

THE LUCKY TIMES

Vol. 6, No. 4

19 January, 2023

Principal's Farewell

After nearly five years as the Principal of Palmerston Lucky School, I am finally leaving. Thankyou to all who have followed our teaching and learning journey through the newsletter. It has been very heartening and motivating for us to know that so many people – many I have never met – care about our students' education. I have many people to thank for the support, resources and practical help we have received.

To those Raro-side who have bought, picked up, chased up, fetched, carried, delivered to the boat and otherwise ensured we had what we need; your efforts were much appreciated.

Our thanks to the Ministry of Education staff, the teachers at Imanuela Akatemia, Kathy Fisher at SCEE and my mentor, Rebecca Aitchison-Gill, for the help and support you provided when we were most in need.

I am grateful to those who attended or took positions on our School Committees, to those who volunteered their time for our school clean-ups, and end of term events, to the nurses for running school health checks, to Julianna running our gardening program, to our IT man, Will and to all the Admin staff who gave us help whenever we needed it. Thankyou for your service.

To the families in New Zealand, Australia and Raro, to the yachties and my friends from all over the world who gave or sent us packages full of useful, fun, engaging, cool stuff for our students – computer cables, stationary, face paint, stickers, colouring books, laser lights, jewellery, learning videos and much, much more. Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou.

To the families and Community of Palmerston – on and off island – I am more than grateful for the immense and unwavering support you have shown me in my role as Principal. It would have been impossible for me to do my job without such support.

A very special thankyou to the wonderful teachers I was privileged to work with; Nano, Marconi and Fiftieth. Fiftieth is again working back in our school as a Monitor – welcome back. To Memory, Julianna and Fiftieth, thank you for undertaking training so we can keep the learning going. Maeva – you have taught alongside me for quite some time now. You were my rock and I cannot thank you enough for your dedication, commitment, help and support.

My heartfelt thanks to Arthur Neale for his guidance and support but especially for sharing his vision with me nearly five years ago in Rarotonga.

My biggest thanks of all go to the students of Palmerston Lucky School, past and present. It was a privilege to teach you and you cannot know how much you have taught me. I am very, very proud of each and every one of you.



Principal – Sherrin Hibbard

Early Childhood Education and ABC

Ms Maeva continues to share her expertise in Early Childhood Education (ECE) using play-based learning strategies to teach our little ones. Our youngest students continue to learn how to interact positively and share with each other. This term their activities included learning left and right and letter recognition through song and dance, practice identifying their names and the letters in them by matching the letters, going on seashell collecting excursions to make a seashell collage, storytelling activities through painting, talking, and drawing which allows them to develop their creativity and imagination and cookie making to develop strength in their hands in preparation for writing.



Shell collecting - Ms Maeva and her ABC and ECE Class – Joeryll, Aloysius (ABC), Allan and Joseph.



Joeryll – collecting seashells and rocks for his collage.



Joseph's seashell collage.



Aloysius – painting activity



Allan and Joseph – imagination play. Going to the shop in their car.

Monitor and Supervisor Training

Our curriculum is based on the A.C.E. program and requires that all staff undertake training to become certified every 5 years. Arthur Neale and Ms Maeva completed Supervisor level training, whilst Fiftieth, Julianna and Memory completed Monitor training. So many trained monitors are an important resource for our school. It was a lot of study and everyone passed with flying colours – congratulations!



Monitors training – Arthur, Maeva, Memory, Fiftieth



Trained monitors and Trainer – L-R: Fiftieth, Miss Sherrin (trainer), Maeva, Julianna, Arthur and Memory.

Students' Documentaries on Youtube

In 2021, as part of our literacy program, the students created 5 minute documentaries on how to do a clam survey. In these films the students demonstrate the steps on how to do a clam survey and share the equipment needed. Some members of the community were interviewed, allowing them to tell their stories of the clams that they saw back when they were younger and what they see today.

The interviewees also shared their thoughts on what they think about the children doing the clam survey. Students also shared their thoughts about doing the clam survey and the challenges they face whilst doing it. Our hope was for these documentaries to go into a film festival, however that did not happen. You can find these short clips on our Youtube channel **Palmerston Lucky School**. Please do subscribe. Ctrl click on the links below.

Clam Protectors by James Marsters and Henry Marsters.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgxlGq134Y>

The Clam Survey by Madeenia Nikau

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9U3VpxoTyLY>

Pa'ua Warriors by Robert Frisbie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Awvkri8lm6U&t=130s>

Clam Savers – The Next Gen by Tamatoa Marsters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWA3fmbSJ-8>

Te Tareanga Paua (The Clam Survey) By Deon Frisbie.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbUCYSr3WX0&t=202s>

Welcome Back

We'd like to welcome Madeenia Nikau back to school. Madeenia has been in Rarotonga for a year. While she was there she attended Nikao school. We are excited to have her back.



