

# HUKERENUI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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[www.hukerenui.school.nz](http://www.hukerenui.school.nz)

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## Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa

We have had a great week with Education Review Officers here at school. Thank you very much to Wattie, Merilene, Matua Thomas and Kaycen for your support with our powhiri. The students did a fantastic job!

Congratulations to our teachers, support staff and BOT for the wonderful work you do here at school. You all contributed to the wonderful way we were able to present what we do here at Hukerenui School. You make the school what it is – a place of excellence! Thank you!

I am very proud of the values that guide us here at Hukerenui School and contribute to making this a better place for learning.

Nothing is more important to me than the provision of a safe environment and if something were to happen, to compromise the environment we strive for, I would take it very seriously. This is especially true when the safety of any student or staff member might be compromised.

Cyberbullying is one thing that has been a cause for concern in many schools around the world. But how much do we know about it?

Cyberbullying is defined as: The use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

The intention is to torment, threaten, harass and embarrass another student.

The fact that many children may be reluctant to admit to being the victims of cyberbullying adds greatly to the impact for the victim.

Sometimes cyberbullying can be easy to spot — for example, if your child shows you a text, tweet, or response to a status update on Facebook that is harsh, mean, or cruel. Other acts are less obvious, like impersonating a victim online or posting personal information, photos, or videos designed to hurt or embarrass. Some kids report that a fake account, webpage, or online persona has been created with the sole intention to harass and bully.

Kids today love technology but our son's and daughter's love for technology can open them up to numerous hidden dangers.

One of the most popular ways for teens to stay in touch and let others know what is going on in their lives is through Instagram and while this social networking program is a fun tool for teens, just like any other social networking site, it can be used to cyberbully others.

Cell phones and computers themselves are not to blame for cyberbullying. Social media sites can be used for positive activities, like connecting kids with friends and family, helping students with school, and for entertainment. But these tools can also be used to hurt other people. Whether done in person or through technology, the effects of bullying are similar.

Cyber bullying is serious and The Harmful Digital Communications Bill (2015) means that it is now a criminal offence to intentionally cause harm by posting a digital communication and is punishable by up to two years' imprisonment or a maximum fine of \$50,000.

The psychological and emotional outcomes of cyber bullying are similar to those of traditional bullying. However, traditional bullying often ends once the student is back home, whereas cyber bullying can continue throughout the day. While the emotional aspects of bullying continue to be devastating, the internet and social media have changed the way children experience bullying.

The minimum age to open an account on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Kik, and Snapchat is 13 years, while YouTube requires account holders to be 18, but a 13-year-old can sign up with a parent's permission.

As a society we have largely given up, and we give age restrictions a collective shrug and a "so what?" But, guess what? Age does matter, and here's why:

Children under 13 do not have the neurological connections to make smart decisions online. Just because kids seem tech savvy at increasingly younger ages, doesn't necessarily mean that their brains are developing at the same rate as their digital acumen. Research shows that it takes children about 12 years to fully develop the cognitive structures that enable them to engage in ethical thinking. Before 12 years of age it's difficult, if not impossible, for a child to fully grasp the impact of their actions upon others, online or otherwise.

Yet young children are increasingly joining social networking sites, sometimes even putting themselves in harm's way by becoming victims of online harassment, solicitation, and cyber-bullying before they are ready to respond appropriately.

Lying is just plain wrong. Living in a civilized society means we have some implicit agreements: we take turns, play fair, stop at red lights, and hold the door open for ladies. And we tell the truth. Sure, giving a fake birthdate to Facebook or any other social media organisation seems like a harmless white lie, but it's a lie nonetheless. I'd like to believe we can all agree that honesty and truthfulness, online and off, is important.

Be aware that your children's personal information is at risk. Keeping up to date with what your children are doing online can seem daunting. Technology is constantly advancing and sometimes parents feel that their children know more about the internet than they do.

The best way to keep your child safe online is to take an active interest right from the start. They need your love and protection online as much as they do in the real world. What your child is exposed to will depend on how they're using the internet.

My goal remains to ensure the wellbeing and safety of staff and students at Hukerenui so that our positive learning environment is maintained.

**Thank You**

**Bastienne Kruger**  
**Principal**

"Education is not the filling of a pot but the lighting of a fire."  
— W.B. Yeats



**ACTIVITY IS AWESOME**

School age children need one hour of physical activity every day even on wet cold days.



**Boredom busting indoor activities:**

- **Indoor obstacle course** use chairs, blankets or pillows
- **Skipping** with ropes or jumping using elastics
- **Music** – freeze / musical statues
- **Hide and seek** for small indoor spaces the seeker uses a blind fold
- **Target shoot** throw newspaper balls or rolled up socks into a laundry basket
- **Indoor hopscotch** use pieces of paper to hop onto
- **Catch bubbles** in yoghurt pots/plastic cups
- **Turbo charge story time** – choose a word that will be repeated often in a story. Jump up and turn around when the word is read.
- **Animal charades** – names of animals are placed in a bowl. Take turns choosing and acting out the animals actions till others guess (in silence is more challenging!)

**Sit less, move more**

- Limit screen time to less than two hours
- Be active as a family in the weekend
- Park further from school or shops.
- If the journey is <2km leave the car at home
- Keep a bag of equipment handy for outings e.g. frisbee or ball

**Upcoming Dates:**

August  
29<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting 7pm  
31<sup>st</sup> WPSSA Cross Country

September  
7<sup>th</sup> Year 7 & 8 Turbo Touch  
28<sup>th</sup> Parent Advisory Group Mtg 1.30pm  
29<sup>th</sup> End of Term 3  
29<sup>th</sup> PTA fundraiser – Quiz night

October  
16<sup>th</sup> Term 4 starts  
28<sup>th</sup> AG Day

**Netball Draw - Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2017**  
Int. – 10am court 11

**Donations for Quiz night**  
**Rooms 1 & 2 please bring NUTS** for our quiz night. Following week **Rooms 3 & 4 CRACKERS**, and the following week **Rooms 5,6,7 bring CHIPS please.**

**Tickets** are available for purchase at the school office. Online payments or cheques must be made out to Hukerenui School PTA.

# Quiz night!!!

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Friday 29th September 2017, 7pm start

Hukerenui Hall

Tickets \$20

6 people per team

Collect from school

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Includes.....

- Light supper
- Cash bar (cash/eftpos available)
- Raffles
- Auction

**UP FOR GRABS**

Signed All Black rugby ball | Fertiliser packages  
Oakura bach hireage | Night for two in Paihia and Whangarei

All money raised goes back into our school towards a new nature playground