



# PARNELL DISTRICT SCHOOL

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Newsletter 6

11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Kia Ora Whanau

It is hard to believe that we find ourselves in the last week of term one! It has been a phenomenal start to the year we've had! It was a great start with so many of our families attending our goal setting conferences at the start of the term, which set us up to jump into our learning focus from day one. Our first inquiry, "designing our world" has given us a chance to explore how various aspects of our world are designed, both by humans and the animal kingdom. With other highlights like the start of Friday Fizz, our schools various inter-zone sports successes, multi literacy week and our intermediate trip to Wellington, it has been a very productive term. A big thank you to all our amazing staff who constantly go over and above to provide these additional opportunities, as well as the inspiring classes our children attend every day.

Our PTA led fete was an absolute triumph! It was a massive effort and a real commitment for our five key parents, Lucy, Lisa, Leena, Louise and Emma who took the lead in organising the event. A massive thank you to these five ladies and their families for all they did in leading the event. Such events rely on a whole community for their success, and I want to thank all our whanau who contributed through their time, resources, and energy to make the event so positive for our whole Parnell District School whanau. You can read more about this in the PTA report below.

Invitation: Year 4, 5, 6 parents

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 9-11 am

If you are a parent of a child in year 4,5 or 6 and you'd like an opportunity to see how our intermediate classes operate, we encourage you to come along for the year 7/8 information morning. You will visit our classes to see the reality of a day in the life of our year 7/8 students, and find out about the opportunities we provide, and how we ensure our children are prepared for high school; this is your opportunity. Both Mr Georges will be there to talk with interested parents. Mr George will share the vision for our school, and Mr George V2 will share how we make the vision a reality specifically for our Year 7/8 students. This will be followed by a tour with some of our current student leaders, and time in our classrooms. We look forward to sharing the excellence of our team with our parents, and an opportunity for parents to share any questions.

If you are unable to attend the open morning but would like a tour of the year 7/8 classes, please email [office@parnell.school.nz](mailto:office@parnell.school.nz) to arrange a tour with Mt George.

Well done to our students who have shown the curiosity, integrity, and responsibility in their learning in their classrooms. As we dive into our term two inquiry “My history, My Myths, My culture”, we start to think both about what makes us special, and what makes our area special.

There will be some minor disruptions with completion of our turf and installation of our play equipment, however our children are being very respectful of the builders in the school for these projects.

Our next major project, the renovation of our 1937 junior block will begin early in term two. This is a reasonably considerable project, likely to take about a term to complete. Parents in rooms 5,6,8 and 9 will get additional information about the things in place to ensure as little interruption to learning for students and teachers as possible. Parents this will mean more contractors and equipment on site, so we appreciate your support by talking with your children about safety around such things, and ensuring they are never putting themselves in danger by entering such spaces.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy break, and we look forward to seeing you all when term two begins on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April.

Kind Regards

Richard George

## MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE TEAM (lost property)

*Kia Ora Folks,*

*This week we have been going through the lost property bins to ensure all the named items have been returned to the correct classes*

*On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April we will set up a table next to the ice cream stand to display all un-named lost property items. Any items left behind will either be recycled or discarded.*

*Be sure to remember to check the lost property table on Friday if you have any missing items. To stop this from happening in the future please clearly label your child's uniform and other items. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.*

# ROOM TWO



Room 2 participated in the #GetNZWriting project along with 3000 other classrooms which means that roughly 96,000 students across NZ were involved. We were assigned a partner class who are all the way down at Nelson Christian Academy in the South Island! This project gave us the opportunity to learn all about metaphors to enhance our writing, we used metaphors in poems about ourselves, we wrote individual postcards to send to our partner class and we got to research ourselves and our community as seen in the poster above. It was an exciting and unique project to be a part of, and we are waiting in anticipation for our parcel about our partner class from Nelson to reach us sometime this week!



The Twilight Fete was a great success and I know all the children in room 2 that attended had a great time and are truly buzzing about it this week! A lot of work and time went into the lolly necklaces – a massive thank you to all the parents in room 2 who contributed in one way or another.

There are necklaces left over from the fete. Come to Room 2 after school this week  
Tuesday – Thursday for a stock clearance sale – 5 necklaces for \$1.

