

Kia ora, whanau.

A very pleasant chap phoned this week. On behalf of the new government, he'd been directed to call schools to ask a series of questions as to what we were doing to implement a couple of their policies. Unfortunately, the vast majority of questions on the list allowed only a binary response: yes or no. (*Doing the brilliant basically?*): there was little opportunity to offer information or further commentary.


We started with *phones away for the day*:

- Did we have, or were we working on; a policy banning kids from being on their phones during school time? **Yes ✓**
- Did we use either Ministry of Education or New Zealand School Trustees Association resources to develop it? **Yes ✓**
- Has there been any reaction to the policy? **No x**
- Did we already have a phone ban in place anyway? **Yes ✓**

Then we moved on to **"teaching the basics brilliantly"** - that's the policy that directs schools to teach reading, writing, and maths for an average of an hour a day.

- Did we have a policy specifying an hour a day? **No x**
- Were we going to develop such a policy? **No x**
- Were the basics being taught for an hour a day? **Yes ✓**
- Was that usual for us? **Yes ✓**

- Any comments? **Yes!!** If we were to implement such a policy: it would represent a reduction in time spent teaching reading, writing and mathematics; for most Waverley Park kids. (I think he wrote that down!). It would be interesting to get an opportunity to see what this survey "discovers" ... it will be a bit of a surprise if we do, though.


A quick look on the Ministry of Education website for related guidance for whanau, threw up a pamphlet that does have some useful stuff in it. To save you searching: 

## Thanks for "working with your school"

*Nga mihi nui* to everyone who trundled in to meet their kids' teachers this week. Whether it was a quick chat, a more formal interview, or a BBQ: you can't beat *kanohi ki te kanohi* - technology will never better an actual face to face conversation.

Particularly - but not exclusively - if your child has a new teacher; there is a lot that teacher can learn from you; nobody knows kids half as well as their own whanau does.

While there won't have been much of an opportunity for a "deep and meaningful": the fact that you took the time to come in and meet with your child's teacher, sends that child a clear message: you're interested and involved in their learning.

It also reinforces the home-school partnership: a strong component in your child's success at school: **thanks!** 

## Ministry of Ed advice for whanau...



### What's happening?

Starting from Term 1 2024, children in Years 0-8 will be taught reading, writing, and maths for an average of one hour a day in each skill.

Daily teaching, along with a quality curriculum and good teaching practices, has been shown to improve children's progress and achievement.

### What does this change mean for my child?

Many schools already spend an hour a day on reading, writing and maths, so this will not be a big change.

The new 'one hour a day' requirement has been designed to be practical and flexible. Schools will still be able to hold events like athletics days and school camps since the requirement is for an average amount of time each week.

### What will the lessons look like?

The National Curriculum outlines what your child should be able to understand, know and do as they progress through their school years. Teachers will continue to use the curriculum and teach in ways that best suit the learning. This includes using things like active learning opportunities, group work, investigations, practice, and consolidation activities.

The 'one hour a day' requirement can be broken up into small blocks throughout the day. Your child's teacher will manage these to fit the needs of your child.



### How you can help at home

To support the learning they do at school, you can help your child develop reading, writing and maths skills by:

- having your child read to you
- reading to your child and talking about books and stories
- encouraging your child to share what they think about a book (or video game, podcast, or movie), and being positive about the material they are reading, listening, or watching
- letting your child see you enjoy books, audiobooks, podcasts, games, movies, or videos in your first language
- encouraging your child to write, and talking with your child about what they are writing

- showing your child that you write for lots of reasons too, such as replying to an email, filling out a form, or writing an invitation or letter
- involving your child in activities where you use maths (for example playing games with cards or dice, grocery shopping, cooking, and DIY activities)
- encouraging your child to share how they solve mathematics problems (they may use different mental or written strategies to the ones you were taught)
- being positive about your child's reading, writing, and maths experiences, and praising their efforts.

### Working with your school!

It can be helpful to share your child's interests, languages spoken at home, and cultural practices with their teachers, so they can be included in your child's learning.

You can also talk with your child or their teacher about their progress in reading, writing, and maths and discuss with their teacher ways you can support your child at home.



