

Birkenhead Primary School

Newsletter July 27, 2018



Mihi nui e te whanau o Te Kura Matarae o Onewa

Children are at last able to enjoy playing on the boat. Thanks so much to Mr Smith, Mr Sanders and all the parents who helped get it ready, Andrew Bowie, Daniel Larsen, Richard Gazzard, Mark Bradford, Peter Hall.

The children have been cruising, fishing, rescuing people who have fallen overboard from circling sharks - it's pretty full on. The boat's cabin is a great place to sit and chat.



Chinese children visiting us - We have a group of 10 Chinese children spending the next two weeks with us to see what school is like in New Zealand. It is possible that some of them might return to us next year as longer term students. We will try to involve them in school activities as much as we can, and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Staffing changes: Room 4 - Miss Bethany Robb has joined us this term, to start our latest New Entrant group - Welcome, Bethany; Room 5 - Mrs Spear is teaching Room 5 Thursdays and Fridays, to allow Miss MacLean time for her Special Needs Co-ordination (SENCO) duties; Mrs Rees is teaching Room 12 on Thursdays and Fridays to allow Mrs Anderson to teach Room 13 whilst Miss Payne is overseas; Mrs Davidson is teaching Room 15 this week whilst Miss Robison is back home visiting family.

Kapa Haka - We have always struggled to attract our boys to kapa haka, as they would generally prefer to be outside with their friends at lunchtime, kicking, bouncing or throwing a ball around, so we are trialing a change of time for the second half year - kapa haka will now be at 12:30 on Fridays. We REALLY want our boys to consider joining in. At this time, the Panuku classes will be doing their reo, but Mrs Arrowsmith and Mrs Lapuste will also build that into kapa haka time.

Strike Action - It seems likely that Teachers and Principals will vote to extend their strike for the full day on August 15th - so parents, please have a **backup plan for your children** for the day. The Board will inform you as soon as possible after the vote has closed on Tuesday as to what will happen at our school on the strike day.

Key issues: As a result of a **lack of adequate salary recognition** of the teacher role and **ongoing workload issues**, we have **poor enrolment rates in Teacher Training** which will cause major staffing issues in the future; we have **real shortages of relievers** as they have all been urged to take on regular teaching roles. We have **inadequate funding for children needing Learning and/or Behaviour/Emotional support**; **lack of movement in resourcing schools for the employment of Special Education Co-coordinators**; **lack of movement in increasing Classroom Release time** for teachers to be able to do assessments with their children; **lack of resourcing for Leadership roles**. We really need to see a plan for improvement in so many areas. Some years after the class size issue you will remember, Year Four to Eight children still have the worst Teacher to Student ratio in the whole schooling system. Why should our Year Four to Six children have a poorer teacher ratio than Secondary Students? Teachers are not simply asking for instant solutions. We are asking for a commitment from the MOE that they will actually start to address very long-standing issues.

Fantastic news: An elderly gentleman named Rob Hunt has offered to research and write a history of our School in time for the Centenary next year. This is such a generous offer, and we know that alumni will love to be able to read of the earlier years in the school's history. Our sincere thanks Rob, and we are looking forward to meeting you. On that note, if any of you know of any way in which I can contact family members of Mr B. I. F. Hall, who attended this school in the 1920s and who was with us for the launch of our Alumni Tile Wall before he passed away, please contact me as soon as possible.

Reminders: School starts promptly at 8.50am and the roll is called straight away. If your child is late, it is important that they come to the office to sign in. Children should not be at school before 8.20am. **School finishes at 3.00pm.** Please ensure that your child is collected on time or knows how they are to be getting home each day.

Absences: Please leave a message (with the reason for the absence) on the absence line (Ph 480 7365 Option 1), or email absence@birkenheadprimary.school.nz if your child is going to be away from school. Applications for all long term absences must be requested in writing and approved by the Principal, prior to the absence.

Enrolments for 2018/2019: We are already planning for 2019. If you are living within the school zone and have a child turning five from now until the end of this year, please could you contact the office as soon as possible if you have not yet enrolled your child.

2019 Out of Zone enrolments

If you have a sibling of a current child who will be turning 5 next year and you are currently living outside of the School Zone, please could you contact Elaine ASAP.

Calendar

July 30 - BOT meeting

July 30 - August 3 – Book week. Character parade on Friday August 3.

August 2 - Rippa rugby day for those who are in school teams

August 24 - Daffodil Day

September 7 - Whole school cross country

September 20 - Performing Arts Show

September 21 - PTA trivia night

BOOK WEEK IS NEXT WEEK - JULY 30 - AUG 3rd.

Our theme is ' **A Book Before a Movie** ' This theme will give the children the opportunity to discover how many movies were actually books long before they were on the big screen.

- There will be several authors coming into school during next week to talk with the children - Suzanne Masefield, Karen McMillen, Melinda Szymanik and Sarah Spear. All authors are local-based and will talk about their books, read them to the children and give some insights into their writing journey.

- We will be running some competitions in the Library.

- We would love Grandparents and parents to become involved by reading their favourite book (before it was a movie) or any children's book they love, to a class,

- This year there will be no Book Fair, but a Scholastic Book Club brochure has been sent home this week - please support our school by buying some of these books (at greatly discounted prices). **Please also consider buying a book to donate to the school library. We will put a 'donated by' sticker into the book to recognise the donation.**

- Finally, the famous Book Parade will be held on **Friday 3 August** - we will walk through the Birkenhead Town Centre as usual, leaving school at approximately 9.15.

So, there is plenty of time for you and your child to plan an amazing outfit for the day.

BPS Walking School Buses: The weather might be a bit cold and damp but our two Walking School Buses – the Hinemoa Hikers and the Mokoia Marchers – are still walking, rain or shine. Both buses provide a safe and active way for your children to get to and from school. Registration forms can be picked up from the office or email Katrina on kanddking@xtra.co.nz for more information.

PTA EZ-Lunch Pita Pit TUESDAYS: Our Tuesday Pita Pit lunch service is underway for Term 3. Have a delicious and nutritious lunch delivered to your child and fundraise for the school at the same time. Register and order at www.ezlunch.co.nz.

Seconds Uniform for Sale: We have been very fortunate over the years to have had some good quality uniform donated from previous families of the school community. We now have so much that we are clearing some of our uniform areas as we no longer have the room to store them all. As a result, there will be fleeces and fleece vests for sale in the school office foyer on Monday 30th July until sold. There are various sizes available and it will be on a first come first served basis. \$10 per garment.

Have a great week,
Nigel Bioletti, Principal

Thanks to our sponsors:

Highbury Optometrists on Mokoia Rd, Ph 418 1347

CACI Birkenhead (Ph 480 8500)

Mark Jago (North Shore Toyota Ph 442 3600)

Julie Shand (Harcourts, Ph 021 634 787)



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