

Newton Central School Newsletter

Thursday 8th March

Term 1

Week 5



Kia ora Newton Central School Whānau,

You may be aware of the nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers. Children need teachers with enough time to teach so they can give each child the attention they deserve, and children need talented and inspiring people to be attracted to teaching. Children are missing out on some opportunities to learn because teachers are bogged down in administration or are struggling to get enough support for children with additional learning needs.

Teachers at our school are joining the NZEI Te Riu Roa campaign, called *Kua Tae Te Wā – It's Time* to address these issues. Our goal is to free teachers to teach, and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. And we'll attract more people to teaching by respecting and paying them as the professionals they are. NZEI Te Riu Roa members at our school have been invited to paid union meetings on March 20th so that we can plan and discuss the campaign and upcoming collective agreement negotiations. The meeting schedule has been planned so there will be minimal disruption to teaching programmes, children and parents. Students will attend school as normal. Our children deserve the best education in the world, and New Zealand can afford to provide it. It's just a matter of priorities.

As I reflect on the first 5 weeks of school, I am appreciative of the efforts all our staff put into the ongoing improvement of the school. There have been many changes that have been going on behind the scenes that have required a huge amount of effort and with limited funding for administration and support staff we have been stretched in many directions. Such activities we've implemented include:

- Updating our financial network onto Xero to allow us to streamline the way we pay and send out invoices
- Changing our financial service providers
- Changing our School Management System to allow online recording of student attendance, learning and behaviour monitoring and ultimately, the capacity to report to parents on student progress in real time
- Initiating a number of fieldtrips and activities to encourage our students to be actively engaged, lifelong learners
- Re-structuring our Māori Medium Leadership Team
- Employing new staff to strengthen Te Reo Māori in both Awahou and Te Uru Karaka,
- Switching the curriculum focus from the New Zealand Curriculum to Te Marautanga in Whānau Awahou
- Updating our school website, to go live in the coming weeks
- Re-structuring the way we support students with significant learning needs, with an emphasis on increasing the number of Kaiawhina (Teacher Assistants) we have employed in the school
- Implementing a Before and Afterschool Programme that can be OSCAR accredited
- Applying for the opportunity to enroll International Students into our school, beginning in Term 2

All this, while our staff do all they can to create a positive and supportive learning environment for every child under their care. I thank each and every one of them for their hard work!

We are in the midst of great change, both within the school and in the educational landscape as a whole. With the removal of National Standards we are able to return our focus on the many facets of a robust and rich NZ curriculum. The curriculum competencies of: thinking; relating to others; using language, symbols and texts; managing ourselves and participating and contributing can once again be a focus of how we teach and how students learn. This brings about many opportunities and challenges. What is the profile we want for our mainstream students upon graduation from Newton Central at the end of Year 6? How do we restructure our curriculum to ensure we achieve our goals? How do we assess student learning to ensure we are monitoring progress towards those goals, and how do we report to parents in a timely and meaningful way? I can assure you, we are committed to resolving these big questions quickly, and with your input. We continue to focus on numeracy and literacy as the foundations of our school programme, but we are excited about now being able to broaden our focus. Watch this space!

Looking forward, in the coming months we have many other large projects ahead of us, including:

- The completion of our new flexible learning space for our Māori Medium Programmes, now due for opening in May 2018 (exact date for opening TBC)
- A visit and evaluation by the Education Review Office in May 2018
- Working with our community to implement an online student reporting process, allowing the sharing of student progress in a timely manner
- Reviewing and upgrading our curriculum overview to ensure it aligns with the graduate profiles we have for our students
- Representing the teaching profession in upcoming negotiations with the government

- Preparing for the school production
- Update our technology user-agreements and policies
- Update our health & safety policies and procedures

For us, as staff at Newton Central School, we really need our community to support us in every way possible this year. With so many changes in our school, we are not going to be able to provide the range of community and fundraising events without parent input and leadership. Parents, we need your support by initiating and implementing a Parent Teacher Association to lead some of the big events we have this year. Art Exhibition and end-of-year community events (Fiafia Day?) will not be able to happen without support from everyone. Please note Sheila's invitation to join the PTA below.

I encourage everyone to make an effort to attend the **Technology Parent Evening at 6.00pm on Thursday 15th March, in Te Whare Tapere**, about the use of technology at home and at school. Incidents around students accessing social media, being exposed to cyber bullying or being exposed to harmful information are becoming regular occurrences within our community. To help parents be informed of these challenges, I've invited:

- Pauline Spence of Netsafe to talk to you about strategies parents can use to protect your children at home.
- Tom Mackintosh, Deputy Principal at Kowhai Intermediate and Head of Technology to talk to you about how social media has affected their well-being of their students, and the actions they've taken to protect them from harm.

I strongly encourage as many parents as possible to attend this meeting.

Finally, this week I've been part of a committee to decide on our Student Councillors for 2018. The calibre of candidates this year, and the quality of speeches presented by our Year 6 candidates is clear evidence that we are producing confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners by the time students are reaching their final year at Newton Central. Our decision will not be easy.

