



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the new school year. We have had a great first few days as students and teachers discover things about each other and start their learning journey for the year. Our senior students have made an excellent start working in the Matairangi Hub where mask wearing is now a requirement. All students, teachers and whānau have been consistent with our requirements under the Covid Protection Framework Red level. Please do remember wide brimmed hats are also required this term and we would like all students to have a water bottle at school.

Our year 1-3 students have professional tuition from the Little Makos coaches in the first part of this term. Teachers will be encouraging students across all classes to bring their gear to use the pool which has the advantage of being an outdoor activity during which masks are not required. Our full school picnic is planned for this **Thursday the 10th**, please email permission to your homeroom teacher or return the permission slip that came home today, this contains details of the event.

School organization:

In 2022 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.

- **Ngake hub:** Asha Patel, Rachel France and Kay Mudge.
- **Whāitaitai hub:** Elaine Cooper and Glenys Johnston.
- **Matairangi hub:** Lou De Lange, Soazik Duncan and Peter Dobson.

Katrina Te Rito will work in Peter's room, she will also lead our sports programme. **Tina Davies** will work in Glenys' room. **Alison Thwaites** will work with Kay and Rachel. Rachel will spend time working across the school providing both teaching and learning and teacher professional development in te reo and tikanga Māori. **Denise Copley** will work in Asha's room. **Alison Tannock** will support student achievement in reading in the Ngake hub.

Peter Dobson and **Glenys Johnston** are our Deputy Principals. **Asha Patel** is our Senior Teacher and completes the school management team. These staff also lead the hubs.

Home and school communication:

We always discuss and review the quality of home and school communication as part of our work together before school starts for the new year. This year we did this in the context of the Covid Protection Framework. Staff will implement several new initiatives to enhance communication between home and school with a focus on limiting face to face interaction.

I would like to emphasise that all our staff, including myself, intend to be highly accessible as usual to all parents and whanau. If you want or need to engage with a staff member you just need to ask. Staff email contacts are available on the school website and in emails sent to you. These are regular and focus on learning and organisational matters. Individual hubs and teachers will talk more about this.

Hub information evenings held over Zoom- February 9,10 and 11th (week 2, next week).

These meetings will be held on separate nights to allow parents to attend more than one Zoom meeting where appropriate. All meetings start at **6pm and look to finish by 7pm**. Hub leaders will provide the meeting link and any further information needed in advance of these sessions:

- **Tuesday 8th- Matairangi Hub.**
- **Wednesday 9th - Ngake Hub.**
- **Thursday 10th- Whataitai Hub.**

Student information form emailed to you today.

This form is for parents to complete about their child. The intention is to provide an opportunity for parents and whānau to give the new classroom teacher some insight into the interests, academic and emotional needs, strengths and personal context of your child from a parental perspective.

Teachers will use this in conjunction information from other teachers and their own observations and assessment activities early in the year. This confidential form is attached. Please return this to your child's classroom teacher via email. We would like this form to be completed for all students.

Meet the teacher appointments- online or by telephone: Wednesday February 16th and Thursday 17th.

In week 3 we are providing an optional 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 or in general terms without the child present.

Teachers will not be presenting student achievement information at these optional meetings. Individual hubs and teachers will be in touch to let you know how they will connect with you at the time you select.

Bookings for these 10 minute meetings will be arranged using our usual on-line booking system, this will open toward the end of next week. Teachers will email you with information and a link to the booking system.

**Me mahi Tahi Tatou Mo Te Oranga O Te Katoa.
When we work together we all benefit.**

Have a great Waitangi Day.

Regards,

**Tony Austin.
Principal.**