

### A note from the Principal...

Kia Ora - welcome back to a fabulous new year. We are extremely excited about our focussed direction as we continue to equip our students to be active, engaged and successful learners. After the first Board of Trustees meeting (in week 3), I will be sending home my 'Principal's Vision' for our school, to give you a clearer outline of this direction. Our teaching staff have used the January break as a time to reflect on their practice, read the latest educational research and catch the odd jellyfish or 2. I rode a bike for the first time in years and was thrilled that I could still remember how to do it without falling off! Please take the time to read today's newsletter, as we have included some very important dates, including SCHOOL CLOSURES for this term - the first 2 are in the next 2 weeks.

**Jan Otene**  
**Principal**

### Happening in Our School...

#### Teaching Staff

Kahurangi	Charlotte Hills	Yr 5 - 6
Kowhai	Erin Moore	Yr 3 - 4
Whero	Heather Guitry & Diane Griffith	Yr 1 - 2
Whero	Carol Fitzgerald	Yr 0 - 2

N.B. Ma Whero has been replaced with the Whero nametag

#### Welcome Assembly/Powhiri—Friday 2 February

We invite all of our families, but in particular those who are starting with us this year, to a welcome assembly/powhiri to be held 9.45am this Friday, followed by morning tea at 10.30am. If your family is new to our school, please meet at the School Office on arrival. *We would be very grateful to existing families who would be willing to contribute a small plate of food to the morning tea.* Food can be dropped off to the staffroom before 9 am. Thank you.

#### Whooping Cough Alert

Over the holidays some of our staff contracted whooping cough, which is also affecting many others in the Wellington region this season. This is a notifiable disease and is highly contagious. People with whooping cough are infectious for up to 21 days if left untreated.

Once a 5-day course of antibiotics is completed they are no longer infectious. If you or your child has flu-like symptoms we strongly recommend going to a doctor for a diagnosis ASAP. If diagnosed with whooping cough, please notify the Office and keep **yourself and/or your child at home** until 5 days of antibiotics has been completed. To our knowledge, none of our staff are infectious. However, some are still suffering from the after-effects, such as coughing and sore throats.

#### Personal Information & Emergency Contacts

Please ensure that your **parent/caregiver contact details** are to up-to-date, particularly phone numbers, names and numbers of people to be contacted in emergencies and custody orders/agreements. Mobile phone numbers **must be accessible** at all times during school hours in case of an emergency. If we cannot get hold of parents or emergency contacts the school will make a decision as to whether to take a child to the nearest medical centre or call an ambulance with any costs incurred passed on to parents.

If your child is absent **you must notify the School Office** before 9 am **each day that they are away**. Parents can choose to notify the class teacher as well, however our Office does this as part of our normal procedure.

If your child has a medical condition which requires urgent/specific attention (e.g. allergies to peanuts, epilepsy etc.), **please notify the Office urgently** and we will send home a personal Medical Form for you to complete so that our teachers and Office have this information. Existing Medical Forms will be sent home this week for parents to update.

#### Reporting to Parents

The Labour Government has removed National Standards, but is still in the process of disseminating further information about what schools will need to report on to both the Ministry and to parents. In the meantime we have started the process of unpacking what this may look like for our school and we are making the necessary changes to our reporting documents.

#### Property Developments

RTLb upgrade

We have yet to hear when our building upgrade will begin. However, in anticipation of this we have

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decommissioned our library and moved Kahurangi into this space. This will reduce disruption to the Yr 5-6 class whilst their classroom is upgraded. Claire, our librarian, has given each class a large collection of books for the term so that all children will still be able to access books to read.

#### **Solar Power @ Rewa Rewa School**

We are very close to installing our solar power generation system. This development will substantially reduce our heating, lighting and power costs and should also allow us to heat our swimming pool all year-round, free of charge. Plus, our students will be able to practice their maths skills and build their knowledge of natural energy resources by learning how to read the Solar Energy meter.

#### **Adventure Playground/Shade Sails**

We will be shoulder-tapping people to help us when we organise each fundraiser this year. We have \$7000 in our fundraising account, but it will take quite a bit more before we can get these upgrades underway. If you are interested in helping or are able to assist with grant applications, designing playgrounds, shade solutions etc. we'd love to hear from you.

*Naomi Godfrey  
H&S Chair*

#### **Gathering Community Feedback**

We need to continue to formally gather community feedback on a variety of topics. So, expect to receive invites to participate in quick, online surveys during the year (under 10 questions). We would really appreciate getting as much feedback as possible so that we can make decisions based on this information. The first survey will be about technology in the home and finding out how the school can support both you and your child.

