

## VAIASO LE GAGANA SAMOA - SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK

On 27 - 30 May we celebrated Vaiaso le Gagana Samoa. The 2024 theme for Vaiaso le Gagana Samoa is 'Tautua i le alofa, manuia le lumana'i - Serve in love for a blessed future. Fa'afetai tele lava Reverend Fa'aleaoga for opening and closing our week of celebration of the Samoan language. Being bilingual (speaking two languages) is an amazing academic skill and it is fabulous to hear so many of our students speaking their cultural languages. As Reverend Fa'aleaoga said, "Congratulations and thanks to all parents who are supporting their children to know and use their cultural languages." Fa'afetai lava to parents who attended our assembly on Thursday and to Fofoa i Vaoese students and teachers for your entertaining performances.

## WHĀNAU REWARD - WHEELS AFTERNOON

Well Done Kaipara! Kaipara were the winning whānau for our mid term whānau reward and enjoyed a wheels afternoon on 30 May. The next whānau reward will be at the end of the term, it will be a construction afternoon. Show our school values, earn some whānau tokens and maybe you will get to enjoy the next reward.

## YEAR 7/8 BOYS RUGBY

On the 21st of May, our Year 7/8 boys went to Bruce Pulman Park to play in a rugby tournament. Our boys played well and managed to win 3 out of 4 games. They tackled well and were able to perform good basic rugby skills. For some boys, this was their first time playing a contact sport for our school. These boys went on to play in the Counties Tournament on 28th May where they were up against students who play regular weekend rugby or league. The competition was stronger than previous, however the experience benefited our boys. Thank you to the parents who supported their child and the team. We are proud of the boys' efforts to qualify and play at the Counties Rugby Tournament.



## SHOES AND JACKETS

We have a number of:

- used but still good rugby boots in various sizes
- new size 5/6/7 rugby boots
- new size 5/6/7 sports shoes
- large, warm, lined waterproof jackets

If you would like any of these pop in to see Whaea Anet or send a note with your child.

## SAFETY AT THE SCHOOL GATE

*As our school roll increases we have more students arriving at and leaving school each day. Keeping our students safe from traffic hazards is an important responsibility that we all need to share.*

*Cars stopping on the yellow lines outside the school gate, stopping in the middle of the crossing, pulling into the school driveway and backing out, or sneaking into the school car park all create hazards for other vehicles and are dangerous for children leaving school. We do not want to see any of our children hurt.*

*To keep all of our children safe we ask that parents/caregivers please use the car park beside the Wiri Community Hall (on Inverell Ave) to drop off and pick up students. The hall car park is only a short walk from the back gate (behind Room 17) and is located well away from the road and traffic hazards. **Please do not drive into the school grounds. This is for staff parking only.***

*We also ask that adults please use the patrolled crossing on Inverell Ave when crossing with their children. Your good example helps keep our children safe.*

## BOOK FOCUS

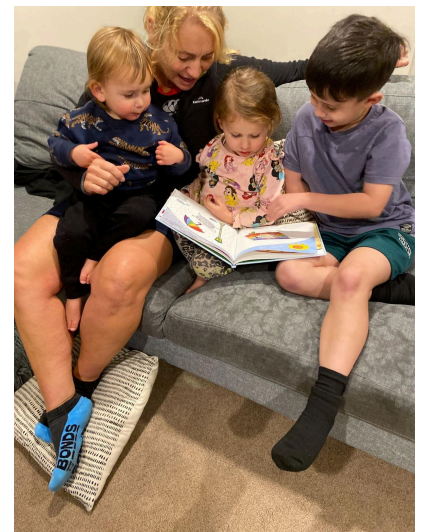
We have book focus happening again from 17-28 June. There are a number of competitions for students to enter. There is also the family competition of Reading Together. This involves taking a photo of your family reading at home. In the photo:

- Everyone is able to see the book
- We can see an adult and children in the photo, more than 2 people
- Be comfortable
- Be happy

Send your photo to [office@wiricentral.school.nz](mailto:office@wiricentral.school.nz)

The winner receives a \$50 voucher.

Be in to win!



## ONLINE BULLYING

Last week I became aware of an incident of online bullying (cyberbullying) that I believe was initiated by a student from our school. This has been reported to both Netsafe and the police. As this online bullying is occurring outside of school we have no control over it. I am asking your support to help us keep our students safe.

At school students are not able to access any social media platforms. Social media accounts are restricted to people 13 years or older. As only a very small portion of our school students fall into this age group we block all access to these sites at school. However, we know that sometimes students are accessing these platforms outside of school.

Parents, please be aware of what your children are doing online. What sites are they visiting? Who are they connecting with? What are they posting?

Take control - Block people who make inappropriate comments so they cannot continue to do so and report serious concerns. You can report concerns and find further information and advice on the Netsafe website - [netsafe.org.nz](http://netsafe.org.nz)

At school when we receive specific information about inappropriate online activity we will contact the parents of students involved and/or report the incident to Netsafe and the police. We include lessons about appropriate online behaviour and strategies to keep safe online in our classroom programmes.

The internet, devices and social media all provide lots of positive opportunities for connecting and learning; however we all have a responsibility to use them appropriately and safely. As educators and parents we need to work together to teach our children how to be responsible digital citizens. I thank you for your support.