



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the new school year. The first few days have been both settled and spirited as students and teachers discover things about each other and start their learning journey for the year. We have had an excellent first few days. Please do remember hats and water bottles. I expect the new school pool will continue to be very well utilized; a wonderful addition to the school experience for our students.

School organization:

In 2018, our teaching staff will again work with students in 3 teams or hubs. The names for the 3 hubs come from the Māori creation story of Hataitai depicted in our logo and school branding. This is also seen in the carved waharoa at the Hamilton Rd entrance.

- **Rooms 1-4: Ngake hub**
- **Rooms 5-7: Whāitaitai hub**
- **Rooms 8-10: Matairangi hub.**

These teams will plan and deliver the curriculum together. Teachers will continue to develop approaches to teaching and learning that bring students together across classes in these areas of the school. In some instances, the design of our buildings support this. For example, rooms 1-2 and 3-4 are able to utilize the opportunities for collaboration provided by the design of the learning studio. Room 9 and 10 are also taking advantage of the building work undertaken last year that increased the opportunity for “hub” style teaching and learning practice. In a “hub” students have a homeroom teacher but work collaboratively with other students where possible across the curriculum. Our challenge is to find opportunities to bring students together. We aim to build on school wide initiatives such as Choosing Thursday and Genius Hour.

2018 Teaching Staff:

Peter Dobson and **Jacqui Brown** are our Deputy Principals. **Glenys Johnston** is our senior teacher and completes the school management team.

Ngake Hub led by Jacqui Brown.		
Teacher	Home room	Student year level
• Ros Moses	Room 1	Year 1
• Jessica White	Room 3	Year 1 and 2
• Kay Mudge	Room 4	Year 2
• Jacqui Brown will work alongside Ros later in the year.		

Whāitaitai led by Glenys Johnston.		
Teacher	Home room	Student year level
• Pearl Tuohy	Room 5	Year 2 and 3
• Glenys Johnston	Room 6	Year 3 and 4
• Alison Thwaites	Room 7	Year 4

Matairangi led by Peter Dobson.		
Teacher	Home room	Student year level
• Asha Patel	Room 8	Year 5
• Peter Dobson	Room 9	Year 5 and 6
• Samuel Wilson	Room 10	Year 5 and 6

Katrina Te Rito will work in different classes throughout the year and lead our comprehensive sports programme. **Rachel France** will work across the school providing both teaching and learning and teacher professional development in te reo and tikanga Māori.

Self-review of home and school communication:

Over the first part of this week staff have been involved in a wide range of self-review activity as part of our teacher only time. Our annual community survey data provided us with a great deal of fertile information. One key focus of the 2017 survey was the quality of home and school communication. Regular and effective communication between the home and school is hugely important. There is a large research base suggesting that the creation of an authentic connection between the home and the school is associated with students' commitment to learn and ultimate success in the classroom. More importantly this makes good common sense to us all as parents.

As a result of our review, this year we are introducing some new ideas to enhance communication and will continue to develop some strategies introduced in 2017 such as the use of regular emails from the school to parents and whanau and the introduction of a blog for each hub. These blogs are available from the home page of our website. Our school website continues to be well maintained with up to date information about our school.

- **School information evening- Thursday February 15th.**

5.00-6.00pm-Bring a picnic to the top field. Staff will be in attendance.

6.00pm-Move to the hall where we will briefly speak about school programmes.

6.15pm-7.00pm- Move to the hubs. Teachers will speak as a team regarding shared programmes. Individual teachers will then be available in their homerooms to chat or answer questions.

- **Student information form.**

Teachers have developed a form for parents to complete about their child. The intention is to provide an opportunity for parents and whanau to give the new classroom teacher some insight into the interests, academic and emotional needs, strengths and personal context of your child. This confidential form will come home **next week** as a document and as an email. Please return this to your child's classroom teacher in the envelope provided or as an email (also to the classroom teacher).

- **Meet the teacher appointments- Tuesday February 20th**

This year we are providing an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers early in the year. This will give parents who wish to meet with their child's teacher a chance to talk through the student information sheet without the child present. Bookings for these meetings will be arranged using our usual on-line booking system. A link will be emailed to you next week in this regard. Learning conferences with students' present will take place in the final week of this term. Have a great weekend and Waitangi Day.

Regards,

Tony Austin.
Principal.

