



1st March 2018

Tēnā koutou katoa ngā mihi ki Te whānau o te Kura o Rimu – greetings to all families of Rimu School.



There is a great buzz of excitement around the school today as the children are looking forward to tomorrow's adventures. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive school community and have 30 parents accompanying us for the day and 55 attending on the Friday night. The intention of our Outdoor Education day is to spend time building **whanaungatanga** (sense of belonging to our community), while enjoying the outdoors. The evening campout is intended for our school aged children to experience camping, just like the Year 6-8 senior students do annually. A special part of this experience is working together to pitch a tent with Mum, Dad, other whanau and/or friends and then later getting to snuggle down together for the night. Last year one child shared with delight their experience of lying in bed taking selfies with their parent. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you bring a tent to sleep in and in the evening when it is time for bed, please adjourn to your tent with your child as this will ensure our tamariki settle quickly to sleep.

Kath Murdoch suggests that, "Inquiry learning is all about giving students the skills, the dispositions and the opportunities to investigate - to find out information, make meaning and take action based on what is discovered." Our overarching theme for Inquiry this year is Technology and we will be investigating how and why technological products and technology systems have evolved over time. This may take the form of project-orientated inquiries, philosophical/ethical inquiries or issues / problem-orientated inquiries. During our inquiries tamariki also get the opportunity to learn through the arts, social studies and sciences as part of learning through a balanced curriculum.

Through our inquiries we are going to focus on using the wonderings or questions that tamariki share with us to guide our inquiries. When tamariki can see themselves reflected in the learning and see the relevance of the inquiry, they are more engaged and more inclined to drive their own learning. As adults we are often keen to give children immediate answers to their questions, however this can shut down potentially rich opportunities for investigation. When a child comes up with a really interesting question or wondering, a response that might encourage investigation could be, "great question, let's investigate this together" or "I wonder where we could find the answer to your question?" or "how could you figure that out?" If your tamariki share a wondering with you that you think could be a great learning opportunity at school, we would love to hear from you.

Next Thursday 8th March, we are very fortunate to be visiting Cilleken's dairy farm to ignite our inquiries. I would imagine that this will inspire many great questions for investigation and I'm excited about where the tamariki might take their learning. **In the interests of biosecurity we respectfully ask that children's gumboots are clean for our visit.** The children will also learn about sterilisation by walking through a sanitisation bath at the start and end of our visits.

As we have grown as a school community, so to has our traffic congestion during morning drop off and afternoon pickup times. Although the speed limit outside school remains at 100 kms per hour, our flashing lights are a visual reminder to reduce your speed and take extra care when passing the school and entering and exiting the car park. The safety of our tamariki is paramount! Recently we have also noticed some whanau parking across the road on the road verge, which creates a problem for Rodger our bus driver because he can not swing his bus around to head away on the country bus run without having to reverse back into the carpark. This is obviously potentially dangerous because he is reversing back into where whanau are loading children into cars and reversing out of parks. The photo illustrates how wide he has to swing to get in and out of our car park, so we respectfully ask that you refrain from parking on the opposite side of the road during pick up and drop off times.



