ora koutou e te whānau,

“A perfect parent is a person with excellent child-rearing theories and no actual children.”

Dave Barry,

As an aging Baby Boomer principal (an endangered species) I thought retirement would herald the end of my interaction with the education sector and employment in general, as, by definition, retirement means the time you stop working. I was wrong. I was exhumed, given a pulse, re-booted and enticed back into a school. I was lucky the school was H.V.S. I wasn't exactly dragged in kicking and screaming but I was a little nervous. However, it has been a great experience and my first time in a contributing school. So, as this is the last newsletter I will Pen (at HVS, anyway) I want to take the opportunity to say it has been a privilege and a pleasure being “night watchman,” at this school, this term. I entered a very well led, supportive, happy, engaged and emotionally safe school environment and I have enjoyed the term immensely. The bar has been set very high so if I do another one of these roles there will be a lot to live up to.

I found my engagement with the BOT and Home and School thoroughly positive. Trickle down impact is real and when interactions are as cohesive and affirming as they are with these two groups and with the school leadership, it is easy to see why the school culture is so positive. I have really appreciated the kind and supportive words from whanau I have met during the term. Thanks to Denise who kept me up with the play on things I needed to know, managing all things fiscal and her wonderful care for tamariki who were sick or injured. Thanks also to Dave, Ned and Annie for keeping the school ship-shape.

I have loved the focus on the arts this term and the engagement with tamariki and the staff who have tolerated my frequent “managing by walking around,” unheralded incursions to your rooms. Thank you for your patience and tolerance and for sharing your classes and your learning with me. It has been wonderful personal growth for me, getting to know and working with a new group of great teachers and teacher aides. My thanks to; Miriam, Charlotte, Charles, Nicola, Tanya, Abby, Kelly, Stephanie, Phoebe, Fiona, Jill, Molly, Cilla, Colette and, of course Lulu.

I have to give a shout out to our builders. It's impossible to have a big project take place without some disruption (mostly noise). Milo is a great site foreman; he has been very professional and engaging in his relationships with the school and in the fortnightly site meetings. Milo has done everything to keep the work on track and minimise the impact on school staff.

Miriam Presentations

Miriam had an even busier time than normal last week, delivering two excellent presentations, one on student progress to our board and one on our local curriculum to a visiting school group,

Student Progress

Miriam delivered an excellent report on the progress of our tamariki based on gathered and analysed mid – year data, in reading, writing and Mathematics. As well as the raw data, Miriam talked about things teachers had noticed in each subject, what is working well and what teachers are doing to further support all students. Miriam also talked about her role as SENCo (Special Education Coordinator). Our data is high – end and Miriam's report was very well received by the board.

Pukerua Bay School

Miriam presented to a group of Pukerua Bay senior managers and board members on the process of building a local curriculum. Pukerua Bay are at the place where HVS was three or four years ago and they were very appreciative of Miriam's presentation, the insights and the opportunity to ask questions.

Fire Drill

We conducted a fire drill on Tuesday this week. Staff and tamariki performed outstandingly. The school assembled with great efficiency in just under four minutes. Tamariki took the drill very seriously and behaved accordingly. It was great to see that Milo and his team of builders joined us in the drill.

**Strange new trend at the office. People putting names on food in the company fridge.
Today I had a Tuna sandwich named Kevin.**

Appointment in Ti Kouka (Rm 6 - Term Three)

Senior management have completed the appointment process for the fixed term position in Ti Kouka (Room6) for term three. We are delighted to announce that Jackie Brown has been appointed to this position. Jackie is an enthusiastic, dedicated and motivated professional with over twenty years' experience across the primary sector. I know that tamariki, staff and whanau will enjoy working with Jackie next term.

Colette de Vere Green, who is well known to the school and community has already been appointed to the position for term three in Kowhai (Fiona Crossett).

A Little Subversive Vignette



I couldn't resist putting a couple of these musical funnies in, though I think you may have to be a *baby boomer to get them.



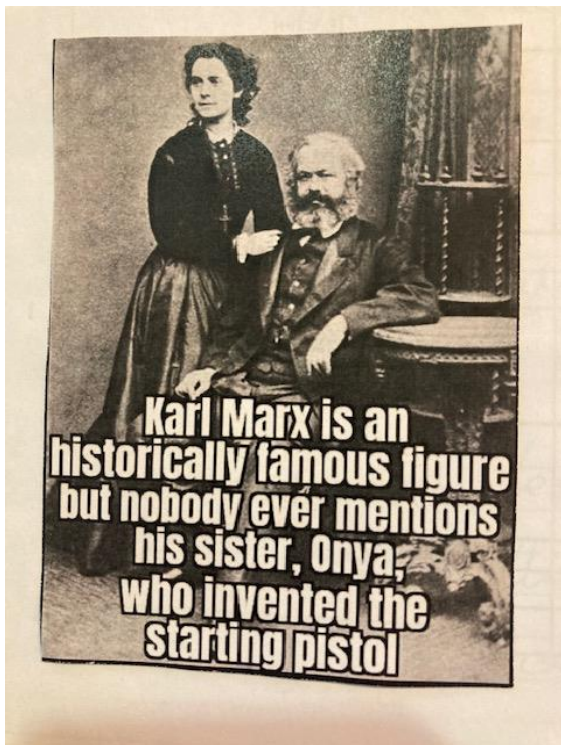
***Baby Boomer (1946 – 64)**

Assumed to be a liberal, permissive, utopian, political and social idealist, activist and counter culturalist that in time morphs into an old, bald, capitalist, conservative; responsible for global warming, international unrest, the cost of living crisis, house prices, the price of petrol, and the general marginalisation of younger generations and who still listens to 60's music.

