SCHOOL CLOSED THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

A reminder that **school will be closed on Thursday 23 October due to strike action**. As almost all of our staff belong to the education union, NZEI (The New Zealand Educational Institute), the board has made the decision to close the school on that day.

BOOK LAUNCH CELEBRATION

Thank you to everyone who came along to share in our book launch celebration last week. The book tells the story behind our school waharoa that stands proudly at the entrance to our main reception. It captures memories of the celebration held to bless and unveil Te Poutukeka e Ruia te Hā. Copies of "Te Poutukeka te Ruia te Hā" are on display in reception and our school library if you would like to read it.

Following the book launch, Matua Chris managed to locate Matua Brownie Rauwhero, the kaumatua who worked with us to develop our school pepeha and the waharoa - Te Poutukeka e Ruia te Hā. Matua Brownie, along with Matua Bobby Clarke were pivotal in establishing our connection to the local mana whenua, Te Akitai Wai o Hua.

Matua Chris visited Matua Brownie at his home and presented him with a copy of the book.

BIKES, SCOOTERS AND SKATEBOARDS

A reminder please that students are not permitted to bring bikes, scooters or skateboards to school as we do not have appropriate storage for these during the school day. If your child brings a bike, scooter etc to school we will require a parent/caregiver to come and collect it.

The school has several small-sized bikes that were donated. These are used by Year 0-3 classes to teach safe riding as part of our school curriculum. Students are required to wear a helmet and closed-in shoes when riding the school bikes. Occasionally we might hold a special event where students are permitted to bring bikes, scooters etc - we will let you know of this in advance via the newsletter and an individual notice. At these times we will make special arrangements for storage and safety routines.

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Our walking school bus from Rata Vine is operating daily. The Walking School Bus provides an opportunity for students to walk to school in a group, supervised by at least one adult volunteer/staff member. The Walking School Bus leaves from RaWiri Community House each day at 8.25am, or you can join it along the way.

SWIMMING

The Pools iN SchoolZ portable pool is open again for swimming at Wiri Central School. Learning to swim and water safety skills are not only a part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum, but an important life skill. Developing water confidence and learning to swim helps to reduce the risk of drowning. Please support your child to bring their swimming gear on their scheduled swimming day.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Room 16 Room 19 Room 20	Room 17 Roopu Tūī - Rooms 1, 2 & 9	Room 18 Mōkai Āwhina - Rooms 10, 11 &12	Room 13 Roopu Pūkeko - Rooms 3, 4, 5 & 6

As well as bringing their togs and a towel students need to bring a plastic bag to keep their belongings in. Shorts and tee shirts/singlets are suitable for swimming in our pool.

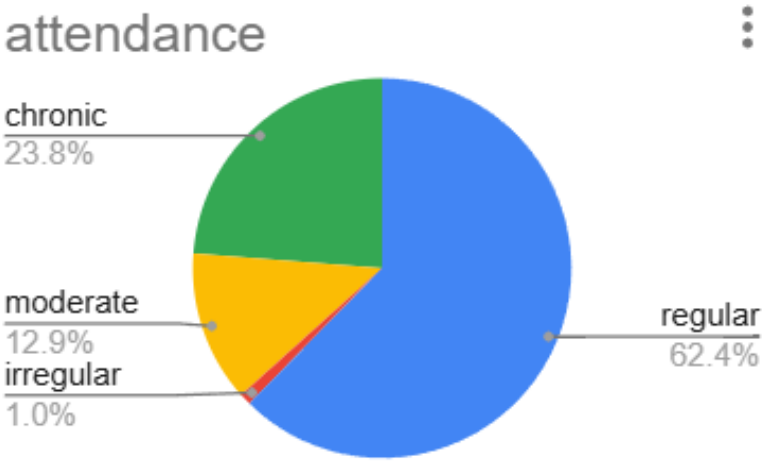
We require spotters to assist with swimming. Spotters are an extra pair of eyes watching the students while the teacher is taking the swimming lesson. If you are available to be a spotter, please let your child's teacher know. All classes must have at least one spotter to be able to swim.

All students are expected to participate in swimming - it is part of the compulsory school curriculum. If there is a medical reason why your child cannot participate in swimming please inform the class teacher or the office by phone call, text, email or a written note. If you have any concerns or queries, please talk to your child's teacher.

In addition to swimming at school, this term all Year 3 - 6 students have the opportunity to participate in swimming sessions funded by The Sir John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Trust. These sessions are taught by expert instructors each Friday and started last week on 17 October. Classes will be transported to and from the Papatoetoe pools by bus for these sessions. Please make sure your child has returned the individual permission slip that was sent home and that they bring their swimming gear to school every Friday.

IMPROVING ATTENDANCE

Here is our attendance graph for Weeks 1 and 2 of Term 4.



The winners for coming every day for the last fortnight were:

- Ceejay R10
- Rozeiya R11
- Carter R12
- Tumaia R12
- Zephaniah R 20

HEALTHY FOOD AT SCHOOL

Wiri Central School is part of the Fruit in Schools programme and the Ka Ora, Ka Ako lunch programme. Every child receives a free piece of fruit every day and there is often extra fruit available in the classroom for anyone who wants it. The free, healthy lunches are delivered daily to the school.

The purpose of these programmes is to:

- ensure every child has healthy food to eat at school as this supports them to focus better on learning
- save busy whānau time and money by not having to provide food for school

As a health promoting school we work hard to teach our students the value of good nutrition. This includes trying new things to eat and making good food choices. We encourage all students to eat the school fruit and lunches. If any additional food is being sent to school it needs to be healthy options only. As a "water only" school we encourage students to bring a named water bottle. Water bottles can be kept in the classroom.