From Friday they will be sold after school by the PTA at the Friday Café.



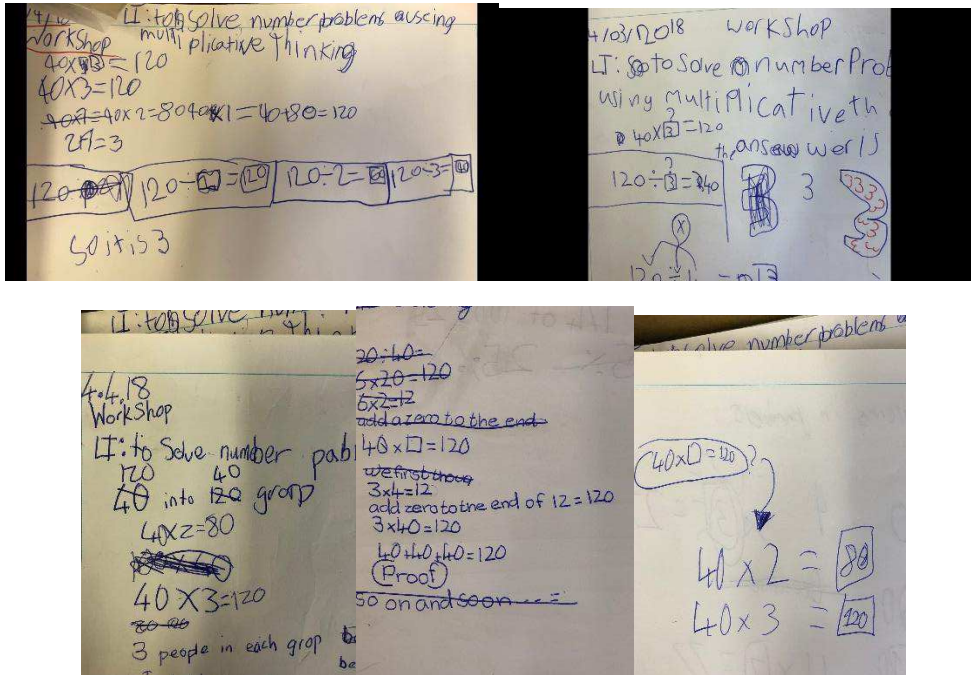
## Kia ora to our Parnell Community of Learners

In Room 16, we have been doing a lot of thinking - multiplicative thinking, additive thinking, thinking about other peoples thinking, and just – ‘thinking about thinking’.



Last week, one of our awesome maths teams worked on this word problem. **‘There are 40 relay teams competing in the interschool sports. Altogether there are 120 competitors. How many are in each team?’**

(Here are some strategies that we used)



### Students' reflection statements about their learning

- **What did we find challenging?**

‘Using a division strategy’

‘Not using a repeated addition strategy’

‘Getting started on the question’

- **What did we find easy?**

‘Listening to my buddy explain her strategy helped to understand it better’

‘At first, I missed a really obvious thing about the numbers, then I realised that it was just my 3’s times tables’

- **What helped us?**

‘I knew my times tables’

‘Our teacher helped us to notice patterns in the numbers, then I could make the connections to my time tables’

- **How could we apply the skill we’ve learnt today?**

‘I have learnt a few more strategies, to help me solve more Challenging problems’

‘When I need to divide/spend money’

‘Maybe when the teacher asks us to get into even groups’

So, what do you think about our thinking ??? What strategy did you use to solve the problem?

## Highwic House Field Trip with For The Love of Bees, Enviroschools and Newmarket gardening group.

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of April the Friday Fizz Gardening group and Sustainability group went to Highwic House with students from Newmarket Primary School to take part in a workshop run by For the Love of Bees and Enviroschools.

Over three days last year Newmarket Primary School students had created a pasture painting to help make Highwic House a biological pollinator sanctuary.

We heard a seminar from Newmarket Primary about what they had learnt so far about bees and also about their process of designing a maze-like pasture paintings full of flowers. We heard lots of facts and stories from Sarah from for the love of bees about the relationship between happy bees and healthy plants and soil. We then we broke off into groups to do four different workshops where we listened to a beekeeper, put compost on soil and planted seeds, collected seeds, weeded, and inoculated soil with microbes.

