

Principal's Greeting

Welcome to the second newsletter for 2022. We are now halfway through the school year. This term was 12 weeks, by far the longest term of the year. Congratulations to our students who have stayed diligent and committed over this last three month term.

Special thanks are due to Charlie and John of Admin as well as to William for the recent maintenance and installation of new nets for our soccer goal posts - also for replacing our old volleyball net. We are very grateful.

As part of our school's focus on health and well-being, students brush their teeth after lunch every day. We'd like to thank Admin for providing a canvas awning installed above our outside sinks. Students now have protection from the rain when cleaning their teeth. The awning means now there is no excuse for not having good oral hygiene.



Our new canvas awning over the outdoor sinks

PACE Work

We have seen a huge shift in the way students are approaching their PACE work. Students are engaging with their PACE learning on a much deeper level than in previous years, resulting in higher Test scores and very few fails. Students are using the learning strategies they have been taught and the results of those that regularly use them are there for all to see. The quality of students' work has improved immensely and we are very proud of their diligence and hard work this term.

Credit PACEs

Robert is now working on credit PACEs for Word Building/Etymology and for Science. He has four more PACEs to complete before starting on his English credit PACEs. This is a great achievement and he certainly worked very hard to get there.

Literacy

This term our students completed a unit of work on persuasive essay writing. Our standout achievers for the assessment task are: Ray Charles, Robert and Jamin and we've included their essays for you to read at the end of the newsletter. This learning laid the foundation for a unit of work this term whereby students are learning how to write a scientific report based on their clam surveys.

Environmental Education

Our students have a deep connection to the lagoon in many ways. In order to better understand the lagoon ecosystem and its corals, students have continued with a unit of work on Coral Reef Ecology. This term students have been learning about coral anatomy, feeding processes and the processes by which a coral reef grows. Students have also been learning about "catch per unit effort" and "fishing down the chain", important concepts associated with measuring the health of the oceans. All students demonstrated their learning by crafting paragraphs that clearly explained the meaning of these terms.

Gardening

This term Julianna, our agricultural officer, and Admin handed over full responsibility for the gardens to the students. In taking on this responsibility, students worked together to ensure watering occurred in the morning and the afternoon every day including weekends. Our students took the initiative and developed a roster for these watering duties. The result was an excellent harvest with regular pickings of cucumbers.

Early Childhood Education

Ms Maeva's expertise is in Early Childhood Education (ECE). So it's not surprising that what started as a visit during break time by Allan Rowe has now turned into a regular play based learning class. Aloysius, Allan, Pati and Joeryll all attend and with Ms Maeva engage in structured play activities and learning that will enhance and promote our little ones' language and literacy development, social and emotional development, communication skills, imagination and creativity, create a positive attitude towards learning and much, much more. We are so happy to welcome these children into our school.



Play based learning - early childhood education



Pati, Joeryll and Allan



Painting in ECE class. L-R: Pati, Ms Maeva, Joeryll, Aloysius, Allan

Maori Class

Thank you to Mr. Neale and to Memory for furthering our students' abilities in Maori. Confidence in communicating in a second language will only come with practice. We encourage all Maori speaking family members to speak to your child in Maori as often as you can.

Culture Class - Genealogy

Many of our students have completed their family through lines, pedigree chart and group sheets.

Each student has been given a sturdy folder to keep these important documents safe and organised. These are “living documents” whereby the knowledge recorded can be added to and passed down from generation to generation. As a next step, all students are encouraged to ask questions and record family stories so that they are not lost. As family, we hope you will share your stories with our students so they can keep them in their folders.

Island History Jamin

Staying with the theme of island heritage and history, as part of Jamin’s Social Studies he was required to interview a community member so that he could give a presentation on how education has changed here on Palmerston. Jamin spoke with Mrs. Fifth and prepared for his interview by thinking about the information he needed and writing out his questions beforehand. Jamin spoke without notes and it was clear he had spent a lot of time preparing and practicing. Jamin gave a very polished talk that was both interesting and engaging. In answering students’ questions at the end he demonstrated a very good understanding of the topic. We are very grateful to Mrs Fifth for her support in taking the time to speak with Jamin to share her experiences with him.



Jamin’s presentation about how education on Palmerston has changed over time.

