

THE LUCKY TIMES

Vol. 6, No. 1

26 April, 2022

Principal's Greeting

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2022. Term 1 is always a busy time for our students as they return after their holidays and settle back into their school work.

We held our School Committee AGM this term to elect Office Bearers and Committee Members. Charlie Frisbie is returning as President and Will Rowe is returning as Secretary. Memory Moetaua has replaced Ms Maeva as Treasurer, whilst Ms Maeva has taken on the role of Staff Representative. Mrs Fiftieth Rowe and Arthur Neale are returning as Committee Members along with new Committee Member John Marsters. A very warm welcome to Memory and John with especial thanks to Ms Maeva for her hard work as Treasurer for the past five years. A special thankyou to Papa Orometua for his service as a Committee Member last year.

A special welcome back to Ray Charles who has returned to Lucky School after a year off island in Rarotonga. It's nice to have you back.

PACE Work

We would like to take this opportunity to commend our students for their hard work this term. The data shows that PACEs completed each term are steadily increasing and this term was no exception. Students' test averages are also rising due solely to their efforts to use the study techniques and strategies they have been learning.

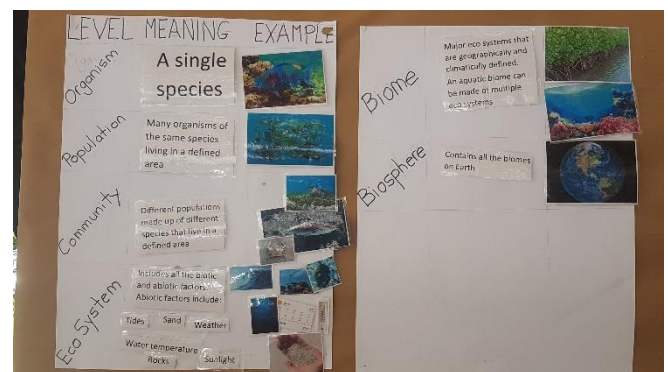
Literacy

This term students continued with a unit of work on writing a persuasive essay. Topics they are arguing for or against are:

- Mobile phones in school
- No junk food in school
- Staying up late for weekend game night
- Social media in schools
- Regular school trips to the motu

Environmental Education

Wednesday mornings are set aside for environmental education. This term students commenced a unit of work on a science based approach to Coral Reef Ecology. This term students have learned the difference between biology and ecology, where these disciplines diverge and how scientists study ecology. Students undertook a fun activity working together to complete a wall chart giving definitions of the levels of ecology and examples. Through watching videos students have learned about case studies and are developing their skills in listening and rapid notetaking.



Ecology wall chart completed by the students

Gardening

Food security is an important part of remote island life and to this end, Admin has rebuilt our school gardens. We are very fortunate to have Julianna, in her role as agriculture officer, come on Thursday mornings to provide our students with knowledge and hands on skills and experience. Each student is responsible for all aspects of their garden – planting out seedlings, watering, weeding, pollinating, maintenance and general care of the soil.



Gardening with Julianna

Reading

Reading helps with reading fluency, writing skills and vocabulary. Every term each student must complete reading a book from start to finish, averaging 20-30 pages a week. This term was no exception. This term students analysed the main character to discuss how the main character changed, what emotions the main character felt and the similarities and differences between the reader and the character. Please encourage our students to read regularly and verify this by signing your child's reading log book. Reading log books are due every Monday for checking.

Maori Class

Lucky School students, guided by both EO and Memory are becoming more proficient in understanding and communicating in Maori. We encourage all Maori speakers to help students practice by talking with them in Maori.

Culture Class

Knowing where you come from is hugely important. This term our EO helped our students understand their family connections and helped them produce a series of family group sheets. He was also able to share his knowledge of research tools such as Ancestry.com and DNA testing.



EO demonstrating how to use the Ancestry.com website.

Te Kura

This year, both Deon and Caroline are undertaking Year 11 studies with Te Kura to obtain their NCEA Level 1. Te Kura is a NZ distance education provider offering a wide range of personalised learning programmes and courses delivered online

and made available to Cook Islands senior students. Deon and Caroline are each enrolled in four subjects including Maths, English, Biology, Art, Physical Education Studies and Music.



Seniors Deon and Caroline undertaking NCEA Level 1 studies

Mindfulness and Wellbeing

Mindfulness education — lessons on techniques to calm the mind and body — can reduce the negative effects of stress and increase students' ability to focus, stay engaged, and manage their emotions, helping them stay on track with schoolwork. Students spent time painting a design onto a rock. Their own painted rock helps with learning breathing techniques and is also used to help with wellbeing, attention, focus and concentration.



Painting rocks, a tool for mindfulness and well-being

Clam Survey

This term we added more datasets to be included in our clam surveys. Team leaders, together with their teams, recorded information on wind, weather, sea state and visibility during the clam survey. This will enhance the accuracy of our data and explain any anomalies. Julianna, using her camera skills, will teach each student how to use the Gopro and complete a Film Sheet for each transect pole to record any algae cover. This will provide data to determine if algae cover is increasing or decreasing over time.