#### **Communication**

Our school Facebook page is definitely helping to raise our profile in a very positive light. We ask that all parents are mindful about what they share about school and our children on their own online profiles, as you never know who reads them and how comments may be perceived. If you have a concern about your child, please see your child's class teacher for a quick resolution.

#### **PTP Helpers Required**

Helpers are required for our reading improvement Parent Tutor Programme (PTP). Training will be given

and 1 or 2 hours offered per week can make a huge difference to a number of children. Please contact Lynnda Bouzaid urgently (027 243 8350), if you are able to help.

#### **Activity Fees, Mathletics & School Donations**

You may have noticed that we have delayed sending out accounts, to allow parents' pockets time to recover from start of year expenses. These will be sent out during week 2. Our teachers are also trying to help families by fundraising to subsidise the Mathletics programme by 50% - \$10 per student - \$900 is a lot of money to raise but we can do it!

Payment enables us to offer extra events such as educational trips, gymnastics, swimming, Life Education Trust etc. We strongly recommend that parents set up weekly or fortnightly automatic payment, as this can be an easier alternative to paying a larger, one-off lump sum. \$5-\$10 per week will ensure payment is completed by the end of the year for most people.

#### **Staff Professional Development Days**

During the holidays our staff participated in professional development about Robotics, Blogs (Seesaw), The Global Curriculum and Developing Student Agency. It is vital that our teachers are well-read and keep up with the latest research so that our learners can receive high quality teaching.

For our Teacher Only Day - Monday 19 February - our teachers will be working with Bek Galloway, a lead educational facilitator who assists schools to develop their curriculum and coaches how to teach students to become actively involved in the learning process. School will be closed on this day.

#### **School Policies to Review**

Each term parents are invited to visit our school policies site (SchoolDocs) to participate in reviewing our policies. Please contact the School Office for login details.

#### **ASC Programme**

The Holiday Programme was very successful, with candle-making, swimming in our pool, 10 Pin Bowling and a biking obstacle course just a few of the many activities. This term After School Care policies will be sent home for all parents to review. If your child requires a casual or extra booking **you must contact the Office before 10 am on the day** to check whether there

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are any vacancies. Numbers are high and we cannot guarantee space will be available.

### Swimming Lessons

Class swimming lessons are each Monday during term, with the first session next week beginning on 5 February. Easyswim donate these quality lessons free of charge, a saving of \$140 per student (cost of private lessons). So, please make sure your child has his/her togs and makes the most of being in the water during this hot weather!

### Paid Teacher Union Meetings

Paid teacher union meetings will be held this term, but we will keep our school open by sending teachers on different days and covering for teachers who are absent, to avoid any school closure disruptions for families.

### Road Safety

Please be **VERY** careful to park cars away from our driveway, not on yellow lines and to cross children at the patrolled crossing. The staff carpark is **not** to be used for dropping off/picking up or for turning your car. We need to keep our children safe!

### Term Dates 2018

- Term 1** Monday 29 January—Friday 13 April  
Monday 19 February—**Teacher-Only Day, School Closed**
- Term 2** Monday 30 April—Friday 6 July
- Term 3** Monday 23 July—Friday 28 September
- Term 4** Monday 15 October—Thursday 13 December

### Upcoming Events...

Friday	02 February	9.45am	Welcome Assembly/Powhiri
Tuesday	06 February		Waitangi Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday	15 February	5-7pm	Meet the Teacher Evening
Monday	19 February		Teacher-Only Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday	5 March		3-Way Interviews
Thursday	8 March		3-Way Interviews
Friday	30 March		Good Friday—SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday	02 April		Easter Monday—SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday	03 April		Easter Tuesday Holiday—SCHOOL CLOSED



We welcome Boots, Brennan, Emily, Gear, Hammad, Hassan, Lah-Trell, Lucas, Nylah, Sienna & Yozahna and their families to Rewa Rewa!

Farewell to Armant & Khang, we wish you well in your future learning—you will be missed!

Our roll has started at 89, which is a very promising beginning – wonder when the 100th student target will be reached this year?!!



Rewa Rewa gardeners enjoying the first cucumber of the season!

Many thanks to Lynnda Bouzaid for her work with the Eco Squad and keeping the gardens cared for and watered during the hot summer holidays.



## DANCE CLASSES IN NEWLANDS

Angela Goodall Dance Academy offers classes in Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Contemporary, Hip Hop and Pre School Dance.

Fun and friendly learning environment.

Open Day and Enrolment Day  
Saturday 3rd February 11.00am-12.30pm  
Studio-3 McMillan Court, Newlands

Interested contact Angela

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