Madeenia Nikau

Environmental Education

Students continue to learn about the ecology of coral reefs. This term the students looked at the different ways to conserve and protect the lagoon. They learned how to mitigate against threats such as climate change and ocean acidification, overfishing, pollution and coastal development, physical damage, invasive species and controlling outbreaks of those species. They also learned about the involvement of different stakeholders and the different kinds of education and outreach programs that are there to help make management plans.

Literacy Class

Students continue to learn how to write a scientific report based on their clam survey data collected throughout July 2020 to August 2022. This term, students spent some time learning how to do graphs on the computer so that it could easily be inserted into their reports. Thankyou to Julianna for teaching the kids how to do a bar graph, Caroline and Deon - our senior students - for taking their knowledge gained on how to do a “dot plot” graph and teaching it to our students. And to Mr Will for lending a helping hand and finding a way to make a dot plot on a computer. A special thanks to you all.

School Gardens

We are very excited to have received our food cubes for our new shade house. This term under the, guidance of Julianna, students sowed seeds ready for the food cubes. Students were responsible for watering these seedlings three times a day, in which they took turns doing. Students also learned about the purpose of the food cubes and how they work. We are excited to have vanilla pods planted in our new shade house. Students are very curious about this, as vanilla pods are something new to them. We are very grateful to Julianna for coming in and teaching the students her skills of agriculture. We look forward to what blessings our new shade house and food cubes will produce.



Julianna with the new food cubes in the new shade house.

Te Kura

Deon and Caroline are continuing their Te Kura studies. The pressure was on them this term to complete any unfinished work gaining as many credits as they can toward their NCEA Level 1 before the term ended. At the end of the term, Caroline obtained 34 credits and Deon not far behind with 27 credits. Well done Seniors!



Te Kura students – Deon and Caroline

Sailing in School Programme

For the last 4 weeks of term 4 students undertook the practical component of the *Sailing in Schools* program. Students were able to complete the skills required for Sailing Cook Islands “Beginner Sailor” and “Sailor” certificates. These were presented to students at the end of year school prize giving.

In the beginning, students were apprehensive, lacked confidence in sailing the Optimists and the MAC3.70. Many were happy to give their instructors a turn to show them how to sail, however, after the second week students were reluctant to give up their boats - and by the fourth week students felt the sailing sessions were too short and the sailing area restricted. The sailing students wanted to sail across the lagoon to the motus and really test themselves. This next stage will be pursued in the new school year as they meet the requirements to pass their “Able Sailors” certificate.



Munamuna – having a go in the Optimist.



Blessing of the Fleet.



Launching of the MAC3.70



Miss Sherrin teaching Aloysius.



Robert in the Optimist named "Sunshine". A name the boys gave for this Opti.



Mr Neale – our sailing instructor.



James and Munamuna – learning to gybe around the markers.



Deon – taking Joeryll for a cruise around the markers.



Ray Charles – taking Allan for a cruise.



Tamatoa – cruising, hoping for the wind to pick up so he can sail.

How I Feel About Sailing – by Caroline

Sailing isn't fun unless you try it for yourself! I can't believe that I am able to sail in a small boat. I'm used to sailing in bigger boats such as the vaka, 'Marumaru Atua'. When the "In School" sailing program started, I was absolutely terrified because this was my first time sailing in a smaller boat and I couldn't remember anything from my previous sailings with the vaka.

It took so much energy and patience to finally master steering the optimist. My challenge now is to handle my sail sheets and steer at the same time. I found self-talking myself out of sailing was a lot easier than staying in the boat. Now, I have the instructor and students screaming at me to get out so others can have a turn. Talk about fair!

Sailing gives me this euphoric feeling that I can't explain – truly a bliss! I am very grateful to the island counsellors for supporting Palmerston

Lucky School and allowing the purchase of sailing boats for the school. I also deeply appreciate the E.O for being a patient instructor to me and all the other students. I'm totally looking forward to learning how to race next year.



Caroline – excited to sail.

How I Feel About Sailing–by Madeenia

I feel AMAZING when I'm sailing. In sailing, the fun stuff I liked to learn were the parts of the boat, how to rig the boat and the drills for capsizing. It's very interesting how sailing boats work and sometimes it is hard figuring out how it all works. Sailing is really fun for me but it also confuses me, especially when the boat stops and I don't understand why. It is very exciting when the boat goes fast and when my boat goes past other boats. My most favourite part of sailing this term were the capsizing drills because for me, it was very easy getting the boat back up.



