From the Principal Desk
As we head into the last days of term 4 we have lots of activities occurring across the school. Today (Friday) we played our annual cricket matches against Hamilton SDS. The students have beach and surfing activities on Monday and Thursday and some classes will attend a concert with the Portland SC band on Tuesday.

On Friday is our Graduation and Presentation day beginning at 10am and ending with a light lunch at midday. This is an opportunity to celebrate student achievement throughout the year and to farewell students, families and staff who are moving on. I look forward to seeing you all next Friday.

Classes for 2017
Classes for 2017 have been set and students worked in their new groups on Tuesday. We also had four of our new students attend and it was great to meet them and welcome them to the community.

The teachers will be as follows:
Group 1 Leilani Butler
Group 3 Reece Cracknell
Group 5 Susan Webster
PE Emma Rudge

Group 2 Charlotte Peverett
Group 4 Gillian Caithness
Art Julie Lamond

Reminders
Don’t forget the last day of school is Monday Dec 19. School will finish at 2.30pm. The first day of term 1 2017 is Tuesday Jan 31.

Fire Season - Code Red Days
The fire season is upon us again and it is timely to remember the school procedures for our buses on Code Red days.

The school bus routes will not operate outside the Portland town boundary on days when the Fire Danger Rating is determined by fire authorities as being Code Red. This will affect all the bus routes but particularly the Toyota, with only minor changes to the other routes.

The CFA’s decision to declare a Code Red Day can be taken up to 3-days beforehand, but will be confirmed no later than midday the day before. Once the decision is made it will not change regardless of changes to the weather forecast.

On declared Code Red days, letters will be sent home the day before to affected students outlining transport arrangements.

The school will remain open on Code Red days.

Fun Group Swim Day yesterday was cancelled due to windy weather. Students participated in indoor fun activities and the water slide in their normal PE time period. This was our last swimming session for the year. Thank you to everyone for a successful, fun program and we look forward to continuing swimming in 2017.

Enjoy your weekend....... Steve Crossley, Principal
STARS OF THE WEEK

"Caught Being Good"

Very well done to our caught being good

Winners last week: Lucy Jennings, Jaxson Keillor and Kara Rennie.

On the Buses: Cameron Pryor-Hollis, Brodie Pumpa and Harvey McQualter

We focus each week on all our positive Behaviours both in the school and on our buses.

At our whole school assembly, we draw the “Caught Being Good” raffle. Throughout the week, staff give students a raffle ticket for displaying positive behaviour either in their classroom, on the buses (including to and from school), on the playground or in any school events such as excursions, outings or community access.
RDA has taught our students care, and empathy for others. Spending time, grooming, walking and riding the horses has been a fun and enlightening experience for all of the students.

Touching the snakes from the Zoo was an amazing experience, they were so soft and scaly.

A special visit from a travelling Zoo was a highlight at the RDA Party. Patting and talking about the different animals was so much fun.
Riding on the Clydesdale wagon was amazing and the horses were so quiet and friendly.

Party with the Ponies in Hamilton Monday 21st November was a great day with lots of animal interaction and fun.

Patting the different animals let the students feel the different textures and they loved the quiet nature of them all.
Group Five Gingerbread Houses

Group 5 made their own gingerbread, made their own royal icing then made their own gingerbread houses. Each house looks amazing and individual as the students used lollies and their own style to design their houses.

My house has gingerbread men guarding the door.

I made two houses and decorated them with lots of lollies.

My gingerbread men are lying on top of my house.
Community Announcements:

Portland Community Christmas Carols
Sunday 11th Dec.
Bentinck St lawns
Food stalls from 5.30pm
Carols 6pm

Performances by:
Community choir
Community band
School groups
Community groups

Brought to you by the
Portland Minister's Association (VCC)
for the Community of Portland

Professional Sound by
Southwest Productions

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Thunderstorm asthma: Supporting students

Thunderstorms have been linked to epidemics of asthma, especially at the end of Spring, when grasses are flowering.

An asthma attack can be life-threatening. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness and difficulty breathing should call 000.

Anyone with a known history of asthma is at risk of experiencing an exacerbation of their usual symptoms at this time.

In addition, people who do not usually experience symptoms of asthma but have a history of allergies may be at increased risk.

The common signs of asthma are difficulty in breathing (gasping for air), chest tightness and wheezing.

If a child's condition is deteriorating, parents or guardians should seek urgent care. Signs of rapid deterioration include little or no relief from a reliever inhaler, inability to speak comfortably, or lips turning blue.

People with asthma should continue to use their usual medications. Where possible, stay inside when the weather is windy with high pollen counts or dust.

Actions required

If a child is experiencing symptoms, notify their parents immediately if you require advice,