



• 17th May 2019 • TERM 2 • WEEK 3

Dear Parents and Whanau,

On Wednesday the 29th of May Pekerau School will be closed while teachers go on strike.

WHAT WE ARE CAMPAIGNING FOR?

*** More teachers – so your kids can get more attention * More resources/staff to support children with additional learning and behaviour needs * A pay jolt to salaries for teachers to address the teacher shortage – so that your children will have a teacher in the future.**

As educators our Pekerau Teachers continue to be frustrated and saddened by the spin in the media and from Education Minister Chris Hipkins down playing our requests for pay parity.

- It costs \$6,120 per year to complete a 3 year Bachelor of Teaching at The University of Waikato which allows you to teach at a Primary OR Secondary Level.
- Upon graduation, secondary teachers are paid at a higher salary than primary teachers.
- Primary teachers get 10 hours a term release time. Secondary teachers get 5 hours a week.
- When our collective agreement expired in 2018, the government offered primary teachers a \$500 bonus to sign the new agreement. They offered secondary teachers \$1000.
- Minister Chris Hipkins has been reported as saying that the latest offer (that teachers have rejected) would increase teacher salaries by \$10,000, putting teachers in the in the top 20% of salary earners in New Zealand. University graduate teachers start on \$47,980 a year. The rejected offer gives them 3% straight away which equates to about \$19 a week after tax for a new teacher or \$27 a week for an experienced teacher.
- Teacher salaries are capped. After 7 years a teacher will reach the top of their pay grade.
- There has been a 40% reduction in people wanting to study to become teachers.
- Record numbers of teachers are leaving the profession. 30% of Principals leave the profession within 5 years.
- A decade ago, a teaching vacancy could easily attract over 100 applicants and Principals could choose the best candidates to meet the needs of their school. Now our NZ schools are struggling to fill vacancies with NZ trained teachers.
- Many teachers come to work when they are sick because it is so difficult to get relievers.
- Many referrals for behaviour and learning needs are turned down or have waiting lists of at least 6 months before children and teachers can access the urgent help they need.
- The Government has a bumper surplus of \$5.5 billion, more than enough to fix the issues in primary education (\$0.9b).

We appreciate your ongoing support while we advocate for better conditions for our students and for our teachers. Our students are worth it and so are we!



Tania Heke
Principal

1



**PEKERAU SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON
WEDNESDAY 29th MAY 2019.
THERE WON'T BE ANY
TEACHERS AT SCHOOL TO LOOK AFTER STUDENTS.**

Dear Parents, Whanau and Caregivers,

The NZEI has advised the Pekerau School Board of Trustees that the Teachers at our school will be taking strike action on Monday 29th of May for a full teaching day.

The Board has carefully considered the availability of teaching staff, and unfortunately decided that we can't provide the normal teaching services during the strike. It's important that you make alternative arrangements for the care of your child/children on the day of the strike. **The school will need to close during the strike.**

The Pekerau Board of Trustees believe that teachers and support staff in all schools need support to make sure their claim is heard and validated by the current Minister of Education. Whilst we apologise for the inconvenience of having to arrange alternative child care for the day we hope that you will join us in supporting our valuable and hard working staff.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Mullins
Board of Trustees Chair



Board of Trustees Elections

The Pekerau School Board has appointed Mel Sullivan as Returning Officer to manage the upcoming elections. Nominations will be called for by 12:00pm, 24 May 2019 for prospective members of the Pekerau School Board of Trustees. Nomination forms are available now at the school office, but will also be posted out this week to all whanau of current students at Pekerau School.

Key dates are as follows:

Friday, 24 May 2019 – NOMINATIONS CLOSE at 12 NOON. All nominations need to be received by this time. If there are more nominations than the five vacancies for the parent elected members, an election will be held. If there are the same or less than five, those nominations will be duly appointed and no voting is required.

Wednesday, 29 May 2019 – If an election is to be held, voting papers will be sent by our Returning Officer to all whanau on the School's parent/caregiver roll.

Friday, 7 June 2019 – Voting will close at 12 NOON. Voting papers will detail how to vote and where to return voting papers to.

Thursday, 13 June 2019 – Our Returning Officer will be responsible for counting votes by this time and to advise the School of the results.

Friday, 14 June 2019 – Our new Board will take office. Advertising through school communication methods and in Waipa Post will be completed shortly thereafter.

Anyone considering being nominated for the Pekerau School Board is welcome to speak to any of our current parent elected board members (Rachel Mullins, Rebecca Hill, Bronwyn Denize, Quentin Wallace and Kylie Morrison) or our Principal, Tania Heke who are all more than happy to talk to anyone that may have questions. Please speak to the office to obtain contact details.

Pekerau School Board of Trustees



A huge thank you to the people who payed it forward for our tamariki to attend the Ice Skating we recently had at school. These children would have not had the opportunity without your generosity.

YOUR ROCK!!!

Pekerau Primary School Showcase

Matinee July 1st at 9:30am

Evening performance July 2nd 6:30pm

More information coming

MATARIKI

BOOK WEEK

We are having a Book Week in Week 6 (4th-7th June). On Friday the 7th we will have a Character Dress Up assembly. This is always the highlight of Book Week and the children really enjoy the opportunity to create their favourite book character costume.

Websites like Pinterest have lots of affordable, effective costume ideas for creative mums and dads.

There will be prizes for the best dressed!



PB4L- Positive Behaviour for Learning

We are Pekerau **S.T.A.R.S** - **S**elf manage, **T**eam Player, **A**im high, **R**esilient, **S**pirit

New awards have been added to Friday morning assemblies. This is to celebrate the students who perform a service to the school and do so each day, week and term with excellence. This can be a thankless job at times but a necessary one. These students continuously show they are Pekerau Stars.

Road Patroller of the week. This is for a Senior Student who shows up when they are required to or fills in for other Road Patrollers without hesitation. They perform their duties to a high standard.

Librarian of the Week- This award goes to a dedicated student who uses their own lunchtimes to return books to shelves, issue books, manages games and completes School Librarian tasks with excellence.

Introducing the new Team Player Star. We would love to give this star a name. If you can think of one please come into the office a share your suggestions or follow this [link](#).



Week 1 Award Results

Class Attendance Award

1st Place: Room 3

2nd Place: Room 4

3rd Place: Room 9, Room 5 & Room 14

Road Patroller of the week.
Samantha Symes



Librarian of the week.
Sophie Lynch



Silver Kiwi.
Harley Kohi



Te Awamutu Gothenburg Raiders present...

A night of fun, facts and fundraising!

Saturday 25 May, 7pm

Waipa Workingman's Club

\$10 per person, teams of up to 8

Contact Dave 021 253 7979 to book your table, or register on the night



Upcoming dates:

- 17th May Pink Shirt Day
- 29th May Strike Day - School Closed
- 3rd June Queen's Birthday
- 4th-7th June Book Week/Costume Assembly
- 14th June Combined Te Awamutu Schools Teacher Only Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
- 19th June School Photos

ST JOHN YOUTH
St John Here for Life

A vibrant leadership programme that focuses on the development and successes of young people aged 6 - 18.

E: CENTRAL.YOUTH@STJOHN.ORG.NZ
W: WWW.YOUTH.STJOHN.ORG.NZ
Weds 6 - 7.30PM
Divisional Manager
Jo Morrow
0274198563