



Term 4 Newsletter

Week 10

11th December 2023

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Fakaalofa lati ahu, Bula, Namaste, Ni hao and Hello to everyone

Dear parents and whanau,

This will be my last newsletter to you all. I want you to know how much I have enjoyed working with you, your children and the staff. It is hard to believe it is 6 years since I pulled up at Viscount – delighted to have my own car park – something I didn't have in my last job!

I was asked to come for 1-2 terms, but I loved coming here so much I stayed a lot longer. We have been through many things including flooding and lockdowns, but we have kept the course – seeking to help every student be a successful learner.

A few years ago, when thinking about what we wanted for every child leaving Viscount some staff went on a hikoi to the top of Te Pane a Mataaoho. We decided we wanted every child to be able to stand on this mountain - to give them the fuel to be the **BEST** they could be and to **SOAR** – to be a successful learner and for that they needed **S**elf belief, **O**wnership, **A**ko and **R**espect – the ability to work with others and share knowledge and have respect for themselves and others. It's also a great view from there – so if you haven't been – put it on your holiday list of something to do.

It has been wonderful to see the latest results for maths and reading and see that as many as three quarters of our students achieving close to or at levels that put them on course for NCEA Level 2 or better. In other words, your children are doing just as well as children in other schools across NZ and in many cases, they are doing better. These results confirm that many of your children will SOAR – they are certainly taking off for success. That is a joint effort - from our staff, your children and you. It may not seem like a big deal but getting them off to bed and up for school the next day makes a huge difference. Keep up the good mahi!

Ahead there is not just the need to continue to pursue high achievement – there will also be the exciting rebuilding of the school. There will also be lots of other new things to do and I am delighted to know that the Board have selected a wonderful new principal to continue the journey with you. I am sure you will support her just as you have me.

Thank you everyone for your support and aroha!

Have a safe and happy Christmas!

Best wishes,

Shirley Hardcastle
Principal

KEY DATES TERM 4 2023

Please note the dates and times for the three school prizegiving's. As we can't all fit in the Hall at the same time, please note the different times for different classes. All are welcome.

Tues 12th Dec

9.15 am – Yr 4-6 Prizegiving

11.45am – Yr 1-3 Prizegiving

Wed 13th Dec

9.15am – Yr 7-8 Prizegiving

6pm – Yr 8 Graduation

Thurs 14th Dec

9.30am - Farewell

Reports will come home.

Fri 15th Dec

12.30pm - Last day Term 4

TERM 1 2024

Wed 24th – Fri 26th Jan

9am-12pm – Office open for Enrolments.

Thurs 25th – Fri 26th Jan

9am-12pm – Uniform Pop-Up Shop

Thurs 1st Feb

8.55am - First day for students

Welcome to the new principal.



Fruit Trees

Last week the student council worked with Auckland Council and people from the Ngaa Hau O Mangere Ngahere project to plant fruit trees in **Vickers Park**. The student council and I would love it if you can help us look after the trees. They will start to bear fruit that anyone can pick. In the meantime, each tree has a QR Code so you can learn about them.



Property news – Rooms 8-10 and Rebuild.

The work on the school rebuild is continuing with the architects starting on the drawings for the builders. In the meantime, we will have some classrooms tidied up so they can be used fully until they are no longer needed. This will mean there will be contractors in the school during the holiday break. As staff may not be on site for many of these days, we cannot manage truck movements mainly through the Idlewild entry gate, so we ask for the safety of your child, that you do not allow your children to use the school grounds in the holidays.

Viscount Street Council Road Works – 8TH JANUARY 2024

The council say they have put a flyer in your letter box about this but just in case you didn't get it – starting January 8th the council will be upgrading the safety work on Viscount Street. I understand this may make it difficult to drive through Viscount Street on some days in January. In February they have said they will come again to look at the council car park and have listened to us asking for a separate exit. The council needs to know that is important for you to have a safe place to drop off and pick up children who are not able to walk, scoot or bike to school.





Y7/8 Camp - 4th-6th and 6th-8th March - Mahurangi

Thank you to whanau who came to our recent Talanoa to discuss this wonderful opportunity for your child to go to a school camp. The school has been working to get grants to cover the costs so this is not a barrier for your child. Y7/8 staff will send home gear lists so you can start getting ready and will hold another information session early in term 1. We hope some parents can come on this camp. See your class teacher about this.

SKIDS

Skids are keen to restart their before and after school care at Viscount School. They would like to know if parents are keen for this. Families can obtain subsidies for this. Let the office know if you are interested.

Viscount School app



iPhone Screenshots

We have a new school app. Free to install. Please go to <http://onelink.to/sb8tvm> to download this app – scroll down for Viscount School.