



Principal's Page

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Welcome Back!

I hope everyone is excited to be back at school and has been enjoying the beautiful weather. The staff have been busy over the past couple of weeks, preparing classrooms and the school grounds and organising some exciting learning opportunities. Our priority area for improvement will be **writing** throughout 2018.

Welcome

Haere mai to Joel, Ayden and Quinn, who join Rooms 6, 5 and 3 after a few years in Australia. Welcome back to Sam, who re-joins Room 6. Haere mai also to Karli, who is in Room 2 this year. Finally, a warm Tua Marina welcome to Macie, Journey and Charlie, who are new entrants in Room 1. I know that you and your families will receive a friendly welcome to our community and I look forward to getting to know you all.

Parent Information Evening will begin in the school hall at 6pm on Thursday 8th February, with a brief presentation from me. You will then have the chance to meet your child's teacher. We are aiming to keep the sessions as brief as possible. There will then be a free sausage sizzle, refreshments, games and fun in the swimming pool. This will be a great chance to get to know other parents in your child's class and re-engage with other members of our amazing community. We hope to see you all!

Parent Handbook

Although there are several important items below, we will be sharing the updated Parent Handbook with you shortly. This is a useful reference tool that hopefully answers any questions you may have. It is advisable to retain the booklet to refer to later in the year.

Communication

This year, each class will continue using Seesaw to keep in touch with you. This is a great tool, which allows children to share their learning with you and enables you to post a comment. It is also an easy way to share reminders or brief notices. Please remember, that we all welcome your involvement and invite you to call in, telephone or email, to ensure that there is ongoing communication about your child's learning, progress and development. If you need to get a message to your child's teacher urgently, please call the office on 570 5621 or call the school mobile on 027 447 9276.

Principal's Page continued

Communication (continued)

Please do not send a text or email to your child's teacher, as they will be busy teaching, on duty or in a meeting. If your communication is not of an urgent nature then please feel free to email or Seesaw your child's teacher and they will respond within 48 hours. Please also be mindful that teachers will only be able to talk with you very briefly before school- this is a time when teachers are welcoming children and organising learning for the day. Teachers will be more than happy to talk with you after school or at a mutually convenient meeting time.

Sun Smart

Tua Marina School has well established sun safe procedures, therefore all children will need to:

- Wear a wide-brimmed hat
- Wear a T-shirt or blouse that covers the shoulders
- Apply sunscreen before leaving home and reapply sunscreen when necessary throughout the day
- Have a named water bottle with them

It is also advisable to pack an ice block with lunches.

After School Childcare

Following requests from some families, it is hoped that Oscars will be beginning a collection shuttle bus. They will pick children up from school and transport them to one of their centres (probably Redwoodtown School). The cost will be \$12.50 for the session and a contribution towards the transport cost. Please let me know if you are interested and I will share your details with their co-ordinator.

Homework

We are very conscious that many students have extra-curricular activities and that they often need to travel to get to them. It is important that students participate in these, as they provide for learning experiences that compliment what is learned at school. Equally important, is the opportunity to relax, play and interact with family and friends. Research shows that positive mental health is developed through physical activity, positive relationships and unstructured play opportunities.

We therefore suggest that children spend a little time each afternoon on home learning, with a focus on reading. If you or your child are interested in other aspects of home learning, your child's teacher will be able to offer suggestions. Teachers will provide more detail about home learning in their newsletter and at the Parent Information Evening.

Important Information

Our annual expedition to **White's Bay** will take place on Friday 2nd March- book your day off work now!

Principal's Page continued

Important Information (continued)

Due to the small uptake of **Subway lunches**, we will no longer be organising Subway lunches on a Friday.

Our first **assembly** of the year will be on Friday 9th February. **Assemblies will begin at 2.30pm this year.**

Please note school will be closed on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th February for Waitangi Day.

Parent- Teacher Meetings are planned for Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th February. A further notice will be sent later this week.

And Finally... Our staff are looking forward to a really positive year and are genuinely excited about the year ahead. If there is anything you are unsure about or concerned about, please speak to your child's teacher. If there is something you think everyone would like more information on, please let me know and I will elaborate in my section of the School Newsletter. I look forward to seeing you in the next few days.

Ka kite,

Nick



Tua Marina School
Striving for Peak Performance