Riki Teteina
Tumuaki
MEd Admin (Hons.), B. Ed, Dip Tchg

NEWTON CENTRAL SCHOOL



Celebrating difference, diversity and success

Monmouth St, Newton, Auckland 1021

Tel: 09 3786883

NEW PUPILS

We welcome Clarence Faherty & Valerie Tumata-Taylor to the 'Best Little School in the World' and look forward to their journey of growth and learning with us.

PTA/FRIENDS OF NEWTON

This year we would like to form a school PTA (parent teacher association) which would be largely responsible for fund raising activities. We have many existing ideas but welcome new ones. Could anyone who is interested in joining this group and is able to attend evening meetings please either leave your [name at the office](#) or see Sheila in Room 8. We have a very busy year ahead of us and really need your support to get fundraising events off the ground.

PARENT CLASS REPS

If you would like to be the parent rep for your child's class please let the class teacher know or let [the office know](#). This involves an email chain to keep all parents in the loop and updated with special events your class may be involved in. You could also be part of the PTA if you wanted. We are trying to co-ordinate school events and fundraising as much as possible. It is a wonderful opportunity to bring parents together and establish a collective culture in our classrooms. Please see your class teacher if this interests you.

SWIMMING SPORTS

This will be held on Friday 23rd of March, week 7. Senior school (year 4-6) will be in the first block and Junior school will be after first break in the middle block. Parents are welcome to come along to support their children.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

We are operating from 7.00am - 8.30am for a cost of \$5.00 per day, with light breakfast provided. This is a great opportunity for parents who work in the early mornings. If you are interested and would like to enrol your child to attend this service, please contact the BASE team by email: after-school.care@newton.school.nz, or mobile: 027-223-9629.

To ensure proper care and supervision for all children while on school grounds, we ask that children do not arrive at school until 8.30am, unless they are enrolled in the Before Care Programme.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE VACANCY 2018

We are looking for a part-time staff member to join our Before and After School Excellence (BASE) team at Newton Central School.

Days are Wednesday - Friday between the hours of 3pm-5pm for two hours each day, during the school term.

The right person for this role will need to be energetic, responsible, creative, have the ability to engage with children, motivate them to join our daily activities, and ensure their safety so they feel valued and cared for.

Applicants must be able to work in a team environment, have good communication skills, enjoy working with children and having fun.

Previous experience and/or qualifications working with children, as well as a current first aid certificate would be an advantage. The successful applicant will be required to be Police Vetted.

If you feel that you have these qualities, then we would like to hear from you.

Contact us by email: after-school.care@newton.school.nz



TEA CEREMONY

Last Thursday, Miko's whānau demonstrated a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Our Year 1 students (and parents) loved the opportunity to learn about a new culture and their traditions. A big thank you goes to Noriko, Yoshiko and Tsumugi for giving their time and gracefulness.

TERA / Mindfulness

Mindfulness technique shared with staff by Catriona Carruthers which takes only 3 minutes and helps you calm, refocus and relax!

3 minutes

- Get comfortable
- Close your eyes
- 1st Minute: Listen
- 2nd Minute: Notice your breathing
- 3rd Minute: Notice your body
- The most important thing is to Relax

HEALTH & SAFETY

When you are picking up your child early from school, you **MUST** come to the office and sign them out. This also applies when taking your child home after a class trip.

EASTER BREAK 2018

School will be closed on 30th March (Good Friday), 2nd April (Easter Monday) & 3rd April (Easter Tuesday). School will resume on Wednesday 4th April.

CONGRATULATIONS

We are proud to advise everyone that Zion, from Rm 13 has been selected for the Tokelau Tag Football Team who are participating at the NZTFI Sanctioned Junior Oceania Indigenous Invitational Cup tournament in Auckland this weekend. Well done Zion. We wish you all the best.

Juicies will be available this term on Fridays at lunchtime in front of room 7 & 8 for \$2.00

Community Notices

Parenting through Tears and Tantrums. Teens too.

This workshop will help parents to help children, foster emotional development and resilience. Learn how to understand and respond to behaviour and emotions. Create more calm and happiness in your family now. Professionals working with children are most welcome. See Facebook Events for more details on Andrea Graham therapy page. Workshop facilitator Andrea Graham has extensive experience in health, education, behaviour support and psychotherapy. She is a therapist and Autism specialist in private practice.

Sat 10 March 9.30am,-2.30pm. Kotare Avenue, Westmere. Details on registration-booking is essential. Email andrea@andregraham.co.nz to secure your place. An investment of just \$50 for this informative and inspiring opportunity.

AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS
WEEKEND SESSIONS
VIRTUAL SESSIONS
PARENT CHILD SESSIONS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES
APRIL 16-27, 2018

MINECRAFT
ANDROID
GRAPHICS DESIGN
3D PRINTING
PYTHON
HTML/CSS
ROBOTICS
ROBLOX

SCRATCHPAD
TECHNOLOGY LEARNING CENTRES

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