

Tena koutou katoa nga mihi ki te whānau o te Kura o Koputai – greetings to all families of Koputai (Port Chalmers) School.

Homework - My Two Cents Worth

For over 25 years, I regularly set homework for pupils in the areas of Maths, Literacy and Topic. My traditionalist thinking behind this was that when pupils were in Year 7 & 8 they needed to get ready for the demands of High School homework. I stopped setting regular homework in 2005.

My reasons for this were:

- The whole exercise was actually a burden on the parents.
- The pupils didn't like it.
- It wasn't actually adding a great deal to their academic knowledge.
- They would often do it late at night or not at all.
- The standard was usually dire, meaning that I had to pull them up on this and also reprimand or set homework lunchtime sessions for the ones that didn't do it, which was not actually 'homework'.
- Screens became quite prevalent and that meant a lot of home learning was being set on Google Classroom or similar. This meant that the kids certainly appeared to be 'doing their homework' because they were on the screens. Mainly though doing other stuff. The standard of homework actually got worse.
- When many of the pupils got to their respective high schools, few of them were actually assigned homework in Years 9 & 10, so the point of my routine was lost. They only really got stuck into the idea of actually 'doing homework' when NCEA kicked in at Year 11. This is the right time for them to be doing this, as they need to develop study skills and begin to manage their screen time properly.
- Screens became a massive distraction and what we needed to do was to get kids off the screens when they were at home. Covid didn't help us with that, aye! It's a battle as a parent (I know!) to keep many of them off screens anyway.
- Times had changed and families were busier than usual. Adult life was throwing more hurdles at us than ever. Checking that your kids had done their homework or pushing it, only created extra unneeded tension in the household.

Homework - What I Think These Days

- In their preschool years, pupils need to be stimulated to speak, to read and to know about the workings of the world, through interaction. This 'homework' is a parental responsibility. Pupils need to 'do stuff' because they imitate what you do. Please read to them, talk to them, provide them with experiences to practise their 'growing up skills'. If you spend a lot of time staring at screens when your kids are about, they think it's OK to do, so they imitate what you do.
- Once at school (Years 1-2) model and listen to your child read and ask them questions about what they have read to you.

- Reinforce the number system by counting and also help them recognise shapes and patterns.
- Get them doing some sports or enable them to develop an interest or hobby.
- Give them some basic household responsibilities, like a routine chore.
- Limit screen time or teach them that they have to 'earn it'.
- In the Middle Years (Years 3-4) encourage and support reading at home and also any other 'off screen' activities that they have had the opportunity to be motivated by. Also, they need to know all of their times tables by Year 7, so start encouraging them to do this. Add to their household responsibility list.
- In the Senior Years (Years 5-8) the pupils need to start developing more all-round self-management skills. Continue to share reading with them and discuss current events. During these years, they will be usually doing research and speech preparation, so in these instances, it's helpful if parents listen to speeches and ask about projects.
- Continue with the learning of the times tables and encourage the use of estimation skills, like 'how far away is your bedroom?' Show them where money comes from and where money goes.
- Give them extra household responsibilities and ideally, some sort of remunerated 'job' in terms of cash or screen time. Hopefully you might find a middle ground. They can't have both, unless negotiated.
- Continue encouragement and support of extra-curricular activities, sports, hobbies or interests.

There is a great deal of research about the pros and cons of formal, regularly set homework for primary school aged pupils, and you will find that many research findings will conclude that setting homework during these years has minimal beneficial impact.

Our Goal Setting Conferences are designed specifically for you to be able to help you know what exactly you can do to support your child. Some of you will have certain things to do to keep your child learning, but this should not be a big task. Just a wee routine, usually. We will revisit their learning in our next Goal Setting Conferences in late June. We look forward to seeing you all there again.

If you would like to speak to me further about homework or strategies to try to keep the screen time down, please feel free to contact me through the school.

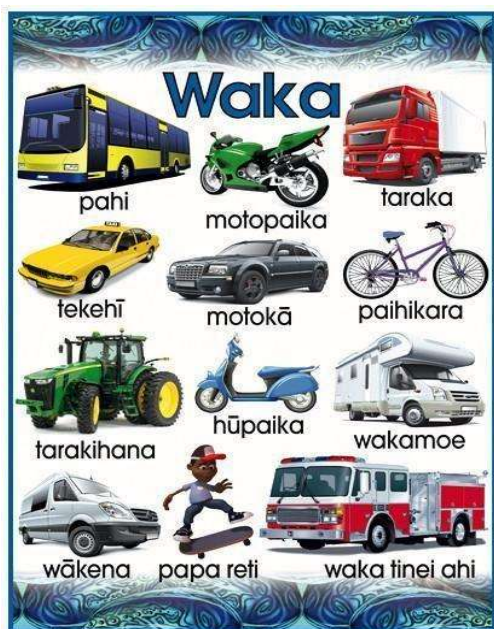
Anyway, that was 'My Two Cents Worth' and my rhetoric does not necessarily reflect the opinions of all of the staff at Port Chalmers School.

Keep your own screen time down when you are with your kids. If you are 'screening', then they will imitate what you do.

Mā te Wā

Jared Roddick (Deputy Principal)

Welcome to Xanthe in Room 5 and her family. We are sure you will enjoy your time here as part of our learning community.



<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/maori-language-week/365-maori-words>

Futsal

Futsal fees are now due. Please use our school bank account 06 0901 0216749 00 with futsal and your child's name as reference. \$50 per player. Thank you.

Wild Dunedin Festival 14 – 23 April

Are you looking for things to do in the school holidays? Check out the Wild Dunedin Festival. Free and fun activities about nature for all ages plus great deals on boat trips, albatross and penguin viewing, Orokonui Ecosanctuary and Resistance Climbing Gym. See the programme and book here: www.wilddunedin.nz

Futsal Results

Rūma Pāua Pango. In the final we lost by 1 goal after two penalty shoot-outs. It was a very close game against Grant Braes.

Rūma Pāua Whero

In our last game we had a win 3 – 0.

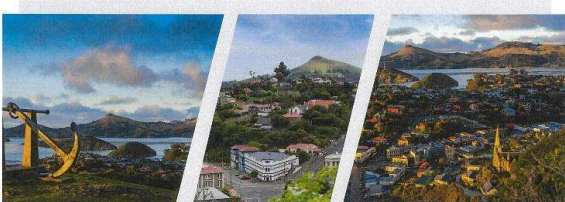
Can all school Polo tops be washed and returned to School before the end of the term. Thank you.

Port Chalmers Library Book Club

A warm welcome to BOOKCLUB at the Port Chalmers Library Monday 3/4/2023.

We will have an Autumn art theme making pictures using leave rubbings and ink washes and a surprise!

We look forward to seeing you all at Bookclub, Ka mihi mahana, Port Chalmers library team





Community Drop-in

Kāinga Ora is planning to redevelop four of our properties in Albertson Avenue, Port Chalmers

You are welcome to come along to a community information session about these developments, next week.

WHEN	Tuesday 4 April
TIME	Call in anytime between 5:30pm and 7:30pm
WHERE	Rugby Club, Albertson Avenue
FORMAT	Come along and talk to the Kāinga Ora team



Junior Science – Magnetism, Sound & Electricity



Calendar of Events

31 st March	Yrs. 8 HPV
6 th April	Last day of Term
24 th April	Teacher Only Day
25 th April	ANZAC Day
26 th April	Term 2 Begins
Boating Timetable	
Tuesday 4 th April	1pm - 3pm