



SCHOOL TALK

September 2015

BEWARE WHITEBAITERS

White baiting season is always a busy time of the year for Mokau when the population swells and there is high anticipation of big whitebait catches - it can also be a frustrating time for permanent Mokau residents with school children. As the roads are narrow white baiters please remember to take care during the times that parents are dropping their children to, or picking their children up, from the school bus. There are few places for the school bus to pull over to safely let other vehicles pass and parents have also commented on the inconsiderateness of some visitors to keep the roads clear. The school bus travels up and down Mahakatino Rd between 7.25 - 7.55 in the morning and again between 3.00 - 3.30 in the afternoon. Parents travel up and down Awakau Rd to meet the bus at the bottom between 8.00 - 8.40 in the morning and between 3.30 - 4.10 in the afternoon.

ART WEEK

Every year Mokau School celebrates spring and the new term with Art Week and Agricultural Days. We would love to hear from arty, crafty community members interested in taking a workshop for our students during Art Week. The content could be of your own choosing but needs to be realistic for children to complete in a morning, an afternoon or a day. Please contact the school if you are interested so we can source the resources you need before the end of term. Also if you think you have some resources we could utilise during art week please drop them at school - materials such as wool, buttons, ribbon, material, small boxes, etc. would be helpful. All art work is on display at School during our Pet Day on 21st October. Tainui Pet Day will be held on Friday 23rd October at the domain.

COUNTDOWN DOMINOES

There are a few avid collectors in our school and these would actually be a great little maths resource. If you shop at Countdown please say 'yes' to the dominoes and send any spares to school. Thank you.

PEST TRAP MONITORING

Kris from Taranaki Kiwi Trust is still interested in hearing from community members interested in monitoring of the pest traps on Hutuwai Rd. Some parents and community members went with Kris last term to experience trap monitoring with the vision of setting up a roster for ongoing monitoring. If you are interested in this valuable volunteer work please leave your number at the school office so we can pass it on to Kris at the Kiwi Trust.

SCHOOL GARDENS

Our school gardens are a bit depleted at the moment with just a few winter vegetables growing. Thanks to the Whitebait Inn for the coffee grounds and eggshells to help deter snails. Please think of us if you are cleaning out your calf pens as now would be a good time to enrich our soil with nutrients. We would also welcome any new vegetable seedlings to plant as spring approaches.

CREATIVITY CHALLENGES

This term has seen students testing their home made kites. Kites ranged from diamond shaped traditional kites, a large barrel kite to a kite shaped a like hand glider. Kites were made with a large variety of materials from clean sacks, cellophane, chicken meal bags, tin foil and plastic wrap which took to the skies with varying degrees of success. Unfortunately flight day was not particularly windy but students were not perturbed - the smiles and cheers of success were priceless and they experimented with their creations for the rest of the week. It was lovely to see a simple childhood pleasure has not been forgotten and juniors and seniors working together and having fun. The student's next challenge is to make a 3D bird - but it doesn't need to fly!