Te Kura

Deon and Caroline are continuing their Te Kura studies. Changes in the Te Kura Maths and English

curriculum mean that Caroline and Deon have had to drop down to three subjects. Deon has accrued 7 credits so far and Caroline has 10 credits.



Seniors Deon and Caroline undertaking NZEA Level 1 studies

Friday PE with Deon

One of Deon’s Te Kura subjects is Physical Education whereby, amongst other things, he is learning how to teach and run fitness and sports classes. So this term, Deon has been in charge of our school’s Friday sports.



Warm up - Robert, Jamin, Tamatoa, James, Pati, Deon, Aloysius, Caroline, Julianna and Ray Charles

Clam Survey

Due to the king tides and heavy seas, our clam survey will take place sometime during the first week of Term 3, details to be confirmed.

Friday Devotions

It has been very exciting to see our students take on more responsibility for Friday morning devotions. Guided by Ms Maeva, students take turns each week to study a scripture verse and share their understanding for a class discussion.

Friday devotions are also opportunities for students to accompany their singing with their ukuleles. In the past, Deon, as the most experienced player, has taken on the responsibility for tuning each students' instrument. This term students are taking a more active role by learning to tune their own ukuleles.



Jamin leading discussion



Students playing their ukuleles

End of Term Event

Our end of term event was celebrated with Community by getting our creative on for “Crazy, Wacky, Awesome, Hair Day”. Students walked the catwalk, entertained everyone with a song or a dance, and explained the inspiration behind the hair dos. This was followed by a volleyball tournament, Students vs Community – and Community won 15 to 13. Our afternoon of celebrations ended with a delicious kai kai. Huge thanks to all our helpers and participants for making our last day of term the fun event it was.



Crazy, Wacky, Awesome, Hair Day



Allan, porcupine and Aloysius, unicorn



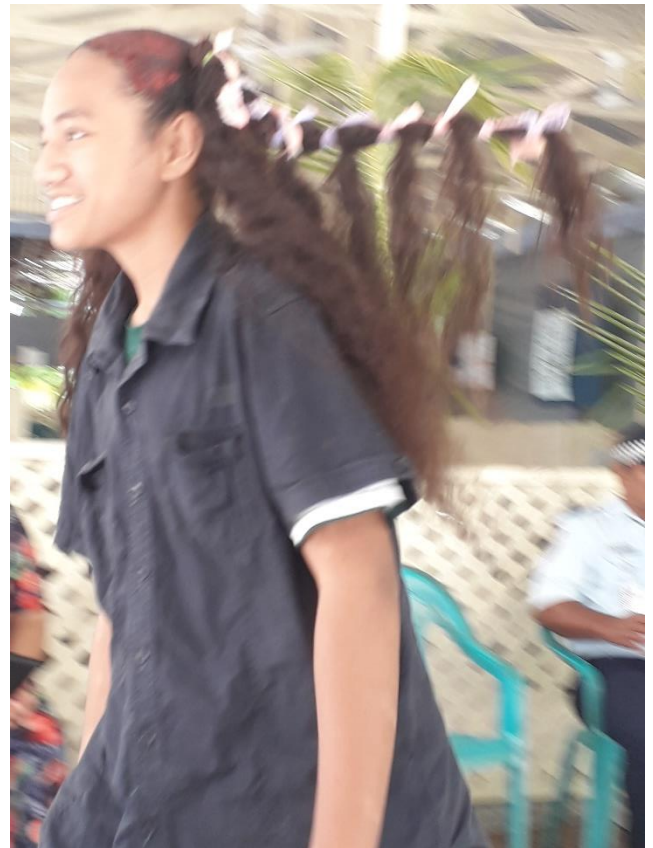
Tamatoa, Surfer Dude



Deon, the Lion King



James, Snowman from "Frozen"



Robert, Kota'a (Frigate Bird)



Ray Charles, Rainbow Boy



Caroline, arguing Bring Back Coke and Noodles!



Jamin, "Don't Litter Our Island"



Mrs Rowe with bosun bird head dress and Allan as a porcupine



Mr Neale and Charlie



Our community

Mobile Phones in School by Ray Charles Marsters

Even though phones in school can be a useful tool for learning they should be banned. A poll on a Facebook teachers' page showed many teachers were concerned that phones in class were a huge distraction and a nuisance, could be used for cheating, and fostered cyberbullying.

