Newsletter No.5 Term 3 27th September 2019

The winter school term has come to an end. When we were in the midst of it, the weather threw everything at us. Made us sick, made us wish we could stay cuddled up for the day, but we pressed on and now, it’s over. Time waits for no one. We return to school on October 14th.

The children are tired. They have earned a break from the school routine. Thanks families. Thank you for supporting the children in their learning journeys.  
This term saw the teachers trying desperately to stay well enough to be at school. In Auckland, relief teachers became scarce. They often get all the bugs going around, because they travel around many schools.

**The measles outbreak** - This doesn’t appear to be over but our school has had no confirmed cases. When we do, those pupils unimmunised will be unable to attend for 10 school days.

**Curriculum news** - This week our 9 year olds were each gifted an amazing dictionary. The Rotary club distributes these annually to our 9 year olds. We love the gift. We thank the Rotary club sincerely.

Middle school speeches had an interrupted build up with all the absenteeism, but the finals were held and we are very proud of all those who took on the challenge of public speaking. Preparing and delivering a speech is an excellent skill and all participants are to be congratulated. Below are our finalist winners. Congratulations. Hard work has paid off. Success is the greatest of feelings.

**Yr.6 1st** Iyah Hassan **Yr.5 1st** Delaine Kariyawasam

**2nd** Fakaui Levale **2nd** Atlanta Salmon-Wharekawa

**3rd** Thang Tai Thul **3rd** Lois Mills

**Highly Commended** Jilya Mustafa & Charlotte Ferris (Team)

Walker Aloiai & Andrew Muaiava (Team)

Felix Graham

Angel Kanara

**Overall Winner** – Iyah Hassan

**Maths/rugby cup fever is at Don Buck school!** - Maths knowledge is essential. We never know when we may have to rely on our learnings. The Rugby World Cup experience enhances maths learning. Classes are monitoring all the countries taking part. Which countries will be winners of the first round is about estimating data, how many groups and how was each country seeded to a particular group, is manipulating data. Likelihood of wins and loses based on gathered data (form) of each team is mathematical predictability. All of this maths is learning through play. When the pupils work hard on this they are using prior knowledge, peer sharing, teacher guidance, and working out next steps.  
Learning through play is not playing. It is playing with ideas, playing with theories, it’s playing with prior knowledge to gain new knowledge, it’s playing with predictability, playing with a concept and fair testing the concept. The teachers are also debating all of this in break times. Mr Murray and Mr Shepherd are deep in stern rugby maths conversation every break we have at the moment.

**Farm Visit Success** - The junior school trip to farmer Scott’s dairy farm just out of Helensville was a great success. The day dawned wet and stayed that way pretty much. That didn’t matter. Raincoats and gum boots were the order of the day and off they set. Everyone loved the bus ride. Everyone loved the toilet stops! The lady at the museum where the toilet stop was, was kind and caring. Everyone loved the farm. The calf pen was whiffy! we put our jackets over our noses! Fletch the dog was accommodating.

For some children, Fletch was the first dog they had seen up close. The lambs were fed

by excited pupils who will remember that for ever. There is something really touching

about giving a lamb a bottle.  
There were puddles to be jumped over!  
Did you know that cows and calves have really loooooong tongues!   
The rain fell then stopped. No one got sick on the bus!  
Thank you for the combined efforts of all the adults for setting up such

a wonderful experience and thanks to all the adults who came on the trip.

**Motat Memories** - Middle school Motat experience, meant ending the term on a good note.  
As we prepare this message, the pupils from spaces 13, 14, 15 and 6, are on a special trip of Motat. Every pupil takes something different from “away” visits. It’s sad when families don’t wish the children to take up these opportunities.

Some of us experience a bus ride for the first time.

Some of us visit Auckland’s special places for the first time.  
Some of us have been before, but not on a school trip.  
There are some pupils who have not been places without mum or dad or a family member.  
Letting them experience this is the beginning of developing a child’s confidence and resilience and for them to recognise their own abilities in managing themselves around other people.  
We know that those on the visit will take away memories that last for ever.  
  
**Volley Ball Battle** - A Volley Ball competition at Massey High ended the term on a sporty note for lots of our senior children. This competition is among the full primary schools out here. We call ourselves the north west cluster. We entered a boys team and a girls one. Competition was strong. Kimberly, our sports activator, helped them train up, trial and compete. Mr Murray thanks all those who people who contributed to helping the teams get competition ready.  
  
**Schools sharing the fun** - The pump track is on the move. We share this great activity with schools close by that don’t have one. It will return to us soon. It’s nice to know other children will be having fun using it.  
  
**Preparing for High school in 2020** - High school entrance tests time is here, in readiness for 2020. The majority of our year eight pupils are going to be attending Massey High School next year. This week, those children sat their test at Massey High School and then came on down to class. If your child is not enrolled yet, it’s so important the family gets to do this now so your son or daughter can feel they belong with their peers. They need to have this in common with each other so they don’t feel left out or worried about not having enrolled yet. Once enrolled, you belong. You feel you fit with your peers around wondering how things will be so different at High School. We start to talk about 2020 and high schools lot now. We always feel for the children who don’t know where they are going next year. They don’t fit into the conversations as they would like.  
  
**Community consultation** - Thank you for taking the time to fill in our questionnaire. We have had many responses, mainly handwritten. Your thoughts are important to us. We’ve even found out there is a rocket scientist living in West Auckland. The children would love to spend time with such a person  
  
**On line etiquette** - From time to time school is drawn into situations around children’s online lives outside of school because they post wrong information or unkind pieces about other pupils here. Adults can be role models for their children on line. If your children know their family post unkindnesses online, there’s a good chance the child will do the same. Families will have their own plans around things, but we remind families that 14 is the legal age to hold accounts such as Facebook. If you have children posting anything on line, this list of self-reflection questions may be helpful . . .  
Do I have the right to share this?  
Is it the right thing to do?  
Am I able to take responsibility if this post goes viral or is shared without my permission?   
Will I regret this tomorrow when I’m not angry or upset?  
Is the risk worth the reward of 15 minutes of fame ?  
Am I ready for the social, emotional, verbal or legal battle that may ensue?  
We do talk to the children who seem unguided with this. Often, they don’t understand that

by pressing delete, only the screen deletes, the message, the image remains and can be

sought and used.  
‘But we deleted it” is a common cry.  
Was it right what you posted?  
Thanks to all of you who have given us these hints. Screens /devices are here to stay. Adults are in charge. You may ban them in your home, but your child still has access to a device from a friend, neighbour etc so it’s best to teach the etiquette.



We wish all the children a fun break from the school routine and hope they get some well-earned rest.