



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the new school year. We have had a great first day today as students and teachers discover things about each other and start their learning journey for the year. Our Whāitaitai Hub students have made an excellent start in their new homeroom spaces. Students have been using the pool today, this is accessed in the usual way. I have been delighted to see the pool being well used by our students during the holiday period. 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.

All homerooms continue to adhere to sensible public health procedures related to Covid 19. This includes hand washing and surface cleaning. Please do remember wide brimmed hats are also required this term and we would like all students to have a water bottle at school.

Whāitaitai Building Project.

As I mentioned on Monday, we have successfully met the targets we wanted to achieve before students returned to school. The buildings are down and the materials are starting to be removed. Students and teachers have talked about the safety fencing separating the playground from the building area. The fencing has been placed to ensure students are kept well away from this area. We still have two access points to the adventure playground. I will provide regular updates as we progress through the stages of construction with the building due for completion in term 4.

Playground.

The field is not able to be used during the construction of the new building. We have worked to create additional options and activities for our students during the lunchtime period. There will be a pop-up library for quiet reading and conversation, a chess and board games option and resources for drawing- these supervised activities will operate out of the Ngake Hub and be available to all students. Senior students will be rostered to use the hall for sports. Our student council is also looking at providing break time options.

As part of teaching and learning programmes teachers will continue to utilise facilities in our community including the Aquatic centre, the ASB Indoor centre, the Kilbirnie recreation centre, the public library in Kilbirnie and the grass fields at Kilbirnie Park.

Parking and driving near the school.

We have consulted Tracer- the company building the new block and also the Police regarding our concerns about parking and driving near the school. Some issues are obviously exacerbated by the building project. We do hope to create a drop off area near an entrance to the school at some stage in the future but planning for this will now be on hold until the building is complete and operational. Until the building is complete we ask that there is strictly no stopping on the yellow lines between the crossing on Hamilton Road and the entrance to the building site. Please do not park over the gate or on the speed bump adjacent to this gate. We will continue to provide supervised crossing of both Hamilton Road and Moxham Avenue from 8.40am and also after school. I would like to acknowledge that there are challenges with

finding a park near the school and thank our community for supporting us through cautious, courteous and legal driving and parking.

School picnic.

Our full school picnic is planned for next **Thursday the 9th (postponement date Friday 10th)**. Due to changes in the Khandallah Park facilities we have planned a new event this year. Our school will walk to Kilbirnie Park together soon after 9am before rotating hubs through games on the field and a session at Aquatic centre. Each Hub will provide you with more detail about the activities planned, gear needed and also their return to school time. There is a small cost for pool use which will be added to the term 1 account notes. As this is classified as a local trip a permission letter is not required, talk to your homeroom teacher if you have any questions.

School organization:

In 2023 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, Juliet McPhee and Molly Hayes.
- **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. **Rachel France** will spend time working across the school providing both teaching and learning and teacher professional development in te reo and tikanga Māori. Rachel will also do work in Molly's homeroom. **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 2022 end of year survey. Staff will implement several new initiatives and build on others to enhance communication between home and school.

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 emails are regular and focus on learning and organisational matters. Individual hubs and teachers will talk more about this at the hub meetings.

Hub information evenings- February 7, 8, 9th (week 2, next week).

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

- **Tuesday 7th- Matairangi Hub.**
- **Wednesday 8th - Ngake Hub.**
- **Thursday 9th- 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. Wednesday February 15th.

In week 3 we are providing an optional opportunity for parents to meet with teachers in person 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. Bookings for these 10 minute meetings will be arranged using our usual on-line booking system, this will open on Tuesday next week at 6pm. I will email you with a link to the booking system earlier in the day.

Emergency Food and water.

Last year we did a full review of our emergency procedures including our procedure for reunification. This is when it is necessary to have whānau come and collect students from school in circumstances such as an earthquake. Our approach controls the release of students to those named as emergency contacts on the enrolment or annual contact information update form. This form came home late last year. Please return this if you haven't already and update the office immediately if you have a change in contact information for you as parents or those named as emergency contacts.

We have also changed our approach to ensuring there is emergency food and water for students if they need to be at school for an extended period waiting to be collected during reunification. We no longer ask you to provide an individual food box and water bottle for your child. We will review our student information around food requirements and allergies and set up a centralised emergency food and water supply to use if necessary. There will be a small charge per student captured in the term 2 account notes. At the end of the year this food will be donated to charity. We will repeat this process at the start of the new school year.

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

Have a great Waitangi Day. School is closed on Monday.

Regards,

**Tony Austin.
Principal.**

Whātaimai Hub demolition.

