

# WESTERN HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## TE KURA O WHAKAAHU

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Principal  
Brent Griffin



### A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

April Newsletter 4 /25

Kia ora e te whanau

The holidays are upon us, and it's hard to believe term one is coming to a close. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the great start to our school year. Western Heights Primary School is the school of choice for many families in Rotorua and we feel privileged to have the opportunity to help educate your beautiful tamariki. Thank you for putting your trust in us.

Our school is an amazing place. Since Covid, we have seen a change in our ethnic make-up. It matches the change we are seeing within New Zealand. We are predominantly Maori at 72.7% of our school population, we now have students from Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Sri Lanka, Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, Tokelau, and Samoa and 13% of our school population is from European heritage.

It is exciting to share so many beautiful cultures in our kura.

Our school roll sits at 407 students. We have the following spaces available to out-of-zone students. Students from out of zone are accepted through the ballot system.

Year 0-1 open

Year 2 4 Spaces

Year 3. 4 Spaces

Year 4 12 Spaces

Year 5 8 Spaces

Year 6 2 Spaces

We save spaces for in-zone students. However, this is an opportunity for whanau to join your children at Western Heights Primary School. Once the spaces are filled, there are no more.

Some things to work as a community that would support the school:

- 1) We have noticed this year that many of our new entrant students starting school have low levels of resilience. If they are told not to do something, we see tantrums or dysregulated behaviour. As parents /caregivers, children must have boundaries and adults do not give in to everything children demand. What happens is they expect instant gratification at school and that is simply not possible when there are 20 students in a class. We need to teach our tamariki that they cannot always have what they want when they want it. Together we can support our tamariki by managing them with clear boundaries. Kindness is the number one thing but boundaries follow a close second.
- 2) We have seen an increase in students of all ages using inappropriate language in general life situations. They are not trying to be offensive or disrespectful: sadly, it is just part of their vocabulary. This is due directly to what they hear at home via how families speak to each other, social media, YouTube, movies, music and other social platforms. Replace the inappropriate language with kind, supportive words and correct your tamariki if they are using socially unacceptable language.
- 1) Hitting, particularly our little ones. We have observed so many juniors resorting to hitting to get what they want. We manage it well at school but we need to spread a collective message that hitting is never acceptable. The message is if you choose to hit you are doing the wrong thing.

Have a wonderful Easter break and enjoy spending valuable time with your beautiful tamariki. We appreciate your support.



The introduction of the new English and Mathematics curriculum has gone well. Our teachers are amazing, they are so proactive. What you will notice at your end is the new profile on Seesaw for your child is different to last year. We have had to make this change to match up with the changes in the curriculum. The old level system that you will be used to no longer exists. Whaea Megan, Whaea Kimmy and Whaea Marnel have spent hours ensuring our school is leading the way with the new requirements. I am so proud of their efforts and the commitment our staff have shown.

## TERM 2:

We return to school after the holidays on Monday 28 April. Term 2 is the start of winter. Our tamariki can wear a beanie as long as it doesn't contain any gang insignia. They can also wear navy blue thermals under their uniform.

No other colour and no skivvies or other non uniform clothing. The thermals are available at the school. They could be cheaper at Kmart or the Warehouse.

NO HOODIES. THEY ARE INTIMIDATING WHEN WORN WITH THE HOOD TIED UP, NOT COOL FOR OUR LITTLE JUNIORS.



A huge thankyou to everyone involved in our recent Market Day. It was a wonderful event and your support is greatly appreciated by our Kura.

Community Sports

### GIRLS' FOOTBALL - LAKES FOOTBALL CLUB

Lakes FC have had such a good response for their all girls football teams that they have added more teams to accommodate players. There are now additional spaces available in U8s, U10s and U12s Girls.



If you interested in joining a Girls' football team for the the 2025 winter season please email Catherine at

lakesfcgirls@gmail.com or Ph: 021 634 807

CATHERINE DONOVAN  
Lakes Football Club - Girls' Coordinator



Watch this space for  
our  
next 2025 Habit  
Heroes

### Fact of the week

These school holidays include 2 public holidays,  
Easter Weekend and Anzac Day



Have a wonderful safe holiday with  
your whanau and friends

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



Stay in touch :



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



07 348 8459



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