Madeenia – with her Cook Islands "Beginners Sailor" Certificate and "Sailors" Certificate.

Rat Eradication Feasibility Team Gifts

Volleyball is the most popular sport played at Lucky School. “Mikasa” is the brand of ball that the students love however these balls can be pretty hard to come by. We are so blessed to have received two brand new Mikasa volleyballs, and nets, from our new friends Em Oyston, Finlay Cox and the Rat Eradication Feasibility team. We are also thankful to uncle Kicks (Teariki) from the team for the bag of lollies that was gifted to the students. Our heartfelt thanks to you all for these special gifts to our school.



Aloysius, James, Muna, Robert, Deon, Tamatoa, Caroline, RayCharles and Madeenia – excited to have received new Mikasa volleyballs and nets.

Education outside the classroom

During the Rat Eradication Feasibility Study team’s visit in November, our students were very privileged to have been asked to join the team on their trip to Cooks Islet. This was an opportunity for our students to learn how to carry out a rat survey. Upon arriving to the islet the students were split into two teams led by Julianna Marsters and Alanna Smith. In their teams, students learned from Julianna and Alanna how to lay the transect using a 50m measuring tape and a compass, how to throw

the baits, how to count the baits within the transects and how to record the data. Once their training was done on the beachside the students were then split again into four teams and it was time to put what they had learned from Julianna and Alanna to the test. Students were led by their team leaders into the field to count and record the rat baits.



Alanna and Julianna briefing the kids on what they will be doing.



Alanna teaching Robert, Ray Charles, Deon and James how to lay the transect.



Tamatoa – practicing to throw bait.



Alanna, Tamatoa and Aloysius – one of four teams out in the field, counting bait and recording data.

Ride on Te Kukupa 2

As a school we were given the opportunity to go out to sea to visit the new police patrol boat. We were escorted by our very own police officer, Edward Marsters, to see the boat. We are so grateful to Captain Tuariki and his crew for allowing our students on board and for taking them for a ride while watching the crew do their rescue drills. Our students are indeed Lucky!



Going out to Te Kukupa 2.



Students accompanied by Mrs Fiftieth and community members aboard Te Kukupa 2.

Clam Survey

This term we played catch-up, undertaking last term's survey on the first Friday of Term 4. The conditions were perfect and together with the experience gained last term in working with raw data, it was completed in record time and to a very high standard. Students have now taken full ownership of their surveys no longer requiring any input, guidance or help from the teachers.

Students completed their usual end of term survey just before school holidays. Once again students managed every aspect of their survey, completely unassisted and on their own, despite the strong currents and tide turning in. This term our senior students – team leaders – provided our younger and new students the opportunity to measure the clams, something only the older students did to ensure accuracy. The leaders followed behind to check and found the students' data was very accurate.



Clam Survey Team Beginning of Term 4



Clam Survey Team End of Term 4

Clean Up Day

We are very grateful to those who gave up their time to come help our children clean their school. A huge thank you to our Mayor, Mr Bill Marsters, William, Liko and Admin staff, Charlie, Memory and Julianna. Our school looks immaculate. Huge thanks to those who contributed food and drinks for lunch afterwards. We are truly thankful to you all. School clean-up was surely a day that showed that together, we are stronger and faster.



The clean –up team. Thank you all for your help.

Star Chart Auction

As a way of motivating and rewarding our students, for their hard work throughout the year they earn rewards represented by stickers on our star chart. Each sticker is worth \$1. At the end of the year the stickers are counted and then converted into play money based on the number of stickers they have earned. This money is then used to bid for items in an auction. This year students earned between \$100 - \$400 to spend on a variety of items. These items included, boogie boards, head-torches, torches, Dry bags, Mikasa volleyballs, bouncy balls, jewellery, bubbles, colouring pencils, water guns, backpacks and so much more.

A special thank you to Miss Sherrin and Auntie Tungane Holmes for searching the shops in Rarotonga for these awesome items and shipping them down to Palmerston in time for our auction. The auction was a huge hit with items as small as a bottle of bubbles going for \$60 and big as dry bags for \$100. It was crazy fun!



Students waiting patiently for the auction to start.



Let the auction begin – Going once! going twice! SOLD!

End of Year Parents and Community Prize giving Day.

This year we really saw the culture change within our school. Students were hungry to either complete 60 plus PACEs, be better than they were last year, pass tests with high percentages and just do what they are supposed to do at school – be good students. We were very proud to invite parents and community into our school to help our students celebrate their hard work and successes. There was so much to celebrate! We are so excited that every student received awards this year. Congratulations to them all.

