

WITHERLEA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Monday 10th February 2020

Term 1 Week 2: 2020



Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou Witherlea whanau,

Welcome back to the 2020 school year - we have so many things planned to motivate and engage our learners, tap into their strengths and interests and connect our local curriculum to their individual needs.

An important event on the school timetable is our Meet the Teacher Evening next Tuesday starting at 5:30pm - this is such an important first connection with your child's teacher and to find out about the 'new' Hub.

We started the year with two 'Teacher Only Days' which helped us prepare for the year ahead, connected us back to core mahi (work) and brought clarity to our focus on Mathematics (which began in 2019).

All schools in Marlborough will be learning the DMIC (Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities) method through Massey University over the next two years. All schools in New Zealand are concerned about the achievement of our learners in this core learning area. Last year we had 66.6% achievement in Mathematics so we have targeted this area along with; Arts and Culture and Digital Technologies for 2020.

Please see the website for our 2020 Charter which guides all our mahi (work) or stop in to 'Coffee with the Principal' to discuss the inner workings of the school or to just connect.

**Ngā manaakitanga,
Andrea Harnett - Tumuaki**

Welcome to School

Welcome certificates will be handed out at
Assembly on Friday, Week 5, 12:30pm;

Year 1- 2 Punga Team Ferns Room

*Will D, Emelia H, Connor F, Evalyn H, Evie H, Gus M,
Harriet M, Jayden G, Quin C, Yaduveer S*

Year 4 Kowhai Team Room 16

Chayce K, Olivia D

Year 5-6 Kauri Team Room 9

Kavali T

Room 19

Tyrecee P

Term One - Gala FUN

This year - to ensure our GALA Team is supported, each of our classes will 'ADOPT' a stall. The roster to supervise on the day will be in the window of each class so that we cover ALL stalls at ALL times. Some parents and teachers are already committed to the running of a stall so we are looking for others to share the load on the day.

The great news is; ALL stalls are ready to go with the kits to effectively run them - you just turn up, follow the instructions and support our MAJOR school fundraiser for 2020. **Gala details will be sent out today!**

"Ararangi - Pathway to the Sky"

Empowering all learners to reach their potential in an innovative community

Term Events

Term 1

Week Two

Monday 10th February

Board Meeting: 5:30pm - Library

Thursday 13th February

Coffee with the Principal 8:30am

Week Three

Tuesday 18th February

Meet the Teacher evening: In classes

Ferns/Punga - 5:30pm

Kowhai - 6pm

Kauri - 6:30pm

'New' Ferns makeover open to community

Thursday 20th February

Coffee with the Principal 8:30am (Staffroom)

Week Four

Thursday 27th February

Coffee with the Principal

Week Five

Thursday 5th March

Coffee with the Principal: 8:30am (Staffroom)

Friday 6th March

Assembly 12:30pm

Tane Mahuta Hub - Room 8, 9, 20

Week 6

Thursday 12th March

Coffee with the Principal: 8:30am (Staffroom)

Week Seven

Thursday 19th March

NO Coffee with the Principal (Gala)

Friday 20th March

Marlborough Swimming Sports

Assembly 12:30pm (Outdoor)

Uenuku Hub: Room 18, 19

Sunday 22nd March

Witherlea School Gala 11am

Week Eight

Tuesday 24th March

Tackle Sevens Term 1 Tournament

Thursday 26th March

Coffee with the Principal 8:30am (Staffroom)

Friday 27th March

St Johns Fundraiser - Gold Coin Donation

Black and White Mufti Day

Week Nine

Monday 30th March - Thursday 2nd April

Parent Teacher Interviews booked through

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

(Interim Report sent home once interview is booked)

Early Finish - 1pm on Tuesday 31st March

Monday 30th-Tuesday 31st March

Grip Leadership Trip: COMs Team (Christchurch)

Thursday 2nd April

Coffee with the Principal 8:30am (Staffroom)

Friday 3rd April

Assembly 12:30pm

Kowhai: Hub 4 - Room 15, 16, 17

Week Ten

Monday 6th April - Thursday 9th April

Hub 2 Fundamentals TBC

DONATIONS and FEES

Thank you so much for your responses last year to our Donations and Fees Survey. It was unanimous across the community that our extra curricula programmes; Fundamentals, Swim Week and Camps are valued so will continue in 2020. We as a school could not provide these if they are not paid for so these will appear, with the Year 4-6 camp price in the invoice that goes out at the start of the year.