Many students are addicted to their phones. When students take their phones to school they tend not to care about their learning. Students use their phones in class for playing games, watching videos, and social media such as Facebook and Instagram. Students are not focused on anything other than their phones. Students are not engaged therefore they are not able to do their best. As a result of that, students are not learning and they are failing exams.

As a result of phones being allowed in school, students can also use them for cheating. When students are constantly using their phones searching for answers online they don't really learn anything. When students cheat they are not thinking for themselves and they are always depending on their phones. If students are always depending on their phones searching for answers and cheating, they are being very dishonest and untrustworthy students.

Because students are allowed their phones in school they can use them for cyberbullying students. Students are using their phones to video other students and posting it up online to embarrass them and sending hurtful messages to them. When students are getting cyberbullied it makes them not want to go to school because they feel embarrassed. When students are feeling anxiety and depressed in school they won't feel motivated to learn. Due to that students won't be focused and they will fall behind on their school work.

If phones are banned it will cause a more safer and more friendly school. With phones gone students won't be able to use them for cheating or even foster cyberbullying. Students won't feel depressed or worried that they are being cyberbullied in school, and teachers won't need to worry about students using their phones for cheating.

Social Media in Schools by Robert Frisbie

Although social media is a good way of communicating with parents, siblings or friends schools shouldn't allow it. Social media can cause stress and anxiety to students. Furthermore, students can be targets to online predators and students can also be bullied.

Social media is fun to look at photos, talk to people online, and make new friends but schools must ban it. There are many students who are having an issue called “Fear Of Missing Out” (FOMO). FOMO is when a student doesn’t want to miss out on anything their friends are doing. Research has shown that 60% of students are worried that their friends are having fun without them. A different study revealed that 51% of students are anxious to know what their friends are doing. 78% of students find it is important to know and understand their friends’ jokes. FOMO is bad because it can affect their education causing severe emotional stress and anxiety. Students do not pass exams, they aren’t fully focused on their school work or in other words, they are getting bad grades.

Most students are having lots of problems on social media and one of those problems is online predators. Online predators are bad because they stalk students online if security settings are left public, they track students’ locations and kidnap them and also they can use students to steal for them. This happens because students post photos of themselves, they use their real name, and maybe even use their school’s name that makes them easy prey to online predators. Online predators could call students and make them feel very uncomfortable. These problems make students feel very worried causing students to stay home because they would be much more safer than at school.

Students can also use social media for cyberbullying other students. Cyberbullying is bullying but online. Cyberbullying is bad because it can lead to depression and anxiety. Students could use their phones and embarrassing videos about another student and pass it on social media. They could even send hurtful messages that make the other students depressed. That student could be so hurt or embarrassed that they don’t want to go back to school because they think everyone would laugh at them.

Social media must be banned from schools because of the problems it can cause. Social media can cause stress, anxiety, depression and more to students. Social media should be banned because of cyberbullying. Students could be involved in cyberbullying which could make them not want to go to school. Social media and all of these problems is why it should be banned from school to keep students safe.

Going to the Motu Every Two Months by Jamin Papa Dean Marsters

Palmerston Lucky School students work hard every year trying to finish PACEs. I believe students need a break every two months. Going to the motu, in my opinion, is a good reward for our students. In this essay we will be talking about my three points of going to the motu.

Motivation is a very important tool in life. In order for a student to have good education is through motivation by the other students and the teachers. Firstly, students love going to the motu. In fact, I believe they will work harder to finish their PACEs. Going to the motu is going to be very motivating for our students.

Days go past where students are eating fatty foods, watching too much television and are becoming lazy. The place where I think would be good to exercise is at the motu. I feel that exercising at the motu is relaxing and soothing because of the cleaner atmosphere the motu has. Exercising with the students is very exciting because we can spend time with our classmates.

The main purpose of going to school is to learn. My belief is that we don’t only need to learn indoors, but also outdoors. Learning at the motu is very exciting and interesting. Studying about our motus is important because we can learn about history of our islands and also we could learn about our birds, coconut crabs, and other species or plants.

In conclusion, going to the motu is good for our education life. I found students work hard enough, they should be able to go on the motu. I personally think going to the motu is going to motivate the students and we could also exercise and learn about our motu.