## Rose? Jack? National Lemming Day??

Whatever reason your kids have for being in or near a larger body of water - we want them to be as safe as possible: so, for the next couple of weeks, we're away to Splash Palace for swimming lessons! By now, details of when your kids are scheduled to be on the bus / in the pool / back at school; should have reached you: the first **DON'T-FORGET-THE-TOGS-DAY** is **MONDAY**.



## BOT meeting...

Keen eyes thought they'd spotted a glitch in the matrix - when actually, it was just plain, bad typing. Some of the dates in last week's "Calendar" section of the newsletter didn't line up with the events they should have - not cool. Therefore: our next Board meeting is actually on Monday 26 February ... not ... March as last week's newsletter would have you believe...

## The (fully proofread this week) calendar...

Feb 26	Swimming starts (Monday - Thursday) Board of Trustees - 7.30pm in the staffroom
Mar 07	Last day of swimming
13	Phoenix Zone athletics (NO school lunches)
15	Phoenix Zone cancellation date (or Assembly: Kia maia - 10.10am)
24	Southland Primary School Athletics Champs
29	Good Friday
Apr 01	Easter Monday
02	Assembly: Kia manawanui - 10.10am
05	Southland Anniversary Day
12	Term 1 ends (3.00pm)
29	Term 2 starts

## Meningococcal disease...

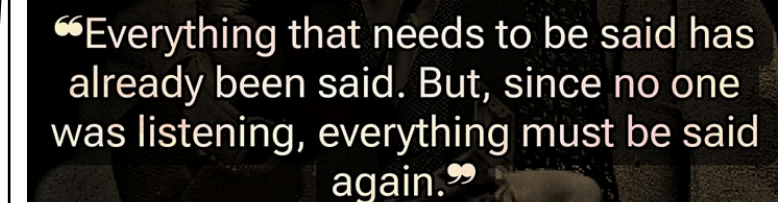
is a dangerous illness that can kill or cause serious disability. The best way to protect against the disease is to be vaccinated with both the MenB and the MenACWY vaccines. The MenB vaccine was added to the National Immunisation Schedule for babies on 1 March 2023. **All tamariki under 5 years old can catch up for free AND until 28 February**, these are also available **free** for those aged 13 to 25 in close living situations such as a boarding school or hostel. Vaccination appointments can be made with their healthcare providers.

<b>How to</b>	Call / txt: 03 217 9332 / 022 3179332
	Messenger: Waverley Park School
	Pay us online: 12 3154 0103559 00

Waverley Park School – proud to be supported by the

## Born in 1869...

French author and Nobel Laureate, Andre Gide, witnessed two world wars, and everything that led up to them. He died in 1951; but one of his quotes is as valid today as it was when he said it:



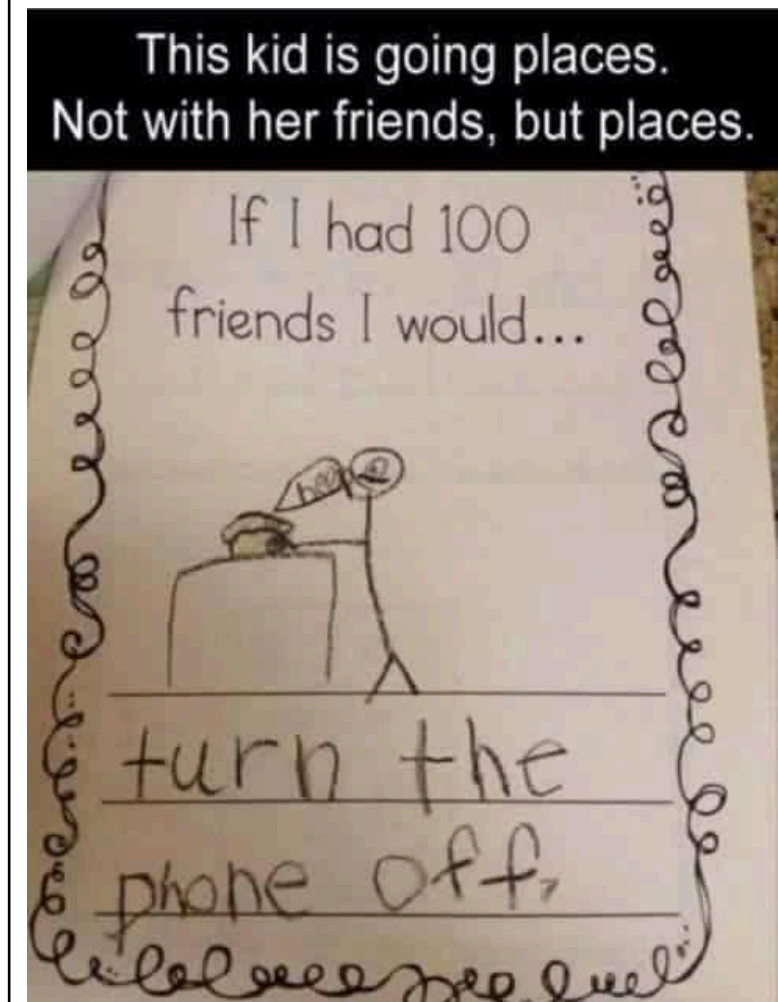
## Advice on a lighter note...

