

## SPECIAL EDITION PANUI

### BUILDING READING ACHIEVEMENT AT KURATAU SCHOOL

#### A MESSAGE FROM WHAEA NESSIE

Kia Ora Kuratau School Whanau

Time for an update on what is going on at school this term.

Staff and students are working really hard to lift our levels of achievement in Reading. We are concerned that too many of our students aren't quite where they need to be as readers, so that is our main learning focus for the rest of this year.

Skill in Reading underpins success in every other area of the school curriculum, and so we are passionate about helping our students to love reading and use it successfully in all their learning..

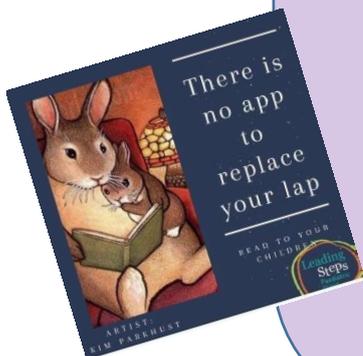
Our amazing teaching staff are working to improve their own practice in teaching reading. We are having professional learning discussions about our teaching, and about our students' learning goals every week, and exploring new ways to engage students to become better readers. We really value your support in this focus.

We have purchased a significant number of new levelled reading books this term, especially for the Junior area of the school to support our teaching and learning, so you might see some new titles coming home soon. But don't worry if your child sometimes gets a book they have seen before either, because research shows that re-reading familiar texts is one of the most powerful ways to build reading fluency.

#### Tips to help your own child with their reading home and their enjoyment of reading.



- 1) Make a special time to read with your child as often as you can - every day is the ideal!
- 2) When your child does their home reading from school, make it a fun and supportive time.
- 3) Before they start to read, talk about the book and look at the pictures to get them warmed up to the story.
- 4) If they are struggling with a particular word, give them time to work it out, don't pressure them. You can tell them the word if you need to, or prompt them by saying something like "What can you do to work it out?" or "What do you see that you know?"
- 5) If they're really stuck, read the page to them. Keeping positive and encouraging is the key to avoiding those battles that can turn children off reading.

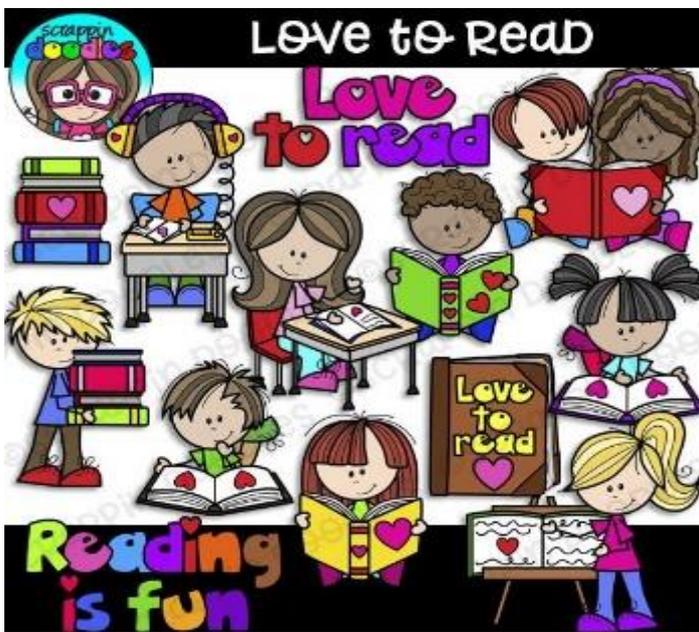


**Your job is to be their biggest cheerleader as they read so remember lots of praise and encouragement . Ka mau te wehi!**

Here's another quote from my favourite book of the year  
"The Enchanted Hour - The Miraculous Power of Reading Aloud in an Age of  
Distraction " by Meghan Cox Gurdon

*"The rewards of early reading (to children) are astonishingly meaningful: toddlers who have lots of stories read to them are more likely to enjoy strong relationships, sharper focus, and greater emotional intelligence and self mastery. The evidence has become so overwhelming that social scientists now consider read-aloud time one of the most important indicators of a child's prospects in life"*

I asked the teachers to find out what their students think about various aspects of reading. Here are a few of their comments which I'm sure you'll enjoy!



Reading is important because... "So you can get smart because you can learn stuff"  
"It helps me with my word rings and my books" , "It's got rhyming in it", "So I can improve"

My favourite books are... "The Cow Said Moo' - because its funny", "David Walliams books because they are interesting", "About going camping and fishing", "All Roald Dahl".

My favourite person to read to me is... "Dad, because he reads with heaps of expression", "Dad, because he reads it in a funny voice", "Dad, because he puts his glasses on and he's good at reading", (Dads, you are awesome!). "My sister because she can read Junior Journals to me and if its a play I get to e an animal" "Mum or Dad because they sometimes read to me in bed", "Mum, she's very good at reading".



My best place to read is... the hands down winner was "In bed".

When my teacher reads to me I feel ... "Nice and relaxing", "It feels like I am entering a new world", "Happy because I like listening to stories" , "



Now just a wee brag 😊

*This is my grandson at 2 years old reading to his "babies"*

*He and his mum lived with us for the first two years of his life, and it was my greatest joy to be the one who got to read to him before bed from the day he was born.*



## Dates for your Calendar

Parent Discussions

Monday and Tuesday Week 4

Wai Whenua School Community  
Wetland Day  
ERO Visit

August 30th - more information to come

9th-12th September Whanau will have an opportunity to meet with the reviewers - more details to come.,

### BOT CORNER

Kia ora from the BOT

We have now had two meetings as a new BOT since the elections. I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on what is happening around the BOT table. We meet monthly to discuss governance matters. I have been nominated Chairperson. Ginny Dodunski is our BOT secretary, Charity McOnie holds the portfolio for Community Liaison, Blair Robertson is the Treasurer and Katina Hapeta has the Health and Safety portfolio. The BOT also includes the Principal, Whaea Nessie and Staff representative Bronwyn Hunt. Academic Achievement is one of the major interests of the BOT. We receive reports at each meeting and we discuss how our students are tracking. We fully support the efforts to improve achievement in Reading that is being focused on by the teaching team for the rest of the year. We have an ERO visit coming up at the beginning of September which Whaea Nessie and I are working hard to prepare for. We look forward to learning from that process and continuing to improve in the areas that are important to our school. Until next time. Nga mihi, Sascha