Politics (A Parting Shot)

Pithy Churchillian Quotes

- You will never reach your destination if you stop to throw stones at every dog that barks.
- There is nothing a government can give you that it hasn't taken from you in the first place.



The NZEI (Primary teachers' union)

Last week the "Post," ran a front page, half page, story headed "Principals in Crisis. "An NZEI survey of 629 principals, found 30% who said they would leave the profession within the next two years."

The survey resulted in, "burnt out primary school principals in Aotearoa are meeting today for a nationwide "crisis summit."

One of the responses in a subsequent NZEI bulletin stated.

"We need to make sure being a principal is something that more teachers aspire to be. This will be done by sharing positive messages about what is great about the job while also working to address the systemic issues that make the role so challenging."

I agree with this sentiment but it will be hard to achieve if the public and teachers who are aspiring leaders, continue to be fed the negative, bleating, narrative we were subject to in this week's "Post." article. It painted a picture of principals weeping tears of blood whilst existing in a solitary island of despair.

I was a principal for 20 years and while things were difficult at times - as is the case in most leadership roles, whether in a school or otherwise - most of the time it was exciting and fun. I never felt unsupported in that time. I owe a lot to successive Boards of Trustees, the wonderful staffs I have worked with, other principals, the MOE (most of the time) The NZEI on the odd occasion and certainly, whanau in all the schools I worked in. Most of my principal mates experienced the same.

I'll leave you with a work quote to fill this space.

"I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours." – Jerome K Jerome.

Cross Country

We have a number of outstanding Cross Country runners at H.V.S. Seven of our tamariki qualified and ran in the recent Interzone event. To get to that race they had to qualify through the school and Southern Zone events. The Athletes that ran in the Interzone event were: Kit; Freddy; Agnes; Max; Kiaan; Lachie and Matiu.

Huge Congratulations to **Max** who finished second in the Interzone and therefore qualifying for Regionals which take place on 27th June in Masterton. This means Max is competing against the best runners in the lower half of the North Island.

No reira, kia kaha ra,
Ngā Mihi Nui,
John Wootton (Acting Principal)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – JUNE UPDATE

Kia ora koutou Houghton Valley School whānau

It's our final Board of Trustees update for Term 2 and we wanted to take this opportunity to say a couple of big thank-yous.

Ngā mihi nui to John Wootton for your hard work as HVS Acting Tumuaki/Principal this term, including overseeing our major building project with a few unexpected challenges along the way - to quote John himself, there's been 'pestilence, disease and the floods'. Thanks for dealing with these curveballs with minimal disruption and for keeping whānau well informed throughout.

We the Board have really enjoyed working with you over this time, your cool, calm demeanour and steady hand have been invaluable - not to mention the jokes, tributes and 'pithy thoughts' that have graced the newsletter this term!

We also want to acknowledge the patience, perseverance and hard work of the HVS kaiako and staff who have kept up their high standards of teaching while working alongside a building site - we know that the noise has been very challenging at times. Thank you.

We've heard from staff that the tamariki are coping very well with the impacts of the ongoing property work, so well done and thank you to you too. We are sure the disruption will all be worth it once we can make use of a lovely new library.

We look forward to catching up with the HVS community over some soup at the Matariki evening on 29 June, and wish you all well for the school holidays.

The next Board hui is 7pm Monday 24 July, whānau are welcome to attend.

Ngā mihi
HVS Board of Trustees

A BIG WELCOME IN HARAKEKE CLASS TO:

😊 **Florence Paul**

BAKE SALE THIS FRIDAY – BRING YOUR COINS

MATARIKI CELEBRATION



Thursday 29th June at 5pm

NOTE: Please bring your own mug for the soup - Thanks

We are very much looking forward to our Matariki celebration on Thursday 29th June at 5pm!

On Wednesday 28th June (the day before), some of our Year 6 senior tamariki will start to prepare Harvest vegetable soup for our whānau to enjoy.

We ask each whānau to please donate **one vegetable** for the soup during the week 19-23 June e.g. kumara, leek, carrots, pumpkin, potatoes etc. There will be a box outside the office to collect these.

