

Newsletter October 25 2017

Kia Ora Koutou

Welcome to week two of the term. We have our Athletics this Friday 27 October and this year we welcome Ashburton Christian School and Dorie to compete with us on the day. We start at 8.45am and it will be a very busy day for all concerned. Mrs Bonnington has worked extremely hard to pull together a great day and we hope you can all join us for the activities.

Staffing 2018

We are thrilled to say we have appointed staff for 2018. There are some staff changing levels and I am sure you will support them in their roles.

Ako Junior Syndicate 2018 - Miss Bridget Grant Room 1 , Miss Alissa Anderson Room 3 and Mrs Elyse Adams Room 2.

We will have two junior rooms to start the year however three days a week we will have 3 teachers supporting the students with programmes similar to this year. By the middle of the year we will be able to have three full time classrooms if enrolments climb as predicted. Miss Alissa Anderson joins us from Methven School in a fixed term maternity cover position. Miss Grant returns to junior school where she taught at Tinwald School. Mrs Adams returns to school three days a week after having time away with her daughter.



Whanau Middle School 2018 - Mrs Natasha Jenkins, Miss Claire Bell and Mrs Simone Stapleton. We welcome Miss Claire Bell to school in a permanent position. Miss Bell will support the middle school with Mrs Jenkins. Mrs Stapleton will be in the room 4 days a week for the morning sessions. Miss Bell is new to teaching and brings exciting opportunities to school with a strength in digital technology.

Mahi Tahi Senior School 2018 - Mr Shane Dawson, Miss Lagan Gardyne, Mrs Simone Stapleton and Miss Kara Wilhelmus. Miss Gardyne follows her year 4 group into year 5 and returns to Mahi Tahi where she taught in 2016. Another new teacher to Rakaia joins the team with Miss Kara Wilhelmus from Coalgate. Kara plays the drums and has completed youth work and we are excited to have her in Mahi Tahi in a fixed term maternity cover. Mrs Stapleton will join Mahi Tahi four days a week in the afternoon.

There are some changes for staff but we are thrilled to have the staffing set for 2018 and we are positive about the teams we have created. The BOT are supportive of the changes we have made and the plans to meet the needs of our students in 2018.

School Trophies - We are asking that these are returned cleaned and ready for us to give out at prizegiving. Mrs Doody also has a new trophy for 2017 and it will be given out for the first time this year.

John Parsons - Internet Safety presentation for parents, students and staff.

The BOT have invited John Parsons to school on **November 23rd** to support our aim to have our students safely using the internet and for staff and parents to understand the challenges and have some ideas given to them to support this aim. John presents right throughout NZ and we have provided some more information with this newsletter. The evening will be held in Mahi Tahi at 6.30pm and will be at no cost for our community. We hope this will be well supported and urge you to book this evening for a babysitter and join the presentation.



<http://www.simulate2educate.co.nz/?q=john-parsons>

BOT Elections 2018

This year we have two BOT positions up for election. Our current BOT Chair Andrew Slater is standing down and the co-opted position that Gabi Costello currently holds will be up as well, so that both positions will be three year terms. If you are interested in supporting the school in this important role then please consider standing.

We invite you to check this site out <http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/> and watch the video. We also ask you to check out the parent page <http://www.nzsta.org.nz/accountability/parent-place> .

We also invite you to attend the next BOT meeting on Monday November 6 if interested.

IMPORTANT - Thursday November 16 is a Teacher Only Day and the start of Christchurch Show Weekend. There will be no school on the Thursday and Friday.

Calendar Art. Your children have produced some glorious artwork which will be turned into 2018 Calendars, cards, diaries, mouse mats and note pads. They make perfect Christmas gifts and are great for sending overseas! We will be sending home a sample plus order sheet this week. Please fill in and return to the office by 10th November at the latest.

Xmas Raffle is coming up. School support will be kindly asking for donations towards this. Tickets and information will be sent home shortly.