



Patoka School

through our school we are one

Our values are T.R.U.E – Trustworthiness, Respect, Unity, Excellence and Enthusiasm

Date of Issue: 23 November 2016

Dates to remember:

22 nd November	Dress rehearsal 11am
24 th November	Whole School Production, 11am & 6pm
25 th November	Planting day (NB Change of date)
14 th December	Final School Assembly, 1.00pm
31 January 2017	Term 1 begins

From the Principal, Rachel Huggins

Over the past two weeks we have focused on the writing skills that the children can demonstrate at the end of the year. Each class, twice a year, collects a writing sample. Each class completed the writing task across the same week and the topic given to the children this time was 'My special place'. The teachers assess these writing pieces using the NZ curriculum writing matrix. This sets out for us what writing looks like at each level and also provides us with examples of writing at each level to use as a checkpoint. In our most recent staff meeting, we spread all the student writing pieces across the floor and talked with each other about the levels, cross checking our own marking. This process is called moderation. It is very important as we have children in the three classes working at such a range of levels, so we need to be certain that each teacher is interpreting the levels in the same way.

Our staff are very confident and our meeting was extremely professional and productive. In previous years Patoka School has collaborated with other schools to moderate writing samples. After working for many years away from NZ and with many teachers who have never assessed writing in this way, it was such a pleasure to be home, amongst this excellent practice! This week rather than inserting photos of the children writing, we thought it would be more interesting to include samples of what the children actually wrote.

From the classrooms

Room 1

My special place is ... my secret garden. I hide there, only me and Ari know where it is. We put a swing in the biggest green tree. There are heaps of beautiful flowers in there. My mum grows corn in there. It is fun. It is our biggest garden at our house. We grow swan plants in it, butterflies come. The butterflies look pretty. I love my secret place. We grow apples and pears in there. It is wonderful. I put my bird feeder and birds come a lot. I feed the birds. The birds are cute. They peck me. It tickles.
By Ayla

My special place is my tree. I love it and it has apples and it has a necklace and it has flowers.
By Eve

Room 2

My Bach

At the end of the year my grandma, my grandpa, my dad, Gus, Millie and I travel up to Mahia for a holiday. Every year I take my fishing rod and hope to catch a fish. Sometimes we get to go looking for pipis and if we get heaps we freeze some for bait and we eat the others the next day. Last year I caught six fish, four fish were herrings and two were kahawai. My dad and I were having a competition to see who could catch the most fish.
By Thomas

My Poppa's bach

This special place is my Poppa's bach he owns. This, as well as two other houses. Poppa owns this bach in Haitape, just on the other side of Taupo. It is the Drysdale's most beloved house. Poppa used to have a small one or two bedroom bach but that got taken away on a huge truck and he built the one we Drysdale's all cherish now. The bach has a loft with lots of mattresses, one kitchen, two bathrooms, four bedrooms (not including the loft that is), one laundry room, one lounge, a storage room and a huge shed. The bach has been the most loved holiday home for the Drysdale's for a long time and I reckon ... it will stay that way for a long time.
By Charlie

Room 3

Kmart

Kmart is one of my special places. A few years ago I would never have said that. But now, Kmart has stepped up their game and it's way better.

I don't really bother looking at the clothes or anything else, only the homewares. The homeware section is my happy place. I am quite interested in interior design, and the Kmart homewares is always on point.

Another bonus about Kmart is the price. Since Kmart has upgraded their products, I noticed the price has gone up a little bit. But it's still super cheap, compared to other shops. It's in fact, so cheap and good, the money soon adds up, quickly too!

Every time we make a trip to Kmart, I'm like a kid in a candy shop, seriously! I run around the store nuts, grabbing things here and there. My family like to have me on about my Kmart obsession. Very rarely we walk out of Kmart with nothing. Speaking of Kmart, I haven't been there in a while, next time I'm in Hastings, I'm definitely going!

By Felicity

My special place

My special place is my grandparents' house. It's special because it has been passed through eleven generations.

I hope it keeps getting passed down and keeps the family tradition going.

Their farm's name is Waihiwirua which means two fresh water springs on a hill. The first generation of the Holt family to own it named it that.

My grandparents have owned the property over 45 years. My dad and my aunty were born there so they have a lot of good memories there.

My siblings and cousins go there a lot. Sometimes when I go there they like to spoil me and buy lots of stuff for me.

There are some really special walnut trees there which belong to me, my cousin and my brother. They were planted there when we were born.

That is why it is special to my family and we all cherish it a lot.

