

SHANNON SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Monday 19th February 2018

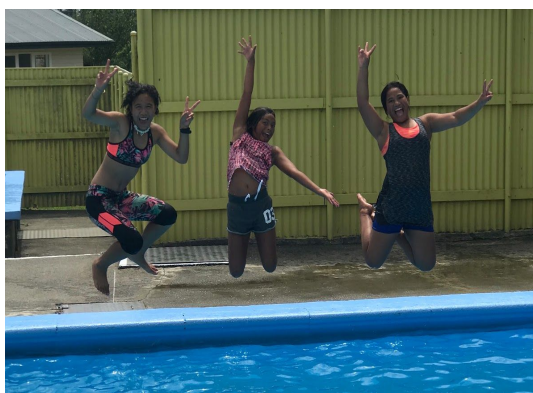
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A Note from Our Principal



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new school year. A special welcome to new students and whanau.

It has been a relatively easy transition for staff and children this year as we have the same staff as last year. We do have one new addition to our learning community. A special welcome to Pa Wylie Te Peeti who is working in the school as a teacher and student support, te reo kaiako and kaumātua.

As leader of the Kerekere Kāhui Ako (Community of Schools) I will be absent from the school at various times. During my absence Lois Erceg-Erkilic is Acting Principal.

Learning and the School Curriculum

Our challenge as a school is to provide a learning environment that engages all individual 'diverse' children and encourages them to become life-long learners. In the past our thinking has been mostly around organising our tamariki into class and group activities. Today we concentrate more on the individual learning pathway of each child. As a staff we are always looking to improve our own understanding and practice around learning. Our children are already living in an ever-changing world in which the skills and knowledge needed is far removed from what most of us adults learnt at school. This is a challenging, exciting and sometimes uncomfortable time for us as educators as sometimes we have to change and undo long-time practices as we better understand new ways of learning. It is also important that we also recognise and continue using teaching and learning strategies that have worked well in the past.

The new government is in the process of removing legislation around reporting against National Standards in literacy and numeracy with a move back to recognising the richness and breadth of our NZ Curriculum, and for developing children *"who will be confident, connected, actively involved, and lifelong learners."*

Our own school curriculum emphasis:

Our aim is to develop independent and creative individuals through a holistic approach to learning. The Arts and creativity is encouraged. We are also focused on accelerated learning in communication literacies and mathematics by providing challenging inquiries and creative new learning experiences. The most effective use of the environment, personnel, and resources, including a range of digital technologies, is aimed at engaging students in their own individual learning journeys. Underlying this is the principle of 'ako' - teaching and learning together - adults and children learning alongside each other.

As part of our holistic approach our aim this year is to involve more children in out of school experiences (EOTC - Education Outside the Classroom). We no longer just look at whole class trips but rather at activities that interested groups of children can attend. We do recognise that sometimes the cost of leaving the school to attend an event may be expensive and we always attempt to minimize this cost. There is always an option of regular small payments that can be organised at the office. There is also the opportunity of being involved in fundraising activities.

Communication

As usual the message is to contact the school (teacher, senior teacher, myself or board member) if there is any concern, whether this is about your child, something that is bothering you or something that may affect others in the school. We are constantly reviewing our internal school policies and procedures to improve our school and appreciate feedback and feed-forward from members of our wider school community. If you know or believe a child is being bullied or is unhappy please let us know straight away. It is very difficult to deal with situations that have occurred sometime in the past.

Three Way Conferences

Next week we have Three Way Conferences. These meetings between the teacher, student and parent/carer are vital for all to make the effort to attend. As the first teacher of your child it is important that we listen to your insights into your child - you know them best. It is also essential to have the child present as the learning journey is about them. It is a time to set the direction for your child for the year ahead. If you are unable to attend at school at the scheduled times it is possible to make another arrangement with the teacher to meet at another time or place. Our aim is to have all children and parents meet with their child's teacher. If you have concerns that need to be spoken about with the teacher, without the child present, please organise a separate time for this. During the year we are always happy to meet with parents.

There is a questionnaire that we would like all families to complete at the time of the conference. This is to gather information about how you can assist the school and how we can help you. Please add any other comments to this questionnaire.

School Fence

The Ministry of Education has funded fencing the school so that any 'runner' students will be unable to abscond out of the school grounds. Please bear with us as we attempt to sort out the best entrance and exit procedures. The entrance for all will be through the waharoa (archway entrance). The gate will be open before and after school but closed once school begins. There will be a release button for adults. For children outside of school time there will be a button for children to push and the office will electronically open the gate. There is a gate on Stafford Street (locked out of school hours) and an entrance through the staff carpark. There is also a latch gate in the school to access the PreSchool.

Kind Regards,
Murray Powell



Kia Ora from the Harakeke Hub

We have had a busy start to the year welcoming our new learners; Te Maheu, Dontay, Bhryann, Kashana, Alicia, Vienna, Ngakau, Justese, Kaelee, Karmarose, Ella, Dylan, Nadai, Abigail and Krystal. We also welcome Whae Cilla and Pa Wylie, who have been working closely with us in our hub so far this year.

We are enjoying co-constructing our learning as we believe in a personalised approach for each child. Our chromebooks have been an excellent tool to start the year with, alongside our inquiry based approach to learning. It is excellent to see our new learners have settled in so well and are already well on their way to creating their own personalised programmes.

We work on a 'Must Do, Can Do' system, which allows our learners to work alongside the teachers and each other to co-construct their own learning journeys. We are looking forward to sharing our learning at Three Way Conferences next week.

Seesaw is an excellent way to keep up to date with your child's learning across both hubs. If you did not receive information regarding this exciting app, please contact Mrs Sheehan or Mr McCallum to make sure you are connected to your child's learning journal.

Please come in and visit us any time; we love sharing our learning with you all.

Nau mai, haere mai

Sarah Sheehan & Lois Erceg Erkilic

Notices

UPCOMING EVENTS, DATES AND NOTICES

Dear Parents/Carers

It is lovely to be back after the summer break. Welcome to our new families.

Three Way Conferences are next week on **Thursday 22nd February** and **Friday 23rd February**. The children stay at home on Friday, unless they have a scheduled time with their teacher. If you do not have a time yet, please see the school office. We sent a **Parent Questionnaire** home on Friday. Please return to the office before Thursday or to the classroom teacher at the time of your conference.

School Swimming Sports (Y4-8) will be held on **Wednesday 28th February**, starting **9.15am** at the Shannon School Pools. Te Rito hub will have a **Swimming Skills Showcase** starting at **11.30am** directly after swimming sports. **Kerekere Interschool** will be held at the Foxton Pools on **Monday 12th March**.



Shannon School Athletics Day will be **Tuesday 27th March**. More details will be sent out closer to the time. **Interschool Athletics Day** will be held in Foxton on **Thursday 5th April**.

Please note on your calendars that school will be closed from Friday 30th March until Wednesday 4th of April for **Easter weekend**. So you can look forward to a **five day weekend**.

Remember it is a good time to **start an automatic payment** for this years fees and expenses. We encourage this option for payment especially if you have multiple children at school. It is amazing how quickly a small amount adds up. If you go into credit, we can use this money for trips or lunches.

The school will be hosting the **Shannon Community Hauora (Health) Day** on **Thursday 15th March from 4-6pm**. This is a great opportunity for our community to discuss health issues with a number of different health providers. Watch out for the event posters for more information.

We are trying to open the pools as often as we can out of school hours. Please ring the office if you need more information.

Kind regards
Carol C and Carol B

Thanks to the team at CSG Palmerston North for printing our newsletters!



More than you expect.