Clam survey team



On site clam survey briefing

Sabatano Family Gift

Palmerston Lucky School students and staff would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Papa Frank Sabatano, his wife Hermie and their son Akatapu for their gift of a guitar and ukulele. We have

Devotions every morning, Assembly on Mondays and on Fridays we spend an hour singing praise hymns. Though we have only one guitar we have several excellent guitar players that can lead us in song. Now we have more players joining in and we are very grateful. It is even more special due to the challenges of getting it to us and a huge thankyou to those that facilitated and ensured its safe arrival.



New guitar - Monday Assembly with Deon leading students in our school anthem



Students with our new guitar

Swimming and Water Safety Classes

With nearly all our students able to swim well we are now focusing on distance. Several students this term were able to swim from the beach to the rock (1 lap) and back again (2 laps) without stopping.

Congratulations to Robert and Tamatoa who managed more than 10 laps without stopping. They are certainly the ones to beat!



Stretching and warm up

Community Sustainability Meeting

The Lucky School students were invited to attend the community sustainability meeting to decide policies and actions on island for the next five years. This was a great opportunity for our students to see the decision-making process first hand. Our seniors, Deon and Caroline, attended the second meeting and used the notetaking skills they've been learning to report back to the other students. Thank you to Caroline and Deon for your comprehensive report on the issues raised.



Students attending the sustainability planning meeting

School Cleanup

Since introducing our reward system for behaviour management, it is rare for a student to hoe the grass during their breaks. So, we had quite a bit of work to do on the school grounds. Many thanks to our students for undertaking that work and doing a great job. A special thankyou to Charlie, William, Memory and Julianna who worked alongside the students getting it done.



Clean up day- a job well done

Health

We are very grateful to our nurse, Watson, who worked with the school to ensure all students had their yearly health checkup - deworming, height, weight, hearing, eyesight, heart, lungs and so on. For our seniors the health check also included blood sugar testing.



Robert, Aloysius and Pati at the clinic with Nurse Watson

End of Term Event

Our end of term event was very low key – Easter, no boat and so on. Caroline organised many fun games and activities including ‘spin around the pole’ and ‘human wheelbarrow’ races. A very special thankyou to William who provided fish and cooked breadfruit for a delicious, island style picnic and to Fiftieth for her help and contributions. It was a fun morning of games, food and swimming and our students and helpers enjoyed the day immensely.



Boys went spearfishing - fresh fish



Wheelbarrow race



Local food kaikai



Round the pole race



Carry the coconuts



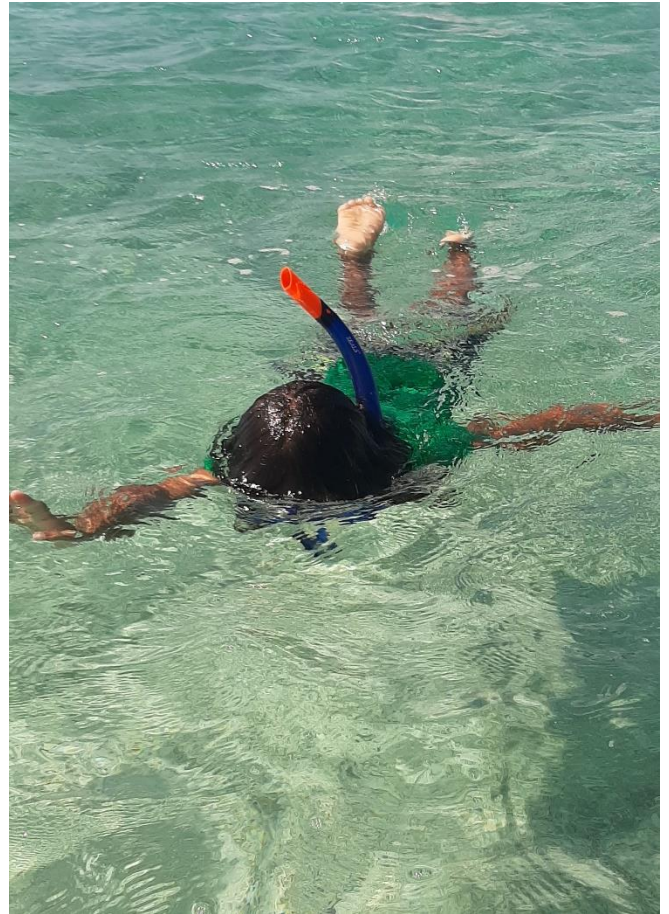
Ray Charles and John, wheelbarrow race winners



Tamatoa racing



Dodgeball – Robert, Ray Charles, Deon, James and Caroline



Aloysius – confident snorkeller



Robert, Deon and Ray Charles



Tamatoa and Deon wheelbarrow race