

LEVIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

26 February 2018

Principal: Sheree Garton
Deputy Principal: Robyn Wills

Upcoming Events

- Friday 2nd March - Twilight Softball
- Friday 16th March - LIS Athletics Day - Horowhenua College
- Monday 19th March - Science Roadshow
- Art Extension - Whanganui Gallery Visit & Workshop - 19th & 26th March, 9th April
- Thursday 22nd March - Dokkyo Saitama students arrive - 4.30pm Powhiri and BBQ for all students interested in returning to school
- Friday 23rd March - Interschool Athletics
- Wednesday 28th March - Disco - 6.00pm - 8.30pm - School Hall
- Thursday 29th March - Dokkyo Saitama students depart

Nau mai haere mai

Dear Parents / Caregivers

With Mufti day being held at school today it is pleasing to see students dressed in clothes of their choice. Whilst Mufti day is fun, we are pleased to say that Levin Intermediate is a uniform school and with this brings an opportunity for our students to gain a greater sense of 'belonging'. Whilst the beginning of the year is a little more expensive if you are new to LIS - we endeavour to keep the costs down - with a seasonal uniform and options to wear thermals under uniforms during winter months. This week I am pleased to say that we have been accepted onto the '**Kidscan**' programme which will supply plain black - hard wearing shoes for all students who need them. Kidscan will also support our students with lunch snacks once our enrolment process is completed in March. We have been on the waiting list for 'Kidscan' for the past 6 months and are certainly grateful for the support that will be provided.

Kapa Haka

Thank you to the students, caregivers and staff who attended Noho this past weekend. It is pleasing to see the number of students who are working together to form this years Kapa haka Group - the name of Nga Kotuku o Punahau, reflects the times when Kotuku frequented Lake Punahou and when looking from a distance it appeared that snow was settling on the edge of the lake. The white heron or Kotuku is well-loved by the New Zealand people, but it is rarely seen except by those who specifically seek it out. Check out the explanation of the name further on in the newsletter.

The Science Roadshow is coming to Levin Intermediate School

Please pay the \$7 needed to get the Science Roadshow to our school. It promises to be a fabulous day with hands on experiences and activities to enhance the understanding of science.

School Donations and Technology Fee or a Working Bee and Technology Fee - What would you prefer?

This year we are trialling something new in an effort to get some much needed jobs done at school (jobs that we would normally pay to have done) for those who would see 'their time' as a better use of support than the family donation of \$75. Over the next few weeks we will be listing a range of work that would benefit the school greatly and will hold a working bee at school to get these jobs done, including gardening, painting and extras in and outside of the school classrooms. For those who prefer to pay the donation and activity fee - we totally understand.

A voluntary family donation of \$75.00 per child and in addition a Technology fee of \$80.00. In total \$155 per child is requested.

The technology fee pays for the materials children use in specialist technology rooms, IT consumables and resources, and the range of extra-curricular learning and cultural programmes that this school provides its students.

Although the donation is voluntary we do urge you to pay. The Ministry grant is simply not enough to cover the funding of all that we offer at this school.

You can pay the School Donation and Technology Fees at the LIS school office.

Nga Kotuku o Punahau

Symbolisation of the Kotuku White Heron. Kotuku is the Maori word for the rare White Heron bird. It is a symbol of prestige, purity, and uniqueness. One of the greatest compliments among the Maori was to liken someone to Kotuku for it signifies everything rare and beautiful. Sometimes referred to as a darling or treasure. This is true of the group for they are treasures who are continuing a tradition handed down through the ages. It is also said of our ancestors that, before the decline of the lakes ecosystem and on the western banks of Punahau was the stop over for the Kotuku on their migration south. It was said, such was the abundance of Kotuku, one would perceive it to be snowing on one side of the lake.

Lastly, liken to the Kotuku our taurira are with us for a period of time, before they fly off to seek further knowledge, growth and understanding.

LIBRARY HELPERS and CHESS CLUB

This year we have had an increased number of students interested in playing board games including Chess and reading in our school library during break times. To support these great choices we are wondering if there are any volunteers prepared to give up ½ an hour per week to supervise our library space. Please contact us if this sounds like you.



SPORTS

Several after school sports have now started - Water Polo, Twilight Hockey and Football, and Softball will start this Friday. Most students have paid their fees which is great because all of that money goes directly to the local sports associations that run the activities. We also greatly appreciate the help that parents and other family members can give us with managing, coaching, or refereeing. It's a wonderful way of making strong connections with your child's school. You can also help your child with their self-management in terms of remembering practices, games, correct equipment as well as encouraging good sportsmanship.

Rugby - Are there any parents who are able to commit to running after school touch games once a week 3.15 - 4.00pm? If you are able to help, please contact: jade.cullen@lis.school.nz Thank you.

ACADEMIC EXTENSIONS

Several opportunities for extension are coming up, including the ICAS exams (Digital Technologies, Science, Spelling, Writing, English, Maths) and the University of Otago Maths Problem Challenge Series. If your child has a strength in any of these areas, please encourage them to enter. More information will be available from the school office. EPro8 practice sessions have been going strong with Mr Harold. We have booked entries for four teams, so that many of our students can get to compete at the local event on the 20th March.

A special welcome to our new students and their families this week - Welcome to Lavinia and Cora, we look forward to getting to know you both!

Nāku noa nā Sheree Garton
Principal

Commitment Waka

In the Commitment Waka this term we have established academic, sporting and cultural goals. We have analysed what makes a clear, successful goal and put the steps in place to achieve these.

One of the main focuses this term has been the establishment of an Academic goal session where students personally selected a workshop to attend on an area they felt they needed to work on. The options were: Handwriting, Writing, Reading, Spelling, Basic Facts Maths and Maths using two or more digits. Along with these sessions, students have been participating in a range of sporting and fitness sessions. These include conquering an obstacle course, circuit training, cardio fitness, muscle extension and strengthening.

For Inquiry, we are looking at the dynamics of 'belonging' to a team or group, using the up and coming Commonwealth Games as our steer.

Samantha McLean, Commitment Waka Team Leader

Community Waka

In the community Waka we have been unpacking the idea 'belonging' and in particular, what communities do we belong to? We have also been looking at the different community groups that make our community great and how can we become active members in our community.

This will lead towards running school wide events throughout the year and using our talents and interests to make our community a better place

Jade Cullen, Community Waka Team Leader

Digital/Collaborative Waka

Our digital/collaborative waka is off to a great start in 2018! Our students have been working in mini-lab groups to develop solar powered drag cars and have just completed their first coding task using Micro:bit chip sets. Our focus will soon turn to creating dance tracks for the upcoming school disco with our Japanese exchange students, using the set of new iPads that the school has just purchased.

Our context for learning this year is in developing solutions to problems which allows us to develop creative thinking and foster curiosity.

David Miller, Digital/Collaborative Waka Team Leader

GENESIS ENERGY COMPETITION

You can help Levin Intermediate School win a fantastic prize that will help our students for years to come.

All you have to do is vote every day until the 2nd April (and get as many other people to also vote every day) for Levin Intermediate School on the <http://www.schoolgen.co.nz/voteforyourschool/> web page. Search for our school name and our logo.



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Please sign and return this portion to the school office to enable your child to go in the draw to win some wonderful prizes.

Child's name: Room: Parent/Caregiver signature: