

WESTERN HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

TE KURA O WHAKAAHU

197 Clayton Road
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Principal
Brent Griffin



A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

March Newsletter 2/25

Kia ora e te whanau

Student safety exiting the school at the end of the school day



I am very concerned at the driving behaviour of many of our adult whanau members picking up their tamariki at the end of the school day. This has to improve or we will see students seriously injured in our driveway.

We have a minimum of two teachers patrolling the front gate at the end of the school day. Often, we have more. We are doing everything we can to keep our tamariki safe. I am asking you to do the same.

We have cars entering the wrong way into the driveway because they can't be bothered waiting in the queue.

Cars parked on the footpath areas, stopping kids' ability to walk safely along the footpath.

Cars being parked in the middle of the driveway unattended, stopping other vehicles from getting past.

Cars parked on the yellow lines.

Children being picked up on motorcross bikes without the use of helmets.

Cars leaving the carpark with children unrestrained, hanging out the car windows.

Young children without licenses, driving, and being sent to pick their siblings up.

The Police have been informed of our concerns. They plan to randomly arrive to view the driving behaviour of some members of our school community. They will issue tickets.

We have to do better; we are the adults. Our tamariki are precious, they need to be our highest priority.

Whanau from Kakano classes rooms 6, 8, 10, 11, 22, can pick up their tamariki from 2.30 pm, but you need to park at the end of the yellow lines on Clayton Road or Edmund Road and walk up. Sign in at the office, pick up your child/children and avoid the congestion.

Thomas Crescent is the quickest, most efficient pick-up area, drive in, pick up your tamariki and drive away.

The congestion is between 2.35pm and 3.00pm. If you arrive at 3.00pm then the majority of the chaos is over. However, in saying that we have children still waiting after 3.15pm and some after 3.30pm. It is unfair to ask our teachers to babysit your children for that length of time. They have meetings and planning requirements that they need to attend to.

Sorry to sound like a grump but if a child is injured, we won't forgive ourselves.

How good was Ngati Whakaue at te Matatini? I was in awe of the quality of their performance, hats off to the performers, tutors, supporters, simply mind-blowing.

Kapahaka is big at Western Heights Primary School. Our senior squad has about 50 participants and Whaea Linda plans to run a junior team also.

Twice per term we dedicate 2 Friday afternoons to schoolwide kapahaka to learn our school waiata and haka. Our connection to Te Ao Maori at Western Heights Primary School is very strong.

We have lots of school trips taking place, if you would like to be a parent helper, please pop in and complete the police vetting form. We love having parents joining our trips.

The publicity around the new school lunch program that Intermediates and High Schools are part of this year is shambolic. Fortunately, we remain in the old program with Ka Pai Kai and our lunches are great. I enjoy them quite regularly myself.

In 2026 all primary schools if they are part of the free school lunch program will join this shambolic lunch scheme. We have to do whatever we can to avoid that. Your voice is important.

Contact Erica Stanford the Minister of Education and voice your concerns, E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz

Your email could contain a message like

We are so thankful for being able to remain on the old lunch scheme program for 2025. I am shocked at the quality of what's being offered in our Intermediate and High schools as part of the new nationwide roll out. Our tamariki deserve better than that. We thank Ka Pai Kai for delivering beautiful nutritious meals to our very deserving tamariki every day, we are truly thankful.

Scrap David Seymour's horror show and ensure all schools return in 2026 to the very successful program offered by the previous Government.

The message the current coalition Government is sharing is that cost cutting is more important than the wellbeing and health of our children.

Our tamariki are our taonga, they don't deserve to be treated like this.

You are the Minister of Education, you have the power to make change, do what you know is right. Nga Mihi XXXXXXX

Our new entrant area of the school is growing rapidly. If you have a four-year-old who is coming to Western Heights Primary School this year, please come in and pre-enrol so we can plan for their arrival. Nga mihi.

We have a new mathematics curriculum. It is very different to what was delivered over the past decade. It is exciting. If you would like to know more about it, please fill out the tear off slip below. If we have enough interest, we will run an information hui.



I would love to attend an information meeting to discuss the new mathematics curriculum. My child/ children are

_____, they are in

room/rooms _____.



Parent /Caregiver Signature

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.



We are a water ONLY school..

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



<http://www.whp.school.nz>



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