### Here are some of the things we learnt:

From a beekeeper called Walter about how bees work together and dance to each other to communicate where their food can be found. Also that a hive requires one billion flowers to feed a whole bee colony for a year. We have made a pledge to make the next steps towards Parnell Primary School becoming a biological pollinator sanctuary as well.

Insects can see a special infra-red light that we can't see, and the light tells them whether the plant has low or high sugar. Plants are dangerous to eat for bugs if they have high sugar. They can tell if it's a high sugar plant because the infra-red light stays on all the time. The high sugars are toxic for bugs and kills them. If the light is flashing, it means the plant is ready to be eaten by insects as it has really low sugar and so not very healthy. Microbes in the soil help feed plants to make them healthy.

Worm juice from worm farms helps plants grow healthy and strong.

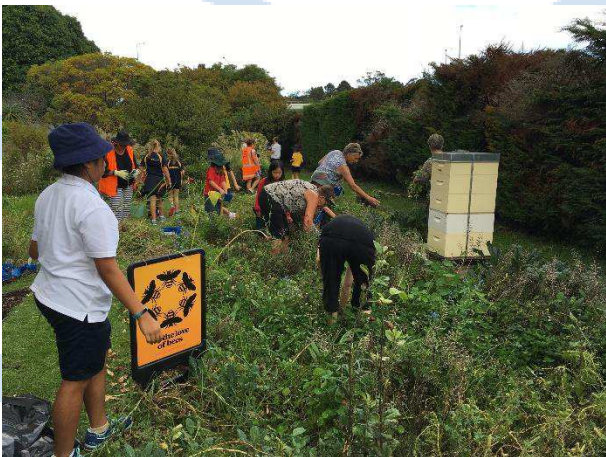
The grounds at Highwic House are a test site to turn all its green spaces into a spray free zone. For the love of bees would like to make spray free parks and school grounds nation-wide. This means that these places will be a hotspot for microbes, healthy, high sugar plants and a pollinator sanctuary.

We learnt what is inside a bee colony, which is made up of carefully made hexagons. Bees are very fascinating and are the most studied insect because they make honey and also because they pollinate one third of the plants we eat.

The Friday Fizz Gardening group is looking for people to help water their gardens over the school breaks. If you could help out with this please contact Wendy Franklin-Smith [wendyf@parnell.school.nz](mailto:wendyf@parnell.school.nz)



Please Check out some Pictures From our botanical adventure



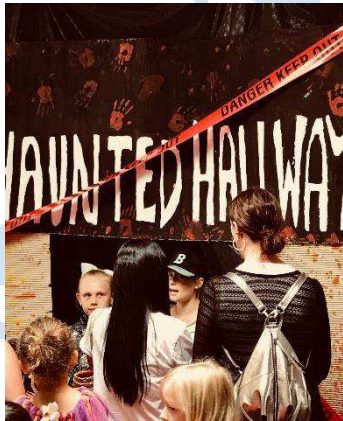


# Twilight Fete turns up the tempo!

Parnell District School turned into a festive wonderland on Saturday, with a huge turnout from our wonderful community bringing out the school spirit like never before!

The line-up was impressive, with too many amazing class stalls to count. Thank you to all the parents, teachers and kids who imagined, created and collaborated to make such a fabulous variety of exciting stalls to explore.

From 3 – 7pm kids, parents, grandparents, teachers and many of our wider community enjoyed an exciting line up of rides, stalls, entertainment, music and of course, all that delicious food, food, food (who tried those Rolling Pin dumplings?!). Not even a bit of rain early evening was enough to put off the punters, with the weather sending people inside to enjoy the fabulous Cake and Tea Cafe, the Fairy Café, the Book Stall, Crazy Hair and of course, for those brave enough, the dreadfully scary Haunted Hallway!



Highlights of the day had to include the stunning Preserves Stall centre-court. With such a delectable array of preserves for sale, we think parent and resident preserve chef Sam Excell might need to create her own permanent shop!