We know that kai is expensive at the moment so please only give what you can. Miriam Gaynor



SUSTAINABILITY – TERM 3

Matariki Tremendous Working Bee - Sunday 23 July (Term 3)

The ground is very wet at the moment, so we will have our next Tremendous Working Bee later in July. We will be giving the Tremendous area a good tidy up by weeding, trimming, planting and mulching. Please save the working bee date Sunday 23 July 10am -12pm. Jill Holmstead – jill@houghton.school.nz

HVS EGGS FOR SALE - \$10 A DOZEN



HVS school EGGS for SALE. Yes, we have new chickens and lots of fresh eggs.

Please contact our chicken farmer Jill Holmstead jill@houghton.school.nz if you would like to order our school eggs.



Due to the increased cost of chicken feed, the cost of eggs will increase to \$10 a dozen.

When your order is available your child will bring the eggs home or you can collect them from the office.

Then please pay online HVS BOT account:

Houghton Valley School Board of Trustees ASB 12-3481-0045763-00 with your child's name and reference **EGGS**. Thanks Jill Holmstead



The Term 2, Week 9 news:

Mānawatia a Matariki

*(meaning to honour, acknowledge, and
welcome in Matariki)*

- **BAKE SALE TOMORROW**

Kōwhai & Rimu will be hosting the bake sale tomorrow (Friday 23rd June). Please join us at school from 2:55pm to sample some of the tasty treats, and to connect with friends and the school community.

- **MATARIKI ✦**

Home & School is delighted to support the school's **Matariki** celebration on **Thursday 29th June** by preparing and selling kai. It's a hit with everyone each year and a wonderful way to reconnect with school whānau and friends.

We still need a couple of **volunteers** to help on the sausage sizzle. No skills necessary. *As a parent or caregiver you are likely hugely over qualified for this role, but we'd still appreciate **your help** in supporting this wonderful school event.* If you are available 3/4-6pm on the 29th June, please contact us at homeandschoolchair@houghton.school.nz or check in with your class rep.

- **ANNOUNCING - TERM 3 QUIZ DATE**

The date has now been set for the **HVS Quiz**. This is a great opportunity for you to find a babysitter and have an entertaining evening with other parents and caregivers. You deserve it! Add **Thursday 14th September** to your calendars.

- **ANNOUNCING - TERM 4 DISCO DATE**

Get the kids' dancing shoes ready for Term 4. The **Disco** date has now been set. Add **Friday 13th October** to your calendars.

What is the Home & School Association?

Our Home & School Association is a collective of HVS parents and caregivers. Our purpose is to support the school by connecting the community and raising funds. Everyone who is part of the HVS community is part of the Home & School Association. Yes, you are already a member :)

Save the date - Term 3

H&S Term 3 Meeting - Thu 3rd August 7:30pm
HVS Quiz -Thu 14th September

Save the date - Term 4

HVS Disco - Friday 13th October
HVS Fair - Saturday 28th October, 10-2pm

There's ALWAYS a chance to join in. Here's how you can help...

Just an hour of your time can make a real difference to our community. The events above all rely on volunteers. Volunteering is easy - *no experience necessary* - and you'll get to meet a bunch of other volunteers in the process. If you're interested to know more about how you can help at one of our events, please email us at homeandschoolchair@houghton.school.nz.

Events for Term 2 2023

Term 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 9 19-23 June					Bake Sale 3pm Kowhai & Rimu Rm2 & Rm 10
Week 10 26-30 June			School Reports Shared	Matariki Celebration 5:00pm	Last Day of Term 2 pickup 2:55pm
<u>Term 3 2023</u>					
Week 1 17-21 July	9am Term 3 starts				
Tremendous Working Bee Sunday 23 rd July 10-12pm – all welcome!					
Week 2 24-28 July	BOT Meeting 7pm				
Week 3 31 July – 4 Aug				Home & School Meeting 7:30pm	

KELLY CLUB HOLIDAY PROGRAMME



Kelly Club Island Bay Holiday Programmes focus on giving children aged between 5 and 13 the opportunity to do things they enjoy in a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment.

The July Holiday Programme is full of exciting activities and trips that will guarantee your children have a great time including:

Artic Explorers Day, Find the Golden Ticket Day, Medieval Madness Day, Mid Winter Xmas, Topsy Turvy Tuesday, Matariki Celebrations plus trips to: The Lanes for Ten Pin Bowling then to Te Papa, Laserforce and we are off to the movies to see Elemental!

to Enrol go to www.kellyclub.co.nz

Houghton Valley School Information	
Houghton Valley School Ph: 939-3318 Website: www.houghton.school.nz PrincipalEmail: principal@houghton.school.nz	HVS Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/houghton.school.nz/ School Office Email: admin@houghton.school.nz
Healthline 0800 611 116 OR COVID-19 Info 0800 358 5453	
<u>Bee Healthy Dental Clinic</u> • 0800 825 583	<u>Ezlunch.co.nz</u> • Thursdays • Sushi • Fridays • Pita Pit - go online to www.ezlunch.co.nz please order before 8:30am
<u>Kelly Club After School Care</u> - www.kellyclub.co.nz Cell 022 010 9981 Eden – Co-ordinator Email houghtonvalley@kellyclub.co.nz	
HVS School Fair – Saturday 28th October 2023 - Put this date in your DIARY	