TROPHIES

Most PACEs Senior	Ray Charles	(60)
Most PACEs Intermediate	Robert	(45)
Most PACEs Juniors	James	(57)
Highest Avg Senior	Ray Charles	(94.2%)
Highest Avg Intermediate	Robert	(85.8%)
Highest Avg Junior	James	(92.6%)

Principal's Award Ray Charles

CERTIFICATES

Best Attendance Aloysius (1 day)
James (3 days)
Robert (4 days)

Most 100s – Juniors James (12)
Most 100s – Seniors Tamatoa (14)
Ray Charles (14)

Most PACEs Seniors runner-up -
Tamatoa (47)

Highest Average Seniors runner-up -
Tamatoa (90.4%)

Dedication to learning Aloysius

Leadership Awards Deon
Caroline

Quiet Achiever award Ray Charles

Good writing skills award Ray Charles

Working above age level Robert

Memorizing Scripture Robert

For displaying perseverance – Robert
High achievement in Literacy – Robert.

Beginner Sailor Certificate - James
Beginner Sailor Certificate - Madeenia
Beginner Sailor Certificate - Robert
Beginner Sailor Certificate – Munamuna
Beginner Sailor Certificate – Tamatoa
Beginner Sailor Certificate – Ray Charles
Beginner Sailor Certificate – Deon
Beginner Sailor Certificate – Caroline

Sailor's Certificate – James
Sailor's Certificate - Madeenia
Sailor's Certificate - Robert
Sailor's Certificate – Munamuna
Sailor's Certificate – Tamatoa
Sailor's Certificate – Ray Charles
Sailor's Certificate – Deon
Sailor's Certificate – Caroline

OVERALL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Ray Charles

Students are grateful to parents and community for always supporting them in their education. To show their appreciation students performed several items that included singing our school anthem and hymn, the national anthem, whole school song, a song and dance from the girls and short skits and dance from the boys. Our ECE and ABC students also did a performance, showing our community their left and right dance. We ended our school performances with a whole school song and dance wishing all our parents and community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The day ended with a scrumptious kaikai. Thank you to all for your contributions and support towards our end of year prize giving day.

A special thank you to William and Memory for helping out with the students' performances this year.



Principals award goes to Ray Charles. Proudly presented by his teachers Ms Maeva and Mrs Fiftieth.



John – presenting Tamatoa's runner up certificate for Highest Average.



Overall Excellence award – Ray Charles – presented by Mr Neale and his proud teachers Mrs Fiftieth and Ms Maeva.



Councilor Papa Simon - presenting Robert's Most PACEs trophy



Memory - presenting Most 100s certificate equal to Ray-Charles & Tamatoa.



Deputy Mayor Papa Bob – presenting James's trophy for Highest Average



Memory – presenting James's certificate for Most 100's



Mr Mayor – presenting Ray Charles's trophy for Most PACEs



Tuakanamoe –presenting Ray Charles’s trophy for Highest Average.



William – presenting Ray Charles certificate for Best Writing Skills.



Sareanna – presenting Robert’s trophy for Highest Average.



Korinakao – present Robert’s certificate for Displaying Perseverance throughout the year.



E.O. Mr Neale – presenting James’s trophy for Most PACes



Mama Tupou – presenting Ray Charles’s certificate for being the Quiet Achiever.



Liko – presenting Robert’s Certificate for Working Above His Age Level.



Papa Orometua – presenting Robert’s certificate for Memorizing Scripture both Maori & English



Mr Mayor – presenting Aloysius' Certificate of Attendance.



Papa Bob – presenting Madeenia with her Cook Islands Certificate for Beginners Sailor.



Papa Simon – presenting Caroline's certificate for Leadership.



Papa Bob – presenting Munamuna with her Cook Islands Certificate for Beginners Sailor.



Papa Simon – presenting Deon's certificate for Leadership



ECE receiving their gifts.



Julianna – presenting Tamatoa's certificate for runner – up seniors Most PACEs.



Joeryll – with his gift.



Mr Neale and the teachers and students of Palmerston Lucky School.



ABC & ECE performing their dance – “Father Abraham”.



ABC & ECE performing “Baby is Now Asleep”



Whole community watching the school perform their whole school song.



Munamuna, Caroline, Madeenia – after their performance.



Boys dance – Tamatoa, Ray Charles, Robert, Deon and James.



Robert – leading their skit

Special thank you to Julianna for being our photographer.

Term 1 Dates for 2023

Tuesday 24th January – Friday 14th April
12-week term. School will start at 8am
Tuesday 24th January