Sounds of plates smashing and goals being scored echoed on the field, with the amazing Field team keeping kids super busy. Others flew high in the air on the vertical bungee, jumped around on the bouncy castle and for

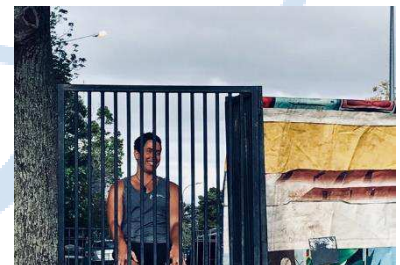
those lucky to get in before the rain, Pony Rides and the Petting Zoo saw bright smiles on the face of many of our littlest attendees.



The Kapa haka, led by Deputy Principal Dan George brought out the goosebumps, showing some fantastic talent and strong sense of school spirit in our talented Kapa haka group. Our students' musical talents also shined with performances from the school choir, led by choir master Paul (otherwise known as our amazing PDS office manager). And, the beautiful, mystical Macang Dancers wowed the crowd with their gorgeous, graceful dancing.

But, the entertainment wouldn't have been complete without our DJ team of Oscar Neville-White, Lukas Gill and Max Burton. This team of aspiring DJs kept the tempo high with a great line up of music – including generating the impromptu finale of the night, a twilight dance off amongst the kids, gathering a crowd of cheering spectators and a whole lot of fun!

But to be sure, nothing quite got the children excited than the Dunk the Teacher! Four brave staff lined up to take



their chances against the target throwing skills of the crowd – Dan George, Natalie Burbury-King, Khamin Bhana and Richard George himself! Much to the delight of the crowd, all four got soaked in a tub of chilly water thanks



to the impressive throwing talents of some of the school's best throwers, well done!

Check out the photos to see more of this amazing day.

And, thank you to everyone who contributed to such a successful day. We formed some fantastic memories for our kids and the atmosphere, community spirit and energy of the day was a reminder of why Parnell District School is the greatest.

We have SO many thank you and hope we haven't missed anyone!

Thank you to:

- The PTA, including Lucy Bowerman, Leena Geerts, Louise Pinfeld, Emma Oliver, Lisa Roberts, and all the other wonderful parents who helped out in the lead up and setting up and decorating on the day – including those who delivered over 1000 flyers out to the local neighbourhood!
- Sam Excell for hours in the kitchen making Preserves and selling on the day
- Rowen Neville-White for organising and running the cake stall
- The sausage sizzle team of Louise Pinfeld, Sophia Quilian, Dan Warren, Ken Vaughan and Tania Hammond
- The delicious Sushi stall created and supplied by Ayaka and Kengo Katsuo
- Nick Savill and Camille Laycock for running the amazing Jolly Jar stall
- Fiona and Sam McCauley and ex-PDS parent Sara Double who ran the fantastic and super popular Candy Floss Stall
- Kabila Deobhakta and Sadesh Natali for providing the cutest corner of our Fete – Pony Rides and Petting Zoo!
- The DJ team of Oscar Neville-White, Lukas Gill and Max Burton
- The Macang Dancers
- Kate Berry for keeping us hydrated with Charlie's Juices
- The Wright family for their fabulous Crazy Golf game
- Our amazing food trucks - Rolling Pin Dumplings, Stumpy's Woodfire Pizza, Double Dutch Fries, Bow and Tie coffee
- Adrienne Burns and Bridget Fitzpatrick for ensuring a slick financial operation
- An extra special thanks to Josh Samuels, ex-Parnell District School student who kindly sponsored our Dunk the Teacher and Popcorn Clown. Thanks so much Josh for your generosity and enthusiasm which added a lot of fun to our Fete!
- We would also like to congratulate Jenny Miller for winning the wonderful Family Picnic Gift Hamper, which was kindly donated by Caroline Bratley from Batenburg's Gift Baskets









## Community Notices

### **Relational Parenting Workshop**

Following our successful evening last year, we are excited to welcome Margaret Thorsborne back to Epsom Girls Grammar. As well as working with staff she will be presenting another introductory Restorative Practices workshop for parents.

**Monday 7 May at 7pm in the Epsom Girls Grammar hall.**

This evening will explore the challenges parents face when trying to maintain standards and expectations whilst preserving the relationships with their children. EGGs uses restorative practice that encourages students to think more broadly about the impact of their decisions and behaviours on others. The workshop will explore how the same principles and practices are equally effective at home.

Remember last day of Term is this Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April

Have a safe and wonderful holiday

We can't wait to see you again on the first day of term 2 April 30th

**KA KITE ANO**