

WITHERLEA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Tuesday - Rātū - 9th February 2021

Term One Week Two



Principal's Message



Kia ora koutou Witherlea whanau,

It is with immense positivity that we look towards 2021 as a year where anything and everything is possible.

The teachers and wider staff have had an amazing week together unpacking our curriculum, assessment and procedures so that we can walk confidently into 2021 ensuring that our VISION for our learners is at the forefront of what we do, on a daily basis;

Empowering ALL learners to reach their potential in an innovative community.

How do we ensure this? Through our connection with our families and whānau, listening to our students and making sure our teaching and learning programmes are; scaffolded, differentiated and that they have age-appropriate feedback as part of the assessment loop. We are designing a curriculum that has clear pathways for our learners and reflects our community.

We do ask that if you have skills or expertise in any area and wish to share this with your child's classroom or with a group of students, touch base with your class teacher so we can reach out to you.

The board will be ratifying our school CHARTER at the first meeting for the year and this will be up on the website for you to check out - thank you for everyone who sent their invaluable feedback as part of the consultation process.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Andrea Harnett - Tumuaki

Nau mai, haere mai ki te kura o Witherlea

We wish to welcome these new students and their families and whānau to our school and community;

Punga - Hub 1 (Ferns)

Lilian A, Maddison C, Lillian G, Aylah H,
Zakiya H, Max M, Elena M, Skye N,
Noah O, Ze Hui O, Ada P, Archie P, Dylan
S, Theo S, Elodie T, Madelyn T-K, Holly T

Punga - Year 2-3

Ebony J, Jai W

Kowhai - Year 3-5

Sophie J, Jack-Curtis O, Taylor M, Alex W

Kauri - Year 5-6

Skye J, Ava L, Caleb W

*Welcome to School Certificates are given out at our
Flag Raising on a Monday morning at 9am*

Cell Phones and Smartwatches

Both of these items are deemed as devices and these **are not permitted at school**. All devices are supplied by the school and align and/or are integrated with our systems for safety. Parents may communicate via the office, Seesaw or via email to pass important messages to their children. Children who do bring these items can hand them into the office or teacher for the day and collect them at the end as per our procedure.

"Ararangi - Pathway to the Sky"

Empowering all learners to reach their potential in an innovative community

Term Events

Term 1 - Wahanga Tuatahi

Week 1 - Wiki Tuatahi

Monday 1st February- Friday 5th February

Teacher Only Week: School Closed

Friday 5th February

New Entrant and Year 6 Orientation

Week 2 - Wiki Tuarua

Monday 8th February

Waitangi Day observed: School Closed

Tuesday 9th February- Friday 12th February

First week of school for children

Tuesday 9th February

Day 1 - School Open @ 8:15am - Coffee Cart

Mihi Whakatau (Welcoming)

Open Classrooms and Flag Raising

Families and Whānau welcome

Week 3 - Wiki Tuatoru

Monday 15th February- Friday 19th February

Monday 15th February

Coffee with the Principal - following Flag Raising

Tuesday 16th February

Meet the Teacher Evening: 5pm-7pm

(Also in LINKS in School App)

Week 4 - Wiki Tuawha

Monday 22nd February- Friday 26th February

Monday 22nd February

Coffee with the Principal - following Flag Raising

Friday 26th February

Assembly: Introducing Kauri 2021 - 2:15pm

Week 5 - Wiki Tuarima

Tuesday 1st March- Friday 5th March

Monday 1st March

Coffee with the Principal - following Flag Raising

BOT Meeting - 5:30pm Green Room

Friday 5th March

New Entrant Meeting @ 2:15pm

(Staffroom)

Week 6 - Wiki Tuoano

Monday 8th March- Friday 12th March

Monday 8th February

Coffee with the Principal - following Flag Raising

Friday 12th March

Assembly: Introducing Kowhai 2021 - 2:15pm

Meet the Teacher Programme

This evening is designed for ALL parents and caregivers to meet their child's teacher, see some of the inner workings of the new class and/or team. We have staggered each team so that parents who have more than one child can meet all the teachers for the 2021 year on Tuesday 16th February. We value the connections we make and know these connections are vital for strong relationships between home and school. See the times below;

- 5pm: Ferns Team - Ferns Room, Room 4, Room 5
- 5:30pm: Punga Team - Room 11, Room 12, Room 13
- 6pm: Kowhai Team - Room 15, Room 16, Room 17, Room 18
- 6:30pm: Kauri Team - Room 6, Room 7, Room 8, Room 9

Mrs Tracee Lee will be taking the reins from Ms Herdman in week 7 and will also attend this evening.