By Sofia

Treasure Island

The children have been perfecting their parts and focusing on singing the songs with enthusiasm. We have all the stage set completed and have also been working on the props and set changes. It is all set to be an amazing day and the children are excited to present this play twice! The dress rehearsal was on Tuesday and the Kindergarten children came to enjoy the show. Thanks to the families who have already reserved their seats for the performance, we will be collecting gold coin donations at the door.

Please ensure you have your children at the hall by 5.30 pm on Thursday.

Sneak preview photo!



Classes for 2017

Each year at Patoka school we explore the best combinations of levels for the classes, according to the numbers of children in the school. We will see a slight change next year in our class structure:

Room 1 Years 0, 1, 2

Room 2 Years 3 and 4

Room 3 Years 5, 6, 7, 8

The class numbers for the start of our academic year are looking very strong and are on average between 13-19 students. We will have seven children from the Kindergarten starting in Year 0 over the course of the year.

We are also happy to announce that the permanent position as Room 1 teacher has been filled by Mrs Madelene Field. She is currently teaching at Elsthorpe school and resides in Taradale. Madelene has been teaching for over 15 years in Taupo and the Hawkes Bay. We are so grateful to Courtney Hall who has been at Patoka for terms 3 and 4 of this year on a fixed term contract. She has been a valuable member of our community and we are grateful for her care in Room 1. We wish Courtney well in her future ahead.

Term Dates for 2017

Term 1	31 January – 13 April 2017
Term 2	1 May – 7 July 2017
Term 3	24 July – 29 September 2017
Term 4	16 October – 15 December 2017

Planting Day

When: Friday November 25th

Where: Ball's Clearing

Time of arrival: All students to be at the Ball's Clearing Carpark by 10.30 am

End time: Depending on the work to be done this will be approximately 2.00 pm.

Our annual DOC planting day is taking place on the 25th November at Ball's Clearing. The children will need to bring a spade, lunch, drink bottle, sunscreen, hat, gumboots, raincoat and warm clothing. A change of clothes is recommended for the younger children.

A sausage sizzle will be provided.

We will be working on planting some new plants along the water ways and will also be spending some time tidying up around the areas we have worked on in the past. There will be some stream water quality learning and also some games at the end of the day.

Please note that **the buses will not be running on the day**. It is up to parents to transport their child to and from the venue. Parental assistance is required by as many parents as possible. We do class this as a normal school day. The opportunity to help out with DOC is valuable and is always a great day out where our children get to work together.

If the weather turns against us we will make a call the afternoon prior to the event as the bus company will need to be informed.

New deck blinds

We are so grateful to the Parents and Friends for the donation of the deck blinds. It is the perfect way to finish off this new area and enable us to maximize the use of this space throughout the year.



Community Notices

Patoka School Parents & Friends

ALL WELCOME WELCOME TO A LUNCHEON !!!!

2nd Dec @11.30 am at Crab Farm !!!

Its P and F last meeting of the year ...but **more** of a casual get together over a delicious lunch and glass of wine!

Phone Michelle ; 839 8805



Don't Forget to get your Rush Munroe's Ice-cream orders in before next Weds - 30th Nov!!! YUM YUM - we need 90 odd orders of ice cream tubs to be able to order .



Work Wanted

Experienced milker available for work between 2nd-30th January.

I've had 2 seasons experience milking 450 cows in Matamata through a 30ASHB.

Contact Courtney on 021 023 233 14
or courtney91@hotmail.co.nz



Puketitiri Lime

Ag Lime for sale, also roading lime, laneway lime and garden rocks.
Phone Nick Dinneen on 8398878.

Patoka Community Pool

A meeting will be held on Monday 28th November at 5pm at the pool.
The more the merrier!!
Any questions contact Lisa on 8398952.

Wanted

Has anyone got a litter of Fox Terrier pups coming up? A good friend needs a companion.

Please call: Shirley Simmons – 8450446

Cell phone 0272662886

Email: dssimmons@nowmail.co.nz

Work Wanted

Housework, farmwork, babysitting, anything considered.
Phone Olivia on 8398848 or 0279093861.

All Things AG

All Things AG are contracting in your area, making Baleage & later Hay.

If anyone is interested in our services, we offer back to Schools & Playcentres.... A Commission!

eg; If a farmer has 120 bales of large rounds baled, we would pay back to the school at least \$1/bale ! And that's not a large number.

Love to hear from you.

Have a Great Day

Kylie

All Things AG

0508 FOR FEED