



## NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Week 9 of Term 4

Term 4 Calendar			
Week 9	Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec		Sushi – last day for ordering for 2016
	Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7pm	Home & School Meeting @ Brew'd Island Bay
	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	All Day	Big Fun Day @ HVS
Week 10	Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6pm	BOT Meeting in Library
	Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2pm	Choir & Footsteps Dance Performance by School
	Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6pm-7:30pm	End of Year Assembly and Poroporoaki - Year 6 celebration
	Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Pickup 1:30pm	Last Day of Term 4 2016 (No afternoon bus)
Term 1 Calendar			
Week 1	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	9am	First Day of Term 1 2017
ASB Banking days are FRIDAYS • Bee Healthy Dental Clinic – 0800 825 583			
Sushi available Thursdays – go online to <a href="http://www.wrapitup.co.nz">www.wrapitup.co.nz</a> before 9am on Thursday to order			
Kelly Club After School Care – Phillippa Cell 022 010 9981 or email <a href="mailto:houghtonvalley@kellyclub.co.nz">houghtonvalley@kellyclub.co.nz</a>			

**Kia ora koutou, ngā mihi kia koutou katoa,**

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Children

With only just over a week to go, we're in the midst of final assessments and report writing. We're still sorting classes and working with our property managers getting closer to starting on our classroom revamps.

Thank you everyone for your support over the past week as we managed yet another emergency situation. Our lockdown was implemented following the alarming phone call received during the lunch break last Thursday. The teachers were fantastic, keeping the children busy and calm while sorting out the next steps with the police. It's very sad that people think it's ok to waste time on pranks like this and cause unfair stress for school staff and families. Lots of schools nationwide were caught up in this with both bomb and shooting threats. Please note, it was important to implement a lockdown in this case and not start our emergency evacuation, as schools receiving the bomb threat were required to do. We did not notify caregivers immediately as it was important not to have visitors arriving at the school during the lockdown. We have well and truly tested out our procedures now, which is really the only positive outcome of these events.

**Bikes in Schools** On a much more pleasant note, we have our grand official bike opening ceremony coming up on Thursday afternoon and would love for you to join us. We've planned a fun event kicking off at 2.20pm with a number of visitors attending, including Councillors Paul Eagle and Sarah Free on behalf of the Wellington City Council and quite a few others involved in this amazing project.

You may have noticed we removed the barriers from the main bike track in time for the weekend but have erected barriers on the pump and skills tracks for now while we wait for the grass to come through. This facility will be around for a long time so we appreciate your patience as we wait just a little longer to give the grass time to establish. Grass seed is expensive so we'd love to not have to buy more if we can help it. Some more planting will also help define the pump track as well so we'll look into that soon.



We also have our BIG FUN DAY coming up this Friday so are really hoping for good weather! We hope lots of you can join in the fun. We've got a great day planned, beginning at 9.30am. Come and join in – be prepared to get wet and we'd love your help if you can spare the time.

The final important event of the school year is the end of year assembly and poroporoaki beginning at 6pm next Wednesday evening. We hope you'll join us as we take this opportunity to farewell our year 6 students. Although it's always sad saying goodbye to each group of year 6 students as they venture off to their next stage of schooling, we also look on proudly as we send them off as "Confident, collaborative, inspired children; learning for life".



Ngā mihi nui

Raewyn Watson, Principal/Tumaki

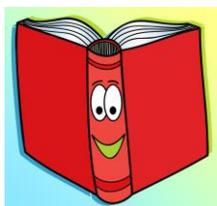
**A BIG WELCOME in NGAIO CLASS TO:**

😊 Isla Williams    😊 Matthias Sprenger

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**BIKE TRACK OFFICIAL OPENING - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2.20pm**

Come down and celebrate our great new perimeter track, pump track and bike skills course. See the official cutting of the ribbon and bring your decorated bikes and scooters for the opening parade. If the weather is fine, bring a picnic and stay on for some bike riding after school. Special thanks to Anna Ririnui for all her hard work getting HVS such a fantastic track. Hope to see you there.



**LIBRARY.....**

Please ensure all books are returned to the Library this week. Next week I will issue books to students who'd like to read over the holidays.

