



Phone 4171003 , 0275287812 Website: westharbour.school.nz
Email: ruthw@westharbour.school.nz
Facebook: West Harbour School
School App: Available from the App Store or Playstore

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Here we are at the end of another hugely busy term. I know that everyone has felt the effects of the weather and the various illnesses that have come with it. Our children are certainly ready for a break and a chance to recharge their batteries. I hope you have a great break and look forward to seeing everyone back on 22 July.

Netball: The season is flying by and this Saturday will be the final playing day until the first Saturday of Term 3. Our teams are representing both you as their families and us as a school extremely well and we look forward to the second half of the season. Again, thank you to all those wonderful people who help out with the teams – coaches and managers – those who give up their time on a Saturday to umpire and the volunteers who run the canteen etc. We couldn't do it without you.

Chocolate Fundraising: Thank you to everyone who sold chocolates to raise money for camp. Please send the money back to school as soon as possible if you have not done so already. Keep the camp payments coming in.

Northwest Rewards: Over the holidays the Northwest mall is running a rewards system to benefit local schools. All you need to do is: 1. Shop at Northwest Shopping Centre; 2. Take your receipt to Customer Services to submit your vote and be entered in the draw for a \$500 NorthWest shopping spree; 3. Track our school's progress in centre or online: northwestshoppingcentre.co.nz. Simple as that, so just go along, do your shopping and use your receipts to register your vote. Remember, every vote will go in the draw for that \$500 shopping spree. The winning school will win \$3000 cash, second \$2000 and third \$1000.

Principals' Industrial Action: *Primary principals across the country have voted to reject the government's offer for settlement of our negotiations. The government failed to make an offer that addresses our key issues. We are concerned that little is being done to ensure that being a primary principal is seen as an attractive career option.*

While I'm really happy that our teachers won back parity with their secondary colleagues, the same wasn't offered to primary principals. We think that if parity with secondary is fair for teachers, then surely it's fair for principals. The offer also would have seen some principals in smaller schools paid less than some teachers in larger schools. It's important that all communities are able to attract teachers into becoming principals, and that won't happen if they can earn more as a teacher.

As a sign of our concern we have voted to withdraw the goodwill we extend to the Ministry of Education work that is additional to our day to day role running schools. I will not be participating in any form of work programme, taskforce, meeting with or reporting to the Ministry between July 8 and August 16. I will continue my professional leadership of the school during this time.

Principals continue to hope that the government will hear us and address our issues. We are committed to continuing our campaign until they do. Personally I am grateful for the support that our parent community has shown throughout the campaign. I hope you will continue to show your support next term if it is necessary.

Important Dates

Friday 05 July – End of Term 2, school closes at the usual time of 3.00 pm

Saturday 06 July – Netball, final game for Term 2

Monday 22 July – Start of Term 3

Saturday 27 July – Netball, first game of final part of the season