

PAPAKOWHAI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 3 ● Term 1 ● 17 February 2021

Kia ora koutou

We are so lucky to be living in New Zealand at a time like this, but even we face our Covid challenges. It was a bit of a shock on Sunday night that we were back at Level 2. The children have been great at school but I know that for some of our children this does heighten their anxiety, especially when mum or dad can't bring them to class. Hopefully we will be back at Level 1 very soon.

We have a number of events coming up that will be Covid dependent. Schools are exempt from social distancing and gathering rules when there are only staff and children present. However as soon as we go offsite or have parents involved all the same rules apply.

We had planned to have our annual Aotea Lagoon picnic next week but we have deferred this until Thursday 4th March just to give us a bit more time to get back to Level 1. If you have not been part of this before, we all walk to the lagoon and have lunch together. In the past we have had some children biking but now we all just walk together. More details about this event will be in the newsletter next week. Parents are welcome to join us for this event.

Last year, apart from February, we did not have powhiri for new families. I am so sorry that many of you did not get welcomed in this way. We had about 100 children start last year so it is impossible for us to do a "catch up" powhiri for those who were not welcomed. Again I can only apologise for this. However, we do have a powhiri for new children who have started this year. Children will receive an

invitation tomorrow, so look out for this in school bags.

You will also receive this week a copy of the contact details and medical information we hold for your child. Please read and check it. If there are errors or details that have changed, please email the changes to office@papakowhai.school.nz and we will amend our records.

Can I also please ask that you take a little more care with driving and parking around the school. I know people are pressured going to work and going to after school activities but we want to keep our children safe and be respectful of other drivers and people who live close to the school. Please slow down and take time to park safely and legally.

I hope to see you soon at the school gate or at our Meet the Teacher evening next week.

Ngā mihi

Mark Smith

Principal

mark@papakowhai.school.nz

A SCHOOL POWHIRI for all new families and staff will be held on Thursday 25th February at 9.00am, in the Hall.

This is to welcome our new students, their parents, families, and whanau. The Powhiri lasts about 20 minutes and will be followed by morning tea. Families will gather in the staffroom prior to the powhiri. Invitations will be sent home tomorrow. Please contact the office if you did not receive one.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS TUESDAY 23rd

FEBRUARY There are individual appointments available if there is something you would like to discuss and there is also an informal after-dinner time for those who just want to see the class and meet the teacher. School will finish at 3pm as normal.

Individual appointments will be available from 3:20 - 5:30pm. Each appointment is 10 minutes. These appointments are for parents who want to discuss specific learning, behaviour, medical, family or personal information privately with the teacher. Families who are new to our school might also want to take up this opportunity, even if there isn't a specific issue to discuss.

To make an appointment go to:

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the code **dhsgx**.

You will be sent an email confirming your booking details. You can change or cancel your booking at any time until the website closes at noon on Tuesday 23rd February. If you are not able to make a booking online, please phone the school office.

From 6:15 -7:30pm there will be an open evening where you can pop into classes without an appointment. The teachers will be available to meet you and chat informally with you. You are also welcome to look around other classes if you are new to the school or would just like to.

2021 DONATIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEES.

Thank you to those of you who have made payments to the school via MySchool and direct to the office for school donations, contributions and other fees. This week a statement of account will be emailed to you requesting amounts yet to be paid.

Receipts for payments made for 2021 will be issued to you this week also. It is worthwhile remembering that a 33 cents/dollar paid tax credit for the donations and contributions can be claimed from Inland Revenue.

Payments to the school can be made by direct credit to our school bank account 12-3140-0133108-01, by EFTPOS and by cash to the office. The MySchool website will be open for credit card payments up until 25 February.

SCHOOL SWIMMING SESSIONS

Each year the school invests a significant proportion of its budget to providing quality swimming programmes to children. We know that children really improve when they have lessons at school every day for a two-week period. All children in Years 1- 6 are expected to participate in the swimming programme and bring their togs, towel and goggles every day they are rostered on for swimming. All Year 1- 6 children will receive eight lessons from the Easyswim School instructors. Swimming will happen Monday –Thursday. If swimming has to be postponed due to bad weather, there will be catch up sessions. We would like to remind parents that, if your child has suffered from a tummy bug recently, they should not swim for 2 weeks afterwards.

School Swimming Timetable 2021

Starting Wednesday 10 th Feb	Starting Monday 22 nd Feb Start date will depend on the weather and is subject to change.
Totara 1 and 2	Totara 3 and 4
All Rimu classes	All Matai classes
Kauri 5 (Year 6's)	All Rata classes

PAPAKOWHAI SCHOOL NETBALL

Registration forms need to be returned by this Friday, 19 February. Trials for the Year 7 & 8 teams will take place at the end of February. training sessions for the Year 7&8's in the lead up to the trials – full details are available from the office.

