



Kaeo School

Learn, Love, Contribute, Grow
Aim High—Stand Tall - Taraia nga taumata E tu teitei
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**Term 1
Week 7**

Hello everyone,

I regret that I am again writing about primary school principal and teacher collective agreement negotiations. As advised in last weeks newsletter, primary school principals and teachers (and secondary school teachers and kindergarten teachers) have undertaken strike ballots in support of their ongoing negotiations with government. The result of these ballots was that primary school principals and teachers have decided to strike and this will occur on Thursday – accordingly school will be closed that day.

Striking is never an easy option but with the benefit of my being directly involved in these negotiations as part of my role representing Tai Tokerau principals on NZEI's Principal Council I must say it was clearly inevitable after all but a very few of the claims put forward were even acknowledged.

This is particularly galling given that in the main the claims were built on the governments own Tomorrow's School report which highlights that primary schools are underfunded in New Zealand and that this is particularly true when compared with secondary schools.

The Tomorrow's Schools report called for this to be addressed with urgency because of what it means for principals and staff but also for what it means for the children in their care – smaller class sizes, better support for children with special needs, more time for principals to lead teaching and learning , increased management and administration support, and ultimately a reduction in the stress and burn-out being experienced by principals and teachers.

Our teachers will be outside school on Thursday morning before heading into Kerikeri to join their colleagues for a combined march – please support them if you should pass by.

Kind regards,
Paul Barker.

Students of the Week

Congratulations to last weeks Students of the Week and top Kiwi Canners – Bosston, Tuwha, Nico, Alexisa, Denzel, Sindi and Ahurei.



Teacher Only Days – Early Notice.

The first day of Term 2 is Monday the 24th of April and is followed by a holiday on the 25th of April -ANZAC Day. We have decided to have a teacher only day on the 24th, slightly extending the holiday. We will make this day up at the end of the year.

There will also be a teacher only day on Monday the 29th of May as staff undertake whole school training with the Glasser Foundation Aotearoa. Please note your diaries accordingly.

Swimming Sports

A reminder that Friday (the 17th of March) is Whangaroa Primary School Swimming Sports Day. Everyone is welcome to attend. Junior school children will be in our school swimming pool and senior children in the Whangaroa Community Pool. No school lunches that day but there will be a lot of yummy food and drinks etc for sale – all proceeds to our trips in Term 3.