There are many ways to pay these invoices;

- one lump sum
- small regular payments which can be organised through Mrs Val Nelson in the office (direct debit or automatic payment)
- assistance or support - if some or the whole amount cannot be paid, a meeting can be organised with Ms Andrea Harnett (Principal) to access 'funding' (we do not want any children missing out due to financial issues)

Unless either of the above options are organised it is expected that ALL other families will pay for the extra curricula provided.

We have read through all comments and many people suggested, *"If the DONATION is so important then don't say it is voluntary?"*

SIMPLE ANSWER: we are legally required to state that it is voluntary otherwise we are in breach of the Education Act.

Schools in New Zealand are funded under a Decile Rating and Witherlea School is Decile 9. This means we do not qualify for extra funding in our operations grant nor do we qualify for the School Donation Scheme which provides \$150 per student. We are among the most affluent schools in New Zealand where the community is able to support the school.

Please note; if you CANNOT afford to pay the donation we do not chase you nor should you feel any guilt. If you CAN afford the donation then please pay this as our school relies on the support of our community to provide many of the extras that we believe are essential to learning but cannot be covered in the Operations Grant;

- **Teacher Aide time;** an extra adult in every Hub to support behaviour and learning needs (even if your child does not get this resource directly - they will get their teacher for more time because they are free to teach)
- **Digital Resources;** iPads, Mac Books, charging stations, Digital Technologies equipment (updated every year)
- **Library and School Pool;** our pool operates two terms throughout the year and our Library is open ALL year round to support literacy habits within the school.

We look forward to another action packed year and the support you show us.

Teacher Only Days 2020

These are the dates below ;

Term Two

Friday 29th May (Week 5)

Across Marlborough: All Schools

Term Three

Friday 4th September (Week 7)

Term Four

Friday 20th November (Week 6)



Scuttles Update

Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Fair
Kia Atawhai. Kia ora, Kia Tika

Our school MOTTO in action;

Many, many thanks to the **Hogg, Tinker, Watmough-Smith, Heaney, Grant, Finch, Patrick, Straker, Capillino, Nicholls, Price, Davies and Morrison** families who so kindly showed empathy, concern and kindness as they fed our School Cat Scuttles over the long Christmas break.

At the end of the holidays Scuttles was very unwell. She spent 4 nights at **VET MARLBOROUGH** under the expert care of vets **MARY BOWRON** and **STUART BURROUGH** and the **VET NURSES** there. We are very appreciative of the skill, attention and kindness all of the staff at **VET MARLBOROUGH** gave to our school cat Scuttles, who is now healthy and happily back at Witherlea School ready for the school year.



SUMMER SPORT

Our Sports Hub is open via the website & School App for summer sport registrations - these are all online and payment for sports can be made at the school office. Sport after school can only occur if enough coaches and managers assist the teams.

Volleyball

Registrations for Yr 3-6 are now open.
Entries close on Friday 14th February.

Summer Hockey

Registrations for Year 3-6 are now open.
Entries close on Tuesday 11th February.

INTERSCHOOL Rugby Sevens

Tackle Rugby Tournament played during school time - trials and practices will be held at school. Mouthguard essential to play. Tournament on Tuesday 24th March @ Lansdowne Park

Marlborough Swimming Sports

This event is for Year 5-6 students with Phoebe Quirk selecting the team before the competition on Friday 20th March - newsletters to go out to the Swim Team.

5 x 5 Basketball: Have a Go day

More details regarding this event will be sent out to students in Year 5-6 who wish to take part and teams will be selected closer to the date; Thursday 26th March.