"Tip: Save the business cards of people you don't like. If you ever hit a parked car accidentally, just write, "Sorry" on the back and leave it on the windshield."

"When I get a headache, I take two panadol and keep away from children - just like the bottle says."

"Today's three-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favourite apps. When I was three, I ate mud."

## And...



Until next week - ka kite,  
Kerry Hawkins & staff



# SOUTHLAND A&P SHOW

Saturday 2nd March  
Donovan Park



## SCARECROW Creations

Are you needing something creative to add to your term one planner? Sections include: Preschool, Year 0-4 & Year 5-13. Check out our schedule of classes online to see further details!



## HOME Industries

Be sure to check out the attached schedule of classes, there is literally something for everyone to be involved in!



## COLOURING Competition

Our colouring competitions are on our website for children to complete if they wish. The children must bring them along to the show so please encourage them to do this!



For more information check out our website [www.southlandapshow.co.nz](http://www.southlandapshow.co.nz)

Find us on Facebook

## Fun & Educational CODING LESSONS

Learn to code with expert tutors.

Gain the ability to create with technology (instead of just consuming it).

All skill levels welcome.

Grab a free trial lesson at [codingnz.com](http://codingnz.com)

Ages 9 to 11  
12 & 13  
14 to 16

CODINGNZ

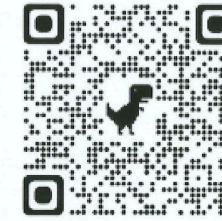
# A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS!



DOWNLOAD OUR SKOOL LOOP APP TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL SCHOOL NEWS AND IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2023.



# JAZ'S 30K CHARITY WALK



## INVERCARGILL TO BLUFF APRIL 13 2024 RAISING MONEY FOR IAMHOPE NZ [HTTPS://GIVEALITTLE.CO.NZ/FUNDRAISER/JAZS-30K-CHARITY-WALK](https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/jazs-30k-charity-walk)

**SOUTH alive**  
Children's Day  
at Elizabeth Park, 166 John St

**FREE FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

Food trucks Games Face painting

**Sunday 3 March  
12pm - 3pm**

With thanks to the following organisations who are supporting the event:



## Waverley Park School

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:

**NW NEW WORLD Windsor**

**Waverley motors** 2003 LTD 03 217 9425

**ON TRACK LEARNING** PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

**ADAM LOVE** Licensed Salesperson - REAA2008 *Inspire* REAL ESTATE | New Zealand

Your friendly local real estate agent.

**Better results in Maths and English are just a tap away.**

**B R A G G** BUILDING AND DESIGN  
Building the future. Restoring the past.

If you would like to advertise on the Waverley Park School Skool Loop App please email [Content@skoolloop.com](mailto:Content@skoolloop.com)

To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose School once installed.

chessventures PRESENTS THE

# SUMMER CUP

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL

# CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY

XO Kids - above XO Church  
9 Tay Street, Invercargill

2pm - 5pm  
\$15 Entry Fee

For more info or to enter : [chessventures@gmail.com](mailto:chessventures@gmail.com)