

## WHĀNAU EVENING - TONIGHT

### WELCOME

This week our Whānau Evening will be a massive highlight. This is taking place tonight from 4pm. Classrooms will be open, teachers will be present, come on in and take a look around and have a chat. From 4.45pm the bouncy castles, sausage sizzles and waterslides will be all go. You are welcome to bring your own kai or enjoy a sausage and an ice block on us. It will be awesome to see you all here.

### KAIBOTS - SPECIALISTS

Kaibots are a new type of bot that are becoming increasingly popular in schools. The Kaibot teaches kids how to code through the use of bluetooth-linked tiles and iPads. Our super cool group of Te Tipu new entrants based their Kaibot challenge on a map of Aotearoa. Students find these devices extremely engaging and challenging. Kaibots (see picture directly to the right) are an aspect of Whaea Kathy's specialist teaching role.

Also, tomorrow our school dance programme kicks off.

### BOARD ELECTIONS

The Board will be holding elections for two new members following the appointment of Pene Hallett to Office Executive and the retirement of Allan McLean. I would like to extend a huge thank you to both of our previous board members for the service they have given over many years. Further information will come out about the elections shortly, however, if you feel you are keen to contribute to the future development of our school, get in touch.

### JOE MCMENAMIN MURAL

This week Joe McMemamin has been hosting schools from across the region to create a mural that will adorn the Civic Centre to commemorate 150 years of Feilding and Districts. Keep an eye out for this completed mural later in the 2024 year.

### CRETE CRIBB

On the 27th of January Crete Cribb, our school caretaker, was fortunate to be invited to take part in a high performance International Rugby Academy New Zealand (IRANZ) coaching course in Trentham, Wellington. The course went for two weeks and was designed for regional players and coaches. The aim was to up skill and gain knowledge from some of the world's best coaches and players, earn coaching tickets and experience that will open up coaching opportunities around the world. It was an awesome experience for Crete who did some great networking and met some cool people. This was an experience Crete will cherish for years to come.



24/03

Thursday 15th February 2024



## TE AO MAORI @ LSS

Kohā

Put simply, kohā is a Māori term for a gift. It's a way in which one can express gratitude in the form of a physical gift, like money, food, and bottles of fancy wine; or something intangible, like some great advice. But if you stop at a simple definition then you miss out on all the colour and meaning of the tradition of giving a kohā. For the uninitiated, let's take an imaginary trip back in time and explore a cultural definition. Imagine your village is hosting a great celebration and guests from all across the land are welcomed onto your marae. Towards the conclusion of the welcoming ceremony, a gift of food - lets say, a few sizable baskets of kumara is offered to the hosts on behalf of the guests. On a practical level, this kohā is a contribution towards the catering for the event. On a deeper, and somewhat more personal level, kohā can also symbolise an expression of deep gratitude and affection.

In 2009, Tungia Symonds-Kaihau of Tainui and Ngāti Maniapoto, introduced a unique kōrero around the notion of koha. She suggested a macron over the 'a' be added to place emphasis to the second syllable hā (exhaled breath as in life). In this context, the word kohā broadly translates to 'it is life'. The gesture and notion of kohā in generosity is therefore limitless but could be instrumental in broadly acknowledging the celebration of life, be that directly or indirectly.

In week 6, we will be visiting the local Mana Whenua marae, Kai Iwi Pā, more commonly known as Kauwhata Marae.

All students will spend a day at the marae and our senior students will stay for one night each. We have requested that all children offer a gold coin kohā as a gift of goodwill to recognise the generosity of the tangata whenua, Ngāti Kauwhata. Last year we had planned this visit, but the marae was devastated by a flash flood that seriously damaged some of the buildings and surrounding property. Prior to the flood, some whānau had sent kohā in with their children. That was put alongside a kohā given on behalf of the school whānau to support with the rebuild and remediation work carried out. If you sent a kohā with your child last year, please do not feel obliged to offer another kohā this year. In the next newsletter we will be sharing more information and details about this upcoming visit.

## SCHOOL BUILDING

As you may be aware the school has a number of building alterations taking place. The old dental clinic has been modernised and will become the offices for our Learning Support Coordinators. They are due to move in tomorrow. In addition, there are two main projects in the pipeline - the modernisation of Rooms 12-15 and height modifications and enhancements to the school boundary fencing. You will also see a number of aluminium doors going in to replace existing wooden ones to increase their durability and practicality.



## 125TH JUBILEE

Our 125th Jubilee is coming up in 2026. This will be an awesome event for our school. Currently we are assembling a team who will lead the organisation of this event. If you keen to be involved please let the office know.



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