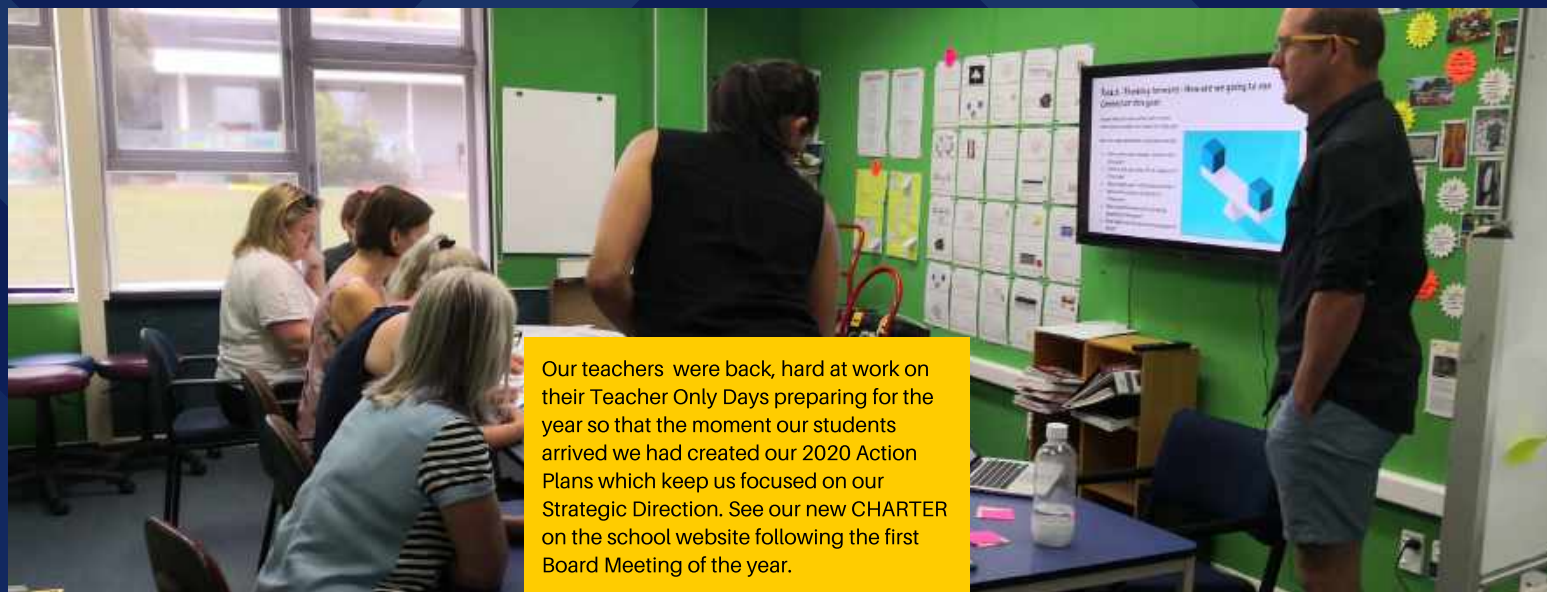
For any sporting queries please email Mrs Phoebe Quirk; phoebem@witherlea.school.nz

Play Based Learning

Our newest students in the Ferns Room enjoying their new space and exploring learning through Pataitai which is our Play Based Learning philosophy. 2020 will see this extend into our Year 2 Hub so that our children learn and grow through PLAY.



Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Fair Kia Atawhai, Kia Ora, Kia Tika



Our teachers were back, hard at work on their Teacher Only Days preparing for the year so that the moment our students arrived we had created our 2020 Action Plans which keep us focused on our Strategic Direction. See our new CHARTER on the school website following the first Board Meeting of the year.



Great to see our school families at the Waitangi Weekend Maori Festival; Mrs Muir and her family, Jack and Laila wearing the moko with pride.



The 'new look' Ferns Room in action with their Play Based Learning programme: Pataitai last week.



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