



Learn, Love, Contribute, Grow
Aim High—Stand Tall - Taraia nga taumata E tu teitei
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**Term 1
Week 9**

Hello everyone,

There has been a lot of discussion about education in the media over the last few days as the government begins to implement its new plans.

Attendance is a hot topic with the Associate Minister of Education, David Seymour, and the Prime Minister Christopher Luxon both suggesting that part of the way to encourage children's regular attendance at school is to fine the parents of children that are often absent. In addition, they have suggested that better record keeping, presumably at a national level, will result in an increase in attendance levels. Mr Seymour has also stated that he considers that some schools have excellent attendance levels because they have 'quality school leadership' though he did not go quite so far as to say that where there are instances of poor attendance levels this is because of a lack of quality school leadership!

To me this appears to be a simple response to a complex problem. There are many reasons that children may legitimately be absent from school the most common being – illness or tangi. But there are many others including having difficult family circumstances, insecure housing, the cost and support in simply getting to school – all of which can make it challenging for children to reach the 90% attendance threshold that is the government's aim.

It is not news to us that attendance is important for success at school. No one associated with Kaeo School over the last couple of decades will be unaware of our commitment to high attendance. We acknowledge that there can be barriers to children getting to school and try hard to assist where we can and as some families have experienced, we are not slow to pay a visit to see where children are!

This term we have attendance across the school that sits just a smidge over 90%. All done without the threat of fines and truancy officers but rather because as a community we have committed to doing the very best we can for our children and giving them each the best chance for success and happiness at school – well done and thank you everyone – let's keep it up!

Kind regards,
Paul Barker.

Dental Truck

Happily the Dental Truck has arrived and it is expected that children will start being seen next week. The truck will also operate over the upcoming school holidays and if you would like to make an appointment for your child during the holidays then please call 0800 MYTEETH (0800 6983384) to make an appointment.

Excitingly, one of our therapists is well known to us as a much-loved past student of Kaeo School – Francis Stewart. It is great that Francis is progressing so well in her chosen career and that she can work in and contribute to her community. A big WELCOME HOME to Francis and welcome too to her colleague Margo.



Easter Raffle

Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets in our Easter Raffle. The winners were:

- 1st Braxton Sheard
- 2nd Alaya Rudolph
- 3rd Walter Tepania

Last Day of Term

Next Friday is the last day of Term 1 and school closes at 1pm for the autumn break.

Important Dates

- 8 April BOT Meeting
- 12 April Last day of Term 1
- 29 April Term 2 begins.
- 6 May Teacher Only Day – school closed.