



NEWSLETTER

Message from the Principal

Kia Ora Whanau and Families

I would like to say a very big thank you to all the parents who gave their time and energy at our Year 6 camp, recently held at Camp Wainui. The students experienced a wide range of activities despite the inclement weather! Outdoor education camps like these are fantastic opportunities for our students to experience being away from home, facing a range of challenges in the outdoors, and learning about themselves and others. We are very grateful for the support families provide and for the many parents who take time out of their busy lives to be a parent helper. I wish to acknowledge the awesome teaching staff who planned for and delivered an excellent Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) experience.

Our new school buildings are nearing completion. Interior painting is underway and carpet is being laid in some of the teaching spaces. The shortage of builders has meant a three week delay in the completion date. We now plan to move into the new buildings after Queens Birthday weekend in early June. The school carpark, the new junior playground in front of Whanau Tui, will be constructed in June. The painting of the old school with it's 'new look' will begin in the next week or so!

Congratulations to all the many students who participated in the Weetbix Kiwi Kids Tryathlon. It was a fantastic event, and is a wonderful way for our students to enter into triathlon in a non-competitive manner. We will be looking for students who are interested in competing in the event for 2019 during term four, so if you are looking to participate, it will be back again next year! I have included a link to the work of world renowned educationalist Sir Ken Robinson. His work on future thinking schooling and creativity are well worth looking up. As our new Government start their reviews on education in New Zealand, I believe it is worth considering educational thinkers like Sir Ken and what relevance might his thinking have for us at Newtown School.

I wish to remind all parents that with Easter break approaching next week our school has planned a Staff Development Day on Thursday 29 March (school will be open for instruction for those students needing supervision). School will be closed for Easter from Good Friday, (March 30) through until Easter Tuesday, 3 April. We will welcome students back to school on Wednesday 4 April. Then school will close for two weeks from Monday 16 April, with Term Two starting on Monday 30 April.

Noho ora mai ra,

Mark Brown

Principal – Tumuaki

Welcome Trish

The Newtown School community welcomes Trish as our new school Administration Manager.

Trish comes to us with a wealth of school administration management expertise. This, along with her personal qualities and positive attributes, strengthens the school ability to serve you as parents and administer a rapidly growing school.

Trish has recently been the Wellington High School Executive Assistant to the school principal and senior leadership team.

Previously, she was the Executive Assistant at Whanganui High School to their leadership team.

Come in and introduce yourself.



Trish Tuthill, new school Administration Manager (left) with her 'baby' Portia.

Staff Professional Development Day - Thursday 29 March

Reminder notice

The Newtown School Board of Trustees, has approved a staff professional development day, to be held on Thursday 29 March.

This day will allow our staff professional development time in readiness for the move in early June to our new school.

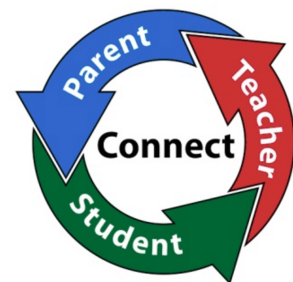
School will be still open for instruction for any students needing to be supervised on this day. A notice was sent home last week.

Please return the notice back to your home class teacher if your child will be at school on Thursday or ring our office staff to inform them.

Learning Conversations

If, for any reason, you were unable to attend these interviews, I would encourage you to make contact your child's home class teacher to organise an alternative time or just 'catch up' with them.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch directly with them. They are available in their whanau to meet informally with parents from 8:30am - 9:00am daily and again straight after school (depending on whether or not they have meetings).



MEDICATIONS

At Newtown we ask parents and caregivers that all students that prescribed medications hand them into the school office.

Office staff will only administer medicines to students once a form has been completed and signed by a parent or caregiver.



New Pre-schoolers enrolling at Newtown School.

If you have a pre-schooler due to start this year, or know someone who does, please ask them to come into school and complete an enrolment form or download one from the school website. It is very important that we know who is coming so we can plan our classrooms and ensure that you get plenty of notice around our transition to school programme.

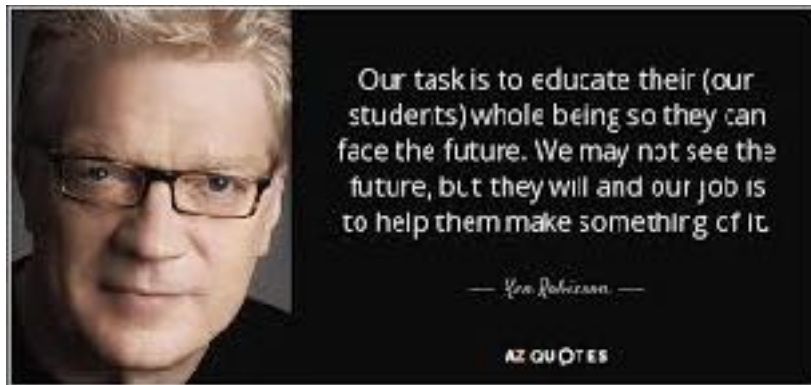
Scooters at school

We ask that parents name their child's scooter prior to it being brought to school for identification and security.

Our school scooter and bike cage is locked during the school day. It is open for scooters and bikes to be stored in the cage between 8.30 - 9.10 am. It will be unlocked again from 3.00pm to 3.15pm.

The cage will then be locked. If you require removing the scooters or bikes after these times, please contact our school office.

If your child brings home a scooter that does not belong to them and if has come from school, please have them return it or contact the school



World renowned educationalist Sir Ken Robinson is an inspirational author, speaker and international advisor on education. Sir Ken has children very much at the heart of his research and he is future focused on us (teachers and parents) preparing young people for the world they will live in and lead as adults.

Here is a link from a recent [School News](#) release to give you some insight into his work. Very interesting thoughts on collaboration, technology, national testing and more.

Book Amnesty

We are asking all our families to have a look for any school library, reading books or journals at home.

Please have a look to see if there are any of these books at home that should have been returned to school and bring them to the school



Curriculum Corner!

THE ART OF CONVERSATION!

Parents can have considerable influence over their children's language and brain development by engaging them in conversation. The important thing is not just to talk to your child, but to talk *with* your child. It's not just about dumping language into your child's brain, but to actually carry on a conversation with them.

Interactive conversation gives children more of an opportunity to practice their communication skills, including the ability to understand what another person is trying to say.



Parenting Helpline

get support, advice and practical strategies

we can help with any of your parenting concerns

Call 0800 568 856
9am - 9pm Monday to Sunday

www.parenthelp.org.nz

Parent Help

A very special welcome to these new students to our school this week:

Gia, Kenedi, Te Pakere

Aarya, Odhran, Maia

Term Dates 2018

Term 1 - Wednesday 7 February to Friday 13 April

Term 2 - Monday 30 April to Friday 6 July

Term 3 - Monday 23 July to Friday 28 September

Term 4 - Monday 15 October to Thursday 20 Dec.

CHANGE OF DETAILS

It would greatly assist us if you could please advise the office if you have any changes of address, phone numbers or emergency caregiver details. In the event of an emergency, sickness or injury we need to be able to contact someone who can collect your child.