



# Newsletter

Wisdom begins with Wonder



Term 1, Week 2

Friday 11 February 2022

## Principal's Message:

I have loved every minute of my first two weeks here at Pukehou School. I'm fortunate that we have an amazing teaching team here who have brought me into the fold. Likewise, it has been a pleasure to get to know our students. They are a pretty cool bunch and have made me feel welcome from the get go. I look forward to working with them throughout the year. It has been fantastic to meet some parents and whānau at a distance (often over the fence!), but I can't wait until school is again a place where whānau feel free to come and go: a place where everyone feels connected and involved.

I have no doubt that there will be challenges this year, however, I feel confident that collectively we'll be able to work through them. Values are hugely important to me, and each term we will be focusing on one of our school values, unpacking them and developing a clear picture of what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like when we show them in and out of school. This term our focus will be on *Whanaungatanga-relationships*, and later in the term, we will be asking our school whānau and community to contribute also.

As a teaching team, we will be collaborating on an inquiry around *Hauora-wellbeing* with the aim to develop a Pukehou School model that supports our students, staff, and whānau on their learning journey. I'm excited to announce that Vanessa (Mrs. Osborne) will be leading this with support from both myself and Rachael (Mrs Strong). This aligns clearly with both our vision and mission as a school. Also, we realise that given the present COVID climate there could well be heightened anxiety for all, underscoring the importance of enhancing hauora-wellbeing.

On that note, we have developed our response to a possible Omicron outbreak. Any response is entirely organic as situations and advice are constantly changing. At present we are open for onsite learning for all our students. The next step will be 'hybrid learning' (the new buzz word!) where students are taught the same programme at school and at home for those that need it. This could arise through students or teachers being ill or isolating. The third phase would be a move to solely remote at home learning as has happened in the past under lockdown. This decision would be made by the Pukehou School Board. The final step would be that school is closed for all learning. I am hopeful that we never get to this situation, and I would encourage all our school whānau to do all that they can to minimise risk. Teachers are in the process of gathering information from whānau about what support students might need should they be required to learn at home.

Not wanting to end on a negative note, I am excited about our migration to the Hero student management system (SMS). The potential is huge, however, we will be taking a softly-softly approach to make sure that no one is overwhelmed. Rachael (Mrs. Strong) is leading this aspect. The Community Feed for parents and whānau will be opened in around four weeks, however, information will be provided beforehand about what this will look like. Initially it will be used solely as a communication platform but the end goal is for parents (and students) to be able to get a real time picture of their learning and goals.

**Rob Pratt**

Principal



(06) 856 8169



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## INTRODUCTION:

Whaea Bethany - A bit about me:

Kia ora koutou! I'm excited to be joining Kererū this year on Thursdays and Fridays as a classroom teacher.

I spent a few days last year with Kea and Kererū as a reliever, and when the opportunity presented itself to join the team, I jumped at the chance to be a part of the awesome community of Pukehou School. This is my first time teaching this age group, but I am so excited to be working with Mrs Slavin and creating a fun and learning-filled environment.

I moved to New Zealand 15 years ago from Pennsylvania, USA when I married my husband, Daniel. We have two children, Jude (10) and Eleanor (9) who attend Ongaonga School. We live out towards the ranges, and when I'm not at school I am usually dealing with an invasive vine or weed in our little bush block. I love being in nature, swimming, and having a fun little kanikani in my lounge with my kids.

Last year I worked as a teacher's aid at Saint Joseph's School as well as relieving across a few different schools. 2020 I spent teaching Year 4 at The Terrace School in Waipukurau. I've spent many years in Playcentre and supporting my own children's learning in ECE and at primary school.

I am so excited to get to know all of the tamariki at Pukehou School and work alongside some outstanding kaiako! Ka mau te wehi!

*Bethany McKenney Wickham*

**PWF Meeting. Monday 14 Feb**

**5.30pm in the staffroom**



All welcome - we'd love to meet with current and new parents to brainstorm ideas for this year. No pressure to take on responsibilities, just come along and help us support our children and the school.



**Request for help:** "Hi, my son Cian has just started in Kererū class this week.

Our 'plan A' for after school care has fallen through. I now have options in both Waipukurau and Waipawa but currently have no way of getting him there.

Would anyone be able to pick him up from school at the end of the day and drop him either to Waipawa or Waipukurau a few days of the week? Will cover costs etc, can discuss what works best for you. If you can help out, please contact me on 027 232 4935. Thank you so much, Danielle."



Your school community's link to the first 2022 **Tots to Teens digi-magazine** is

<https://issue2202.totstoteens.co.nz>

**What's in this issue for parents?**

- » Handling school drop-off
- » Making Maths fun for kids is the trick
- » Parent guide: Teaching kids to ride a bike
- » The dyslexia checklist
- » Filling the lunchbox
- » How to manage attention-seeking behaviour
- » Fears and phobias?
- and (as always) EPIC GIVEAWAYS

Ask your tamariki to **find this issue's Te Reo Māori words** including wharekura, ngaunga, pahikara, tarawewehi, and tina.



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### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### February

Monday 14 PWF Meeting 5.30pm  
Monday 21 BoT Meeting 6pm  
Monday 28 Pukehou Swimming Sports (tbc)

#### March

Thurs 17 - Fri 18 Kōtare @ Camp Aramoana  
Mon 21 - Wed 23 Kāhu @ Camp Wakarara

#### April

Friday 1 Teacher Only Day  
Thurs 14 End of Term One  
Fri 15 Good Friday

Term 2 starts on Monday 2 May

### Scholastic Book Club - Issue 1 2022

Teachers gave the information to children this week.  
Please have orders to the office by Friday 25 February.  
Alternatively, order online via LOOP. See the back of the catalogue for instructions.

Friday 1st April (no joke!)  
**Teacher Only Day - School Closed**  
for Professional Development  
Pause : Breathe : Smile  
Check out the website [Pause Breathe Smile](#) to see what it's all about.

House Points:	Pukeiti	Pukenui	Kauhehei	Kahuranaki
Week 1-2	3800	3935	3515	4400

A very warm welcome to Ruby, Taiaroa, Taniora, Tamatoa, Noah, Oscar, Ataahua and Cian.



### Keep up with what is going on at school

We try to ensure everyone receives important messages regarding activities going on here at school. To do this we use a number of different platforms. These can be found below. Wherever possible I try to ensure messages are recorded on all platforms so nothing is missed.

**Our main message relaying platforms: Are you in the LOOP?**



#### Email

Please ensure we have yours!!!  
[office@pukehou.school.nz](mailto:office@pukehou.school.nz)



#### Fortnightly Newsletters

Emailed to our contact lists.  
If you would prefer a paper copy please let Jacqui know.  
[office@pukehou.school.nz](mailto:office@pukehou.school.nz)



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#### Seesaw

Class seesaw accounts.  
Notices regarding individual classes.



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