Newsletter No.2 Term 4 8th November 2019

The board of trustees and staff at Don Buck school send their thoughts to one of our families who have suffered a major house fire. It was so wonderful to hear that the whole family escaped without injury. School is keeping in daily contact with them as they take steps to process such a tragedy. The best thing for the children’s friends at school is that everyone is back at school, while the family works to re-establish family life.

HATS ARE COMPULSARY AT SCHOOL please  
The health and safety rules in schools include that the wearing of hats, while outside learning and playing, is essential.  
Hats need to be worn every school day. We are charged with keeping those children who don’t wear hats, safe from the sun, so they play under the big top or the sails outside our Whanau room. They will need hats to access the curriculum outside though. Most children have hats permanently in their bags so they always have it handy. Thank you very much for providing your child’s head, neck and face safety from the sun, by providing a hat for them.

CROSS COUNTRY win goes to Apiata House. *Congratulations* to all of you in that house.  
We admired everyone who got in there and gave it a go. These longer runs aren’t everyone’s cup of tea, but we encourage perseverance and resilience. We watch those children who show that community spirit and just give things a go and they don’t worry about being the best at it. That’s a great character.  
It was wonderful to see some of you there cheering everyone on.  
I spent some time chatting with year 8 pupils who suddenly realised they would never run another Don Buck cross country. They were recalling how it was when they ran when they were juniors, and how they loved everyone’s clapping.  
Now, as the oldest in the school, they were fuelling up, stretching, pacing about in deep self-reflection. They wanted their best result possible. It was a privilege to listen to them. If any of the adults watching took photos of children other than your own, we know you will respect the privacy of the other children, by not posting these photos on social media.  
  
SUMMER UNIFORM ORDERS  
The children have grown over winter, they now need school shirts that fit them. The uniform is something to be proud of and if the tee shirts and shorts are ripped or stained, it’s time for new ones. You are advised to come to the office and just try sizes. It’s easy to order online and our office team can give you the details.  
We have some small and medium sized school hats which are for sale here for $10.00.  
  
CHILDREN’S DIGNITY IS REALLY IMPORTANT

They feel lost when . . .

* They are late for school – they really don’t like it. Some of them get so frustrated that once again the school day has started without them.
* They haven’t got the uniform on – they see the other pupils in correct uniform and want to belong to the team.
* There’s no food for them or someone brings it in too late. School tries to get hold of you as soon as we know food hasn’t arrived. It’s frustrating when our messages are not responded to.
* Their families don’t get them enrolled in high school and they are the only ones who can’t join in with the high school talk happening here from July until the end of the year. Belonging to the team is really important.

The children are under our care when you get them to us each day, and it’s school’s task to check that the mums, the dads, the nan’s, the aunties and all the caregivers do their bit in order for the child’s dignity to remain intact.