**HOLIDAY READING**

Next week I will issue books to students who would like to read over the holidays.

Parents are also welcome anytime between 10am and 3.15pm Monday to Thursday to select books you would like to share with your family. Perhaps some Non-Fiction books, or chapter books, or a whole bundle of easy reads. Please come and borrow. Thanks, Joanna, Librarian

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**Sushi** – last day for ordering in 2016 is Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December [www.wrapitup.co.nz](http://www.wrapitup.co.nz)

**Last Day of School - Friday 16th December**

12 :30pm to 1pm – Lunchtime (A quick lunch and final play)

1:30pm please pick up children from their classrooms

1 :30pm till 6pm Kelly Club available [www.kellyclub.co.nz](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz)

(Note: no afternoon bus service)



**SPORTS**



**Floorball 2017 - Registrations Forms Need to be in by this Friday**

Floorball starts again early Term 1. We are hoping to enter teams into all grades from Year 1 right up to Year 6. **Anyone who wants to play floorball in Term 1 (even if you are already playing this term)** needs to take home a form, get it signed and bring it back to school. If you need a form you can pick up one from the office.

***This form must be signed and returned to secure your place in a Floorball team for next term. Please return the signed form to Mr Ready in Kowhai no later than this Friday.***

**Term 1 2017 - Junior Netball (year 1-4)** - ANZ futureFERN Programme: 8 weeks from 18 February to 8 April (incl). The cost per player will remain the same at \$25 per player. The Motu Kairangi Committee understands that there won't be much time between the beginning of the school year and the deadline for junior netball registrations. In order for us to be ready for the first game day on 18 February, we'll need to know how many children and teams will be participating no later than 10 February 2017. Your current year 4 players will be moving up to winter netball in terms 2 and 3. Checkout more info on [www.mknetball.co.nz](http://www.mknetball.co.nz) under the General/ANZ FutureFerns tabs.

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## Houghton Valley School Board of Trustees: End of Year Pānui

Kia ora ngā whānau o Haewai!

Mega Christmas blessings to each of you! We hope that your kids have had a great year of inspiration, challenge and achievement at Houghton Valley School, and that you have had a great year as part of Houghton Valley's awesome school community.

It's with a sense of achievement that your board of trustees approach the wind up/wind down of the school year, and look ahead to 2017.

As a new board, we've spent the last 5 months learning the business of this excellent school, getting to know each other, and getting in amongst the work of kaitiakitanga- the strategic stewardship of the school. As the governing body for our school, we're trying to make decisions that will have a lasting positive impact on our school and community.

We've had earthquakes, floods, an ERO review, a growing roll, an evolving property plan, budgets, the bike track, new legislation and our epic school fair to contend with since we began. We know we've been pretty quiet as we've learned through these first months as your board of trustees, but we're super keen to begin communicating with you in good ways over the coming year- sharing our thinking and work with you, and opening up channels for you to come and share your perspective with us.

Our priorities for 2016 have been about understanding our existing systems and growing our knowledge. Put another way, we've been getting across the information that we have available to us to help us make good decisions about Houghton Valley School on your behalf. In doing so we've had the benefit of the great work done by the previous Board.

Last week we received the final report from the ERO review. It will be going up on the school website soon. While the process was not without its challenges, we are pleased that ERO recognised the progress that the school is making in some important areas. There is more to do (there always is!) and we will make sure work continues on addressing ERO's recommendations.

We plan to extend our priorities for 2017 to include even better communication, an emphasis on wellbeing and helping to develop creative solutions to some of the challenges we face as a school.

We'd like to extend special thanks to the Home and School Association, who have worked so hard this year to support the school and add to our resource base to make cool stuff happen for our kids.

We'd also like to give a massive shout out to our teachers. Their professionalism, belief in our children, enthusiasm for teaching and learning, and commitment to this community make our school the special place it is. We would also like to acknowledge our support staff who make a big difference for our kids and our school. Our massive gratitude goes to Denise, Joanna, Dave and each of our awesome teacher aides!

Finally, we'd like to make some noise for our amazing tumuaki, Raewyn Watson. Her leadership and vision for our school make this a great place to be part of, and we're excited about our next steps together on the journey.

