



MANAKAU SCHOOL Matters...

May 1st, 2019 Week 1

Welcome Back!!

The weather is certainly indicating that Winter is on its way. It has been great to see the children back well rested and ready for learning. I hope you have enjoyed your family time together.

This term in reflection of some of the school-wide surveys I have a focus on ensuring there is plenty of warning about up-coming events. The Wednesday reminders will contain the dates we have so far and this will also be loaded onto the school website (www.manakau.school.nz). If you would like this weekly update emailed to you please feel free to contact Deb Feldon in the office (office@manakau.school.nz).

All of our classes use the seesaw app as a communication tool, and this is also an effective way of communicating with myself or the classroom teacher. Over the holidays I was contacted by several parents requesting information about a variety of things and because of this I think it is timely to share some guidelines so we are all on the same page. Our school has a strong open door policy. This means we are available to discuss compliments and concern and clarify anything that needs discussing. I do not want this to stop, however with our communication via email, text, facebook and the seesaw app, it also means the teachers and I can appear to be available 24/7 and at times that can be a little overwhelming. So, in light of this I'd like to let you know we are still available however we will not respond in the weekend, and messages received in the evening will be followed up in the school day.

The school wide survey response was outstanding! 41 out of 72 families, a marked improvement from the 12 in total in our previous community survey. Thank you!

Attached to this newsletter is a breakdown of some of the feedback. I have not included the many positive and constructive comments that were also shared. The survey has given the staff and I much to

celebrate and consider as we move forward to ensure we continue to give our personal best for the students who attend Manakau School. As you can imagine, our families are diverse and the needs, wants and aspirations for our students can also be quite diverse. That being said, we are in a very positive space and the ideas and opinions you have shared will be listened to as we move forward. A few parents commented on a need to have more information about where their children are 'at' academically. I encourage you to contact the children's class teachers for this information. Times can always be organised that allows for open, in depth conversation.

Thank you again for your input. The Board will also be discussing the information collected in the survey. This will be used for future resourcing discussions and supports the direction of our school.

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou
Deb

COMMUNITY NOTICES

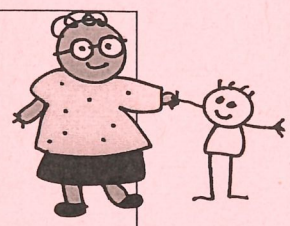
Shrek The Musical.

17th May—1st June 2019.

Bookings at The Beacon gift and bookshop, Oxford Street, Levin. Or phone 06 3682123. Presale tickets are available now.

[Facebook.com/LevinLittleTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/LevinLittleTheatre)

Nothing is really
lost until your
Mum can't find it.



Initial Feedback - Manakau Community Survey 2019

Lots of positives highlighted and there was a good range of surveys returned from across the school.

- As parents you feel welcomed within the school community and you feel we have a good reputation in the community.
- Your children feel happy and safe at Manakau School. On the whole, issues are dealt with quickly and effectively.
- Communication
 - Parents supported the use of multiple platforms for communication
 - Ensuring parents have enough notification for upcoming events was noted
 - Some parents noted their preferred communication format
- Reporting
 - Lots of comments around this including the information given, time allowance, follow up of discussions and actions
- Homework
 - Again lots of great feedback here. Some of the comments included
 - So long as it's not 3 hours I think homework is good
 - We feel strongly that our family time/quality time with our children is very important, like to discuss and support learning at home in a child-led way
 - Homework teaches dedication and discipline
 - Depends on the child's age
 - I think she should have homework

A lot of the comments suggested that homework was how a parent knew what was happening at school. More discussion to come from this one:)

Some informed feedback and comments around high quality learning environments and how that includes learning through play, inquiry, project based learning, differentiated learning, individual learning styles, and catering for diverse learners.

Overwhelming support and acknowledgement of the high expectations we have for our students behaviour.

3 Quick Questions - Feedback

95% of the returned surveys answered that they saw a benefit of having a school swimming pool

34% Maybe 34% Yes and 32% No - Before or After school care

48% Yes 53% No - Religious Instruction (Many of you both in the YES and NO, made strong comments about the need to have discussion around "big world issues", "all religions", "An understanding of all religions, not just one")

With the 3 quick questions we are really scratching the surface of your ideas and more will need to happen over the year ahead to unpack these.

So what happens now? Many of the comments/suggestions are in line with the thinking of the Board of Trustees and Staff, some challenge current practise. We will discuss, take into account and decide what can be actioned this year and what can be implemented as part of our strategic plan.

Thank you once again for your input.

Deb Logan (Principal) and John McElwee (Board Chair)

