

# WESTERN HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## TE KURA O WHAKAAHU

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Email whpadmin@whp.school.nz

Principal  
Brent Griffin



### A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

November Newsletter 12/24

TEACHER ONLY DAY Friday 15 November- This coming Friday.



The Government have allocated 2 Teacher Only Days this year to assist schools to strategically plan for 2025 and to look at the implementation of the new English and Mathematics Curriculum. We are taking our second one on 15 November, this coming Friday.

#### Parents are the First Teachers

As parents, the first 1000 days of your tamariki's life are crucial. The first 3 years of your baby's life will help shape them into the person they will be in the future. Aroha, nurture, and strong family values will be the foundation for the future success of your children. That is the number one responsibility of all parents.

Parents are the 1st teachers, parents who invest time into their children's preschool years and beyond will generally produce well-adjusted, young people with bright futures ahead of them.

Once children start school then teachers support, promote and develop the great work that families have done.

We are educators, our primary responsibility is to academically educate our beautiful children. We also provide the love and care all children require.

The role of a teacher is becoming increasingly difficult as we are expected to correct poor behaviour, teach family values and far too often try to rectify behaviour that is at an extreme level. This is the responsibility of parents and whanau, but it appears to have fallen into the job description of primary school teachers.

For the majority of families, children start school and we get straight into learning, it is an exciting time for both the teachers and the tamariki.

Sadly, however, an increasing number of children are arriving at school with heightened aggression, using inappropriate language, limited resilience and the inability to socialise with their peers.

It is a national problem and we have noticed it at Western Heights Primary School particularly over the past 2 years. I believe society has taken a backward step, but it is not too late to turn things around.

The language we use in our homes, the love we show our kids and our partners, parents parenting together, and having firm boundaries and expectations that promote respect, kindness and whanaungatanga are so important for the development of our children.

A child surrounded by love, support and firm, fair and fun parents will blossom.

Some children are born with neurodiversity and schools have some resources and external resourcing to support these children but we are completely under-resourced to deal with students who arrive at school displaying learned negative behaviour.

I want to thank our families who have children at school with difficult behaviours for your support. It is greatly appreciated. If we work together then we can achieve anything.

If you are struggling, please make contact with the school. We may not have all the answers but we may be able to steer you in the right direction.

The greatest honour presented to us in life is to be parents. The joy it brings is immeasurable but it's not easy. It takes true investment, commitment, dedication and unconditional aroha for our beautiful tamariki.

Western Heights Primary is a joy to be part of, thank you for supporting our kaupapa. We want every child to be a success. It starts in the home and is supported at school.

Over the past 2 weeks we have had a number of teachers fall ill. Sadly there are very few relief teachers around to replace them. We do on occasion have to split classes to cover all room.  
 It is not ideal. I know that we don't have any other options.  
 Thankyou for your understanding

**Important dates for the remainder of the year**

- 19 November Senior Athletics Day
- 2 December Student Led Conferences
- 3 December Year 6 Graduation
- 5 December Sports Prizegiving
- 5 December Year 6 Ball
- 9 December Junior Athletics Day
- 13 December 12.30 pm School Finishes for the year
- 28 January 2025 School starts for the year.



**FACT OF THE WEEK**


It is only 6 weeks until Christmas and 7 weeks until 2025



Its that time again, get in quick to secure your spot in our upcoming market day

Don't forget we have 4 year old classes for those children getting ready to come to our kura. For further information call the office and speak with Whaea Teresa .



 Our School Nurse is here Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please feel free to let us know if you would like them to check your tamariki while they are on site.

**Stay in touch :**

-  <http://www.whp.school.nz>
-  07 348 8459
-  western heights primary school
-  whpadmin@whp.school.nz

 We are a water ONLY school.

Please support us by sending your tamariki to school with a Water Bottle



I have no supervision options available for my child/children for Teacher Only Day.  
 My child/ children are \_\_\_\_\_ rooms \_\_\_\_\_.

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 Parent/Caregiver signature