We're looking forward to bringing **you** along with us on the waka too! There will be lots of ways of getting engaged- watch this space.

Wishing you big Christmas joy with your whānau,

From the Houghton Valley School Board of Trustees Sarah Graydon, Chair  
Andrew Downes  
Karen Parr  
Phillip Walker  
Anya Satyanand  
Jos Abernethy  
Anna Ririnui

# Home and School Information

## Home and School Xmas Meeting this Week

Thursday 8th December

7pm at Brew'd Island Bay - note change of venue!!

Come along and celebrate another great year at Houghton Valley School!  
There will be a short meeting then time for a social catch up.



**Help still needed for Fridays Fun Day and the Farewell/Year 6 Poroporoaki**, we still need a couple of people to help with providing sausages to the masses this Friday and several helpers for the leavers evening. If you can help out please let me know - [sarahduncan99@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahduncan99@hotmail.com)

**Advanced Notice:** We will be holding the **walk/bike-a-thon** in term 1 next year. As last year we will be combining this with the Home and School picnic. If you are catching up with family and friends over the holidays please get them to sponsor you for a lap (or 10) - all money raised goes towards the maintenance of the bike track.

## Houghton Valley School Dates for 2017

<b>Term 1</b> (11weeks)	Thursday 2 Feb 17	Thursday 13 April 17	<b>Waitangi Day</b> Monday 6 Feb <i>In school holidays</i> <b>Easter Friday</b> 14 April <b>Easter Monday</b> 17 April <b>Anzac Day</b> Tuesday 25 April
<b>Term 2</b> (10weeks)	Monday 1 May 17	Friday 7 July 17	<b>Queen's Birthday</b> Monday 5 June <b>Teacher Only Day</b> To be Advised
<b>Term 3</b> (10weeks)	Monday 24 July 17	Friday 29 September 17	
<b>Term 4</b> (10weeks)	Monday 16 October 17	Tuesday 19 Dec 17	<b>Labour Day</b> Monday 23 October

## Community News

### Kelly Club - Pre-Christmas Holiday Programme – Please book ASAP

**Kelly Club** Houghton Valley will be offering a "Pre-Christmas holiday programme" at Houghton Valley School from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December through to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016. Kelly Club Holiday Programmes focus on giving children aged between 5 and 13 the opportunity to do things they enjoy in a safe, supportive and encouraging environment. Kelly Club programmes are packed with activities to entertain and inspire children. The Pre-Christmas Kelly Club Holiday programme includes: baking, crafts, games, Christmas Science Day and much more. The Pre-Christmas programme is now available to book online at [https://www.kellyclub.co.nz/kelly\\_events/zone/Houghton\\_Valley\\_Kelly\\_Club](https://www.kellyclub.co.nz/kelly_events/zone/Houghton_Valley_Kelly_Club) For full details and to enrol into our programmes visit [www.kellyclub.co.nz](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz) email [houghtonvalley@kellyclub.co.nz](mailto:houghtonvalley@kellyclub.co.nz) or call 022 010 9981.

**KELLY SPORTS TERM 1** Kelly Sports will be back in Term 1 with their fun and exciting classes. Kelly Sports encourages children to have fun, build confidence and to give sport a go. We believe that sport and physical activity has so much to offer young people; it improves fitness, develops communication skills, team work and gives children a place to channel their energy. **Summer Sports (Yrs 1-4)** – Thursdays 3.05-4.05pm - Come and try **Football, Volleyball, Athletics and Touch Rugby**. It's a great way to try new sports, learn new skills and improve ability. We use games & drills to teach game sense and team play. Learn the fundamental skills for all sports – throwing, running, jumping, striking, balance and many more – all while having a great time! For full details and to enrol into our programmes visit [www.kellysports.co.nz](http://www.kellysports.co.nz) email [adminwgtn@kellysports.co.nz](mailto:adminwgtn@kellysports.co.nz) or call 04 972 7201.

**School Contact Details:** Phone: 939-3318 **Office Email:** [admin@houghton.school.nz](mailto:admin@houghton.school.nz)  
**Website:** [www.houghton.school.nz](http://www.houghton.school.nz) **Principal Email:** [principal@houghton.school.nz](mailto:principal@houghton.school.nz)