2021 Donations

Witherlea School is a place where everyone can feel excited, motivated and positive, from the teachers to the children, support staff to visitors, whānau to our wider community.

Donations make a big difference to our ability to go the extra mile for our students, and we are exceptionally grateful to those who are able to give.

There are many ways to pay these invoices;

- one lump sum
- small regular payments which can be organised through 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 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 to other schools.

We are regarded 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. Further to this, if you would like to donate MORE than the stated amount this goes towards supporting families in need to meet costs for the year.

Year 6 Trained Leadership Positions

Road Patrol Trained

Millie R, Tommy P, Holly M, Sam M, Connor M, Eva K, Xanthia A, Fade M, Izan W, Summer F, Sophie P, Sean L, Faron R, Hayley C, Rab K, Terry M, Laeland B, Bradley B, James H, Kylah W, Kade N, Kavali T, Lior S, Izzy O, Dakota A, Rhys H, Nickeshia B, Aimee G, Alice R-S, Meg H, Jack M, Chey W, Luke B, Brooke B, Louis R, Hero K, Katlyn R, Ella P, Fionn H

We have a new roster system for Road Patrol with each child on for only one-day for the year. This will be sent home day 1. If you can supervise Road Patrol please let the office know. Without supervision, this cannot go ahead.

Peer Mentor Trained

This is a new position for Year 6 and will be trained in school over the next two weeks so they are ready to work in our playground at morning tea and lunch.

Medical Monitor Trained

These students will be trained via St Johns and will earn their certificate to support many of the minor injuries that happen at school.

Breakfast in Schools

We are delighted to bring Breakfast in Schools to Witherlea. It will be held in the school Hall on a Monday and Wednesday commencing Week 5. We have a few details to work through with helpers and equipment however Sanitarium and Fonterra will supply the Weetbix and milk.

We know many of our students have NO breakfast before school so this will be a way we can support them.

This will only be available after 8:30am as school is not open for students before this time.

We will keep you posted for further details before the start date.

Sports Hub Update

Summer Sport 2021

Rippa Rugby: 5 Weeks = Landsdowne Park (Y1-Y6)

Summer Hockey - Registrations **LAST DAY**

Volleyball - To Be Advised

Tennis: continues from Term 4 2020

Register for the above afterschool sports via our Sports Hub. This can be found on our School App and Website

Sports Coordinator 2021

Dan Stephens will be our new Sports Coordinator for 2021. This role primarily organises in school sporting/whole school events and coordinates the teams for afterschool sports. The role is only as successful as the SUPPORT; managers and coaches from our community are essential for most of our codes to go ahead. Any sporting queries can be sent to dans@witherlea.school.nz



WITHERLEA SCHOOL PARENT COMMUNITY GROUP

We'd like to welcome everyone back for 2021 and to say an especially big welcome to all our new school families!

Keep an eye out for WSPCG news, events and ways you can be involved!

COVID-UPDATE

According to the Lowy Institute, New Zealand has been ranked the best at responding to the COVID-19 outbreak out of nearly 100 countries. So, the key message for us all is to remain calm and continue to do our best to protect ourselves, which is why it's important to:

- regularly wash and dry your hands
- cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue or into your elbow
- practise physical distancing if you don't know someone
- stay home if you're unwell and seek advice about getting tested

When coming onto Witherlea School property, please use the COVID-19 Tracer app including its Bluetooth functionality as it gives our colleagues in Health the best and quickest chance of contact tracing, which is an important element of keeping us safe and maintaining our privileged position at Alert Level 1.

Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Fair

Kia Atawhai, Kia Ora, Kia Tika



Welcome to all of our new Ferns!!
Mrs Clark and Mrs Lucas welcomed our new, youngest members of the school, to the Ferns room on Friday of week 1.



Omaka Powhiri
Whole staff mahi at Omaka Marae on Monday 1st February to ground ourselves in our work together acknowledging the important role we play in society.



Nau mai haere mai kit te kura o Witherlea!
A huge welcome to Ange Ives in Room 18, Harriet Mackle in Room 4 and Tracee Lee (who will be taking over from Jemma Herdman in Week 7 in Room 8)



School App 2021



Download the Witherlea School App from the PlayStore for Apple or Android

As the 'new' school year has begun could you please ensure your School App is;

- updated (latest version)
- your alerts are correct (classes, teams, sports and cultural groups)

This is how we communicate to the whole school for events, to update and if there is an EMERGENCY.

Remember, you can access the Newsletter, Sports Hub, Parent Calendar and sending absentee messages.



Contacts Us;

Email: office@witherlea.school.nz
Phone: (03) 578 5568

Text for Absences

022 310 1990

Bank Account Details;

Witherlea School Board of Trustees
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Eftpos available at school office