



Dear parents and caregivers,

I am both excited and proud to have been appointed as Principal of Kilbirnie School starting next year. The purpose of this special newsletter is to provide you with some important information regarding the organization and work of our school in 2017. These changes to organization are designed to promote stronger collaboration in learning between classes and students. Continuing to develop school wide relationships and co-operation to support learning is implicit in our vision for education at Kilbirnie School. I have attached the document that presents our vision and graduate profile. The graduate profile summarises the skills and competencies we want our students to develop while at Kilbirnie School. I will refer to this again at the start of next year.

School organization:

In 2017 our teaching staff will work in 3 teams. We are relocating the library to what is currently room 7 to enable **Glenys Johnston** to lead a team of 3 teachers working with year 3 and 4 students. **Peter Dobson** will lead a team of 3, teaching years 5 and 6. **Jacqui Brown** will lead a team of 3, teaching year 0- 2 students. The areas of the school will no longer be known as junior, middle and senior. Teachers are currently working to rename the areas of the school. 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 this 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 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.

New staff:

Earlier this term **Peter Dobson** was appointed to the role of Deputy Principal alongside **Jacqui Brown**. This week we successfully completed the process of appointing two new permanent, full-time teaching staff. I believe these appointments complete a hugely talented, committed and highly reflective team of staff who will work together to continue to develop our school.

- **Alison Thwaites** is well known to many parents. Alison has worked part-time at Kilbirnie School for over 5 years. She is an experienced teacher of high calibre who we respect and trust.
- **Samuel Wilson** is new to the school. Having worked as a Police Officer, Samuel is now a fully certificated teacher having completed 2 years at St Claudine Thevenet School in Wainuiomata. Sam brings a range of skills and huge enthusiasm for his work with students.

2017 Teaching Staff:

Team to be 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.		

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

Team to be led by Peter Dobson.		
Teacher	Home room	Student year level
• Margaret Maher	Room 8	Year 5
• Peter Dobson	Room 9	Year 5 and 6
• Samuel Wilson	Room 10	Year 5 and 6

Katrina Te Rito and **Asha Patel** will continue to work in different classes throughout the year. **Rachel France** will work across the school providing both teaching and learning and teacher professional development in te reo and tikanga Māori. We are very fortunate indeed to have 3 excellent part time teachers who provide a range of opportunities and skills across the school.

Meet the new teacher, teaching team and principal.

On the Monday of the last week of term, students will have an opportunity to spend some time with their 2017 homeroom teacher and new class mates. **Samuel Wilson** will spend the whole day with us. Where possible, classes will also meet with other classes in their team. Early in the new school year there will be an opportunity for parents and Whānau to meet with the teaching teams and discuss the teaching and learning programmes that teachers have developed together.

2017 class lists will be available to view on Friday next week. Please be aware that no changes can be made to lists once issued. A comprehensive and highly detailed placement process has taken place during which a number of factors related to student well-being were considered. In the majority of cases date of birth is the prime consideration. We ask that you encourage your child to think about the opportunities available in a new class with a new teacher and many potential friends that they will work with in the future at our school. Positive engagement in change is really important in developing resilience in students. As mentioned earlier, we are working to develop collaboration between classes at similar and disparate levels within our school. Students will have many opportunities to work and spend time with peers in other homerooms.

As Principal, I intend to be readily available on a day to day basis to meet with parents to discuss students or issues that may arise. In addition to this, I am going to set aside time at 9.00am every Friday morning to meet informally with any interested or available parents or Whānau that wish to chat with me about the current or future work of our school. No appointment necessary, I will gladly make you a cup of tea!

Farewell to Mike McGimpsey.

A final reminder that you are all invited to attend a special assembly to celebrate the retirement of Mike on Wednesday the 14th. We will start on the bottom court at 10.30am and finish in the hall at about 11.30am. Once the students are dismissed we welcome you to join staff for a morning tea which we will provide. Please let Liz know if you intend to join us for this event. office@kilbirnie.school.nz

I am looking forward to meeting and working with parents, caregivers and Whānau once we get started next year.

Regards,

Tony Austin.

Dip. Tch, Bed, Med(merit).