



Concord School Community Newsletter



December 2023

Kia ora whānau and friends of Concord School

Thank you for taking the time to read our community newsletter. Some of the many highlights this year include:

- The excellent progress the students have made with our structured literacy approach for teaching reading, writing, spelling and handwriting
- The opening of our new kitchen and all the tamariki being involved in regular cooking lessons
- Taking part in activities such as our school production, the Polyfest, and school assemblies with whānau, after three years of restrictions

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a relaxing break. The first day of school for 2024 is Tuesday 30th January. The office will also be open on Monday morning 29th January for any enquiries.



Ngā mihi, Steve Turnbull, Principal

Free Healthy School Lunches (Ka Ora/Ka Ako)

- We are fortunate that all our students are eligible to receive daily healthy school lunches. These are supplied by a professional catering company, "Time 4 Lunch", and delivered to school every day.

The lunches range from a variety of meals (warm and cold) such as chicken pasta, chicken curry, burgers, rolls, chicken and rice and sandwiches. To complement these the students are provided with milk and/or yoghurt.

No School Fees - Concord School is part of the government's free school fees and donations scheme, meaning that we do not ask for any activity fees or donations. We understand that family budgets are tight and feel confident that this eases household costs for our families.

School Production - Our school production was a fantastic way to finish Term 2. I was very impressed with our main characters and their efforts in learning their lines outside of school time, and also with those children who stepped in at short notice to cover absences. Everyone looked great in their costumes and it was wonderful experience for them all performing on stage in front of their whānau.

The production was based on the NZ History Famous New Zealanders topic, so it really brought this learning alive, and I'm sure many of the children and audience members will remember these important people who contributed so much to our country.

Wheako Fair - In Term 3 a group of our senior students was involved in a very successful Wheako Fair as a fundraiser for World Vision's 40 Hour Challenge.. Thanks to Alana, Noah, Brianna, Emily and Ben from the Greater Green Island Community Network who supported the children to plan, organise and run the event.

It was an opportunity for the students to show leadership and organisational skills planning their stall or game and running it on the day. It was evident that they had learnt a lot and were enjoying what they were doing, as were their customers. A great example of a real-life learning experience.



School Vision and Karakia - We have recently been working with Luana Thomas, a Resource Teacher of Māori, who has assisted us with kapa haka, translating our school vision, and developing a school karakia.



Karakia = Positive thinking

- E te whānau
- He mihi tēnei
- Kia tū māia
- Kia whai koha
- Kia tū tika
- Whāia te hiringa
- Ako tahi, tipu tahi
- Mauri ora
- Family & friends
- This is a tribute
- To be confident
- To be respectful
- To be responsible
- Strive for excellence
- Learn together, grow together
- Be alive & well

The students recited our school karakia at the beginning of their Polyfest presentation at the end of Term 3. We were all delighted to be back performing as part of the Otago Polyfest. The students showed excitement and a few nerves beforehand but this was quickly overcome when the performance started. The school haka was a particularly impressive display, full of intent and volume. Thanks to everyone who was involved in preparing for the Polyfest presentation. It was a real team effort.



Elgregoe – In Term 3 we enjoyed a visit from magician Elgregoe, his wife Sue, and their ‘Fabulous Friends’ show, teaching students the ingredients for good friendships, and featuring their beautiful live parrots, ventriloquism, illusions and incredible props.



Grandparents Reading – This year we have welcomed back our grandparent readers who volunteer their time every Thursday morning to read to and with our tamariki.

This programme has been running for 15 years now and we thank everyone involved for their time and dedication. We would always welcome any older members of our community who would like to take part in this.

Authors’ Visit – Earlier this term we all enjoyed a visit from NZ award-winning children’s author Stacy Gregg and illustrator Ruth Paul. They were with us for the morning, firstly talking to the whole school, and then taking workshops with each class.



Sports – We have had a busy year of sports, with students taking part in athletics, cross country, swimming lessons, and golf lessons at school, as well as enjoying the after school competitions of futsal, touch rugby, and Kiwihoops.

Bunnings Graduation Project – Many thanks to Bunnings who recently donated and helped to plant two more trees, a lemon tree and a Broadway mint tree, in our orchard, with our Year 6 leavers.



Retirement - Our Deputy Principal and Kōtukutuku teacher Fay Young will retire from teaching at the end of this year. Fay has been teaching at our school for 30 years across various year levels. She has led the school and staff with the maths curriculum, the Duffy Book Programme, and she has spent countless hours, especially in the holidays, keeping the library in tip top shape.

Fay is often the first staff member here in the morning and does a lot of the ‘unseen’ work like putting out the road cones and wet weather flags, often in the dark. Fay has also made a very valuable contribution to the governance of the school as the staff representative on the board of trustees for 22 years. At a personal level Fay as Deputy Principal has been invaluable in supporting me in my role and I will miss our regular conversations and her advice.



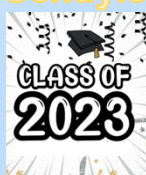
Art – This term all classes are learning about a different well-known artist. Kōwhai students are studying Vincent Van Gogh, his life and his masterpieces. We have spent some time on the excellent Vincent Van Gogh museum website (<https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en>) which is an excellent resource and well worth checking out.



Makomako had a lovely visit at Concord Kindy recently

Year 6 School Leavers for 2023

- | | | |
|---------|----------|-----------|
| Drayden | Schuyler | Tezla |
| Ava | | Eli |
| Naomi | | Izabella |
| Blaze | | Samar |
| Kaleb | | Issac |
| Alex | Carlos | Joy-Ciana |
| Isaac | Saphira | Daniel |



We wish them all well for 2024 and beyond



Check out our website, www.concord.school.nz, or visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/concordschooldunedin for information, photos, events and newsletters.



CLEVER CATS



Hi, my name is Sue Howard and I am the New Entrant/Yr 1 teacher in Rūma Makomako at Concord School. I run a programme for children from age 4½ called ‘Clever Cats.’ Clever Cats is a transition programme that introduces the child to school life and expectations and gives them a chance to meet and spend time with their future classmates and teacher.

It is held every second Friday, on the odd weeks of the term, from 1.30 – 3.00pm in Room 2. During Clever Cat sessions we often visit the school library and meet up with our ‘buddies’, one of the senior children from Rūma Rātā, who read to us and also assist us in choosing a book to take home. We then share a big book back in our classroom and take part in a follow-up activity.

If you would like more information about Clever Cats, phone the school office and I will happily make a time to talk with you.