

Principal's Greeting

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2021. Unlike many schools around the world our students were able to continue their schoolwork without the disruptions brought about by Covid19. We are very blessed.

As we complete another school year my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to our school throughout the year – Ms Maeva for her teaching, to E.O. and all the Admin staff, to Will Rowe for his technical and computer skills, to those, both on and off island, who sent gifts and resources and donated money, to the MOE who sent us a box of fabulous Maths teaching resources, to the parents who help us teachers do our job, to those that helped the students learn Maori, to Nurse Dean and especial thanks to Palmerston Community members for sharing their skills and knowledge for the benefit of our children and for attending our school events. We thank you all for your support.

New Student

A big welcome to Aloysius. Though no stranger to our school he was enrolled at the beginning of Term 4 and is our youngest student. This term Aloysius won “Best Student of the Week” prize.



Aloysius with his “Best Student of the Week” trophy



Aloysius completed his first PACE with 100%

Literacy Class

This term students have been working on learning how to write a persuasive essay. A persuasive essay uses reason to demonstrate that certain ideas are more valid than others in academic writing. The purpose of such an essay is to encourage readers to accept a particular viewpoint or act in a particular way. Persuasive writing helps students formulate specific reasons for their opinions, and provides an opportunity to research facts related to their opinions. This form of writing improves critical-thinking skills, teaches how to deliver ideas and improves communication skills.

Maori Lessons

Maori lessons continue with teaching from E.O and Memory. Maori class is held once a week and focuses on spoken communication.



Maori class under the trees

Swimming and Water Safety

Our senior students have nailed their freestyle technique and have gained a good level of swim fitness. This term they started drills to enhance their body awareness in the water. Their swim fitness compliments the water safety and rescue skills they have learned making everyone safer in our lagoon. These skills are enhanced by our students' abilities to swim both backstroke and survival backstroke and sidestroke

James has progressed very well this term and can now swim freestyle with good technique. Jamin is not far behind him. Aloysius has gained tremendous confidence in the water. He is comfortable in water he can't stand up in and is no longer fearful of putting his head underwater. With his newly acquired floating skills, Aloysius is well on his way to becoming an excellent swimmer.

Everyone is invited to join us for Friday afternoon swimming lessons. Allan, Pati and Joeryll are regular attendees and always very welcome.



Stretching before swimming helps prevent cramping

Environmental Education

This term students continued their Wednesday morning environmental education through a new series released by the Khalid bin Sultan Foundation. This organisation surveyed nearly a quarter of the world's reefs including, in 2013, Palmerston. The findings are communicated through the documentary series "Our Living Oceans" and Palmerston and Palmerston people have featured throughout the series.

A few weeks ago our students joined with other young people from around the world in this year's virtual Youth Ocean Conservation Summit. Due to the time difference our students not only gave up their Saturday but arrived at school for the 5am start. Students watched presentations and participated in several skills based workshops to learn how to be good stewards of our ocean.

School Gardens

A part of our environmental education program focuses on our school garden. Many thanks to the Admin staff who have rebuilt our garden beds and planted a new crop of cucumbers. Students are responsible for pollinating, weeding and watering the school garden so to facilitate this care we have set aside Thursday mornings for garden maintenance. We are looking forward to the students producing a bumper crop.



Student briefing for planting out their seedlings



Students with E.O and Julianna planting cucumber seedlings



Pati lending a helping hand to E.O.

Colour Photocopier

This term we received a brand new OKI colour photocopier provided by Ken Matheson of the Northern Group Education Trust. We have also been gifted a set of replacement ink cartridges. Our heartfelt thanks to the trust for providing us with such a useful piece of equipment.



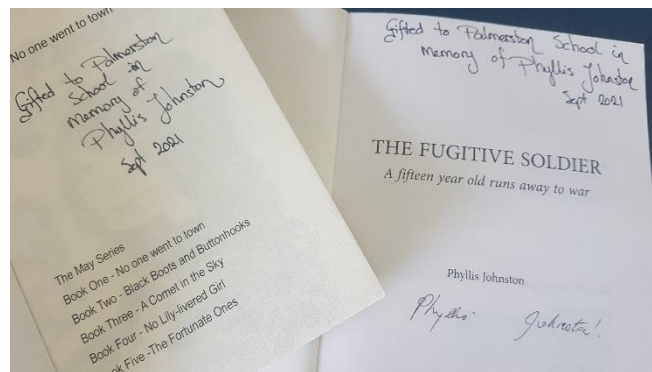
James, Tamatoa, Aloysius, Deon, Robert and Jamin with our new colour photocopier.

Books

Our thanks go to the family of well-loved New Zealand author, Phyllis Johnston. Phyllis Johnston's books are written for young adults and have been extremely popular since they were first published in the 1980s. Phyllis Johnston sadly passed away this year aged 86. On hearing of our school her family have sent us a set of her five book "May" series – a set of stories about New Zealand pioneers - together with a signed copy of her book, "The Fugitive Soldier", the story of a fifteen year old boy who runs away to war. All books have been inscribed "Gifted to Palmerston School in memory of Phyllis Johnston, Sept 2021". These are very special books and we are very grateful to Phyllis Johnston's family. Thank you to Mr Will for arranging to receive these wonderful books for our library.



Students with Phyllis Johnston's books



Signed and inscribed books by Phyllis Johnston

Gifts

We are very blessed to have so many people support our school with gifts and resources. Thanks to Mike and to Juanita who regularly send gifts for our school. This term we would like to thank Michael and Anja, two New Zealand visitors to Rarotonga, for their kind gifts to our students. Students received swim goggles, frisbees, pens, stickers, drink bottles and notebooks. Thanks to Mama Ange Purdy for getting these wonderful gifts to us here on Palmerston.



Gifts from New Zealanders, Michael and Anja

Auction

Over the year our students earn rewards represented by stickers on our star chart. Each sticker is worth \$1. At the end of the year the stickers are tallied up and each student is given money based on the number of stickers they accumulated. This money is then used to bid for items in an auction. This year students had between \$110 and \$160 to spend on a variety of many sought after items.



Students bidding at auction. Going once! Going twice! SOLD!

End of Year Community and Prize Giving Day

We were very proud to invite the community into our school to help our students celebrate their successes. Students sang our school anthem, hymns and performed several dances for Community accompanied by William on the guitar. Robert shared an excellent Powerpoint presentation on “Mungo Man”, one of the world’s most important archaeological discoveries. This presentation fulfilled the requirements of a Social Studies research assignment, based on his first PACE in the series “Investigating the Past”.

The presentation of the awards - certificates, trophies and prizes were as follows:

Aloysius

- Best Attendance (1 day absent)
- Dedication to Learning Letters and Numbers

James

- Best Attendance (1 day absent)
- Most PACEs – Junior (71)
- Highest Average – 93.5%

Jamin

- Most Improved Learner
- Highest Average – Intermediate (91.4%)

Robert

- Most Improved Learner
- Most PACEs – Intermediate (52)
- Reo Maori Award
- Principal’s Award

Deon

- Leadership
- Most PACEs – Senior (55)
- Highest Average - Senior (90.7%)
- Special Prize – electronic keyboard

Huge congratulations to you all!

What would an end of year community and prize giving day be without a team game of Students vs Community? There were some great plays with the best out of three, Students 2 versuss Community 1. A very big thankyou to William and Deon who took the time to lay out a whole new volleyball court.

The day finished with a wonderful kai kai and another game of volleyball.

New Trophies

A very special thankyou to Nurse Dean Kapi-Tangata and family for sponsoring two beautiful new trophies - a trophy for a new category, Reo Maori, and providing us with a new Principal’s Award trophy.



Robert was the recipient of both new awards – Reo Maori and the Principal’s Award



William and Deon making a new volleyball court



Coming together for a delicious kai kai



Student dance performance



Students vs Community volleyball game



Robert's Powerpoint presentation - "Mungo Man"



Tamatoa, Robert, Aloysius, James, Jamin and Deon dance performance



Students with their trophies, certificates and prizes.

TERM 1, 2022

Tuesday 25th Jan - Thursday 14th April