



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the new school year. It has been great to receive such positive feedback on our holiday property projects. The work on our administration area, hall and Ngake hub is nearly complete and looks terrific. The playground markings are also nearly finished and will provide new break time options for students.

The first few days are always settled and spirited as students and teachers discover things about each other and start their learning journey for the year. Please do remember hats and water bottles. I expect the school pool will continue to be very well utilized by all classes. Our year 1-3 students have professional tuition from the Aquazone coaches in this term with the first session on Thursday this week. Teachers will be encouraging all students to bring their gear to use the pool in this hot weather.

School organization:

In 2019, 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.

2019 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
• Asha Patel	Room 1	Year 1
• Jessica Thompson	Room 3	Year 1 and 2
• Kay Mudge	Room 4	Year 2
• Jacqui Brown will work alongside Asha later in the year.		

Whāitaitai led by Glenys Johnston.		
Teacher	Home room	Student year level
• Elaine Cooper	Room 5	Year 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
• Lou De Lange	Room 8	Year 5
• Peter Dobson	Room 9	Year 5 and 6
• Samuel Wilson	Room 10	Year 6

Katrina Te Rito will work in different classes throughout the year in addition to her normal work in room 9, she will also 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. **Tina Davies** will work regularly in room 6.

Self-review of home and school communication:

During our Teacher Only Days last week staff were involved in a wide range of self-review activity. 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. Last year we again sort feedback about the effectiveness of the communication between home and school particularly at the start of the school year.

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 again introducing some new ideas to enhance communication and will continue to develop some strategies introduced in 2018 such as the use of regular emails from the school to parents and whanau and the maintenance of a blog for each hub. Your feedback has given us plenty to work on.

Hub information evenings- February 11,12 and 13th (week 2).

This year these meetings will be held on separate nights to allow parents to attend more than one where appropriate. We hope these meetings will be a little less hectic for parents, refreshments will be provided by the school. All meetings start at 6pm and look to finish by 7pm, they will be held in the hubs.

- **Monday 11th- Ngake Hub**
- **Tuesday 12th- Whataitai Hub**
- **Wednesday 13th- Matairangi Hub (this will include information about the school camp).**

Student information form.

Teachers have reviewed the 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- Wednesday February 20th (week 3).

In week 3 we are providing an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers early in the year. This gives parents who wish to meet with their child's teacher a chance to talk through the student information sheet without the child present. Teachers will not be presenting student achievement information at these optional meeting. 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 presenting examples of their learning will take place in the final week of term, teachers will share student achievement information at this time.

Have a great Waitangi Day.

Regards,

Tony Austin.
Principal.