SHAVE FOR A CURE

Zoe Capstick is in Year 7 at Papakowhai School. She has decided to shave her hair for the Shave for a Cure charity. She is going to shave her head for her birthday in March! Here is the link to her fundraising page <https://shaveforacure.co.nz/zoe-capstick>

SCHOOL CAMP FOR YEAR 7 AND 8'S

The 2021 camp for Year 7&8's is being held at Teapot Valley in Nelson, from 8th - 12th March.

A reminder to those who have paid the deposit of \$210 and are yet to pay the remaining \$210 we would appreciate this being fully paid by Monday 22 February. Any balance still to be paid will show on your statements of account being issued this week. Thank you.

CAMP INFORMATION EVENING

There will be an information evening for parents about the Teapot Valley camp in Kauri block on Tuesday 2 March at 7 pm. **Parent helpers going on the camp must attend this meeting.**

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to **Ethan Gibson** and **Lucy Bunton** for making it into the 123Tech Challenge Nationals Finals in Dec 2020. Only 7 teams across the country in Y5-8 made it through! Keep an eye out for their Google Maps video and photograph overlay of our school showing prospective and new whānau and students where everything is on our grounds. Well done to **Issy Lister**, **Lauren Crawford** and **Christian McDonald** for being accepted into the regional finals, their projects were very well received by the judges. A big thank you to Ben Chartrand for his expert guidance.



HOME AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The next Home and School meeting will be held on Monday 22 February, 7 pm in the staffroom. We are a group of parents who organise school community events such as the annual triathlon and quiz nights. We understand we all lead busy lives so our motto is "Do what you can, when you can". We welcome new members so feel free to attend any meetings or email Bernice for more information on

homeandschool@papakowhai.school.nz

The first fundraising event of the year will be the school **Triathlon on Sunday 7 March** which is open to all Papakowhai School children. Registration forms are available from the office. We need lots of helpers to run this event so if you are available to help please email using the address above.

2021 Womans Clothing Grab - Friday 19 March

Our popular clothing grab is back this year! A relaxed evening where the ticket price of \$25 gets you refreshments, the chance to take as many items home as you like from the tables, and the opportunity to bid on popular designer items starting at \$1. Tickets available via Kindo.co.nz **Donations of clothing needed!** Even if you can't come to the evening, we'd love to receive your donations of good quality ladies' clothing, shoes and accessories. Please drop off your clean items to the school office (during opening hours 8am-4pm) throughout February.

School Hoodies and Hats

Orders for school hoodies are open until Friday 5 March. Sample sizes are available to try on in the office. Hoodies are priced at \$55 each and orders can be placed via www.kindo.co.nz Papakowhai hats are available to buy from the office all year round and are \$22 each. Please ensure all items are clearly named as it is impossible to return lost items otherwise.



Follow the Home and School Facebook page to stay up to date with all our events this year
<https://www.facebook.com/PapakowhaiHomeandSchool/>

PORIRUA CITY FOOTBALL CLUB REGISTRATIONS

Porirua City Football Club is taking registrations for all age groups for mixed boys and girls for 2021 season. The First Kicks programme for 5 & 6 year olds starts on Sunday 2 May at 9.30am at Postgate School. Cost: \$60 (includes Registration and Club shirt)

Teams from 7th grade and above start on Saturday 10 April; cost depends on grade, POA.

If your son/daughter is keen to join, or you know of anyone who is, please email Steve poriruacityfootballclub@gmail.com to register your interest. There will be a registration night later in February, date to be confirmed. You can also visit www.poriruacityafc.co.nz for more information.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

Friday 19	Netball registrations close
Monday 22	Home and School meeting, 7pm
Tuesday 23	Parent/teacher meetings
Thursday 25	Powhiri for new families, 9am

MARCH

Tuesday 2	Yr 7&8 camp – parents information evening, 7 pm, Kauri block
Thursday 4	School picnic at Aotea Lagoon
Friday 5	Hoodie orders close
Sunday 7	School triathlon
Monday 8- Friday 12 inc	Year 7 & 8 students on camp
Friday 19	Women's Clothing Grab

APRIL

Friday 2	Good Friday, school closed
Monday 5	Easter Monday, school closed
Tuesday 6	Easter Tuesday, school closed

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2021

TERM	START	FINISH	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
1	Thursday 4 February	Friday 16 April	Easter – school closed on Good Friday, 2 April, and Easter Monday and Tuesday, 5&6 April
2	Monday 3 May	Friday 9 July	Queen’s birthday, 7 June
3	Monday 26 July	Friday 1 October	
4	Monday 18 October	Thursday 16 December	Labour Day, 25 th October