



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Meadowbank School
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✉ principal@meadowbank.school.nz

15 February 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

It was great to see the huge number of Mums and Dads who attended the Meet the Teacher Evening last night. Some key points were covered in the Hall addressed by the Board of Trustees and Senior Management. These included:-

- Our schools continued journey and teacher professional development related to **Innovative Learning Environments**. This has also included:-
 - Collaborative practises of teachers.
 - Student Agency / Ownership of Learning.
 - The use of technology.
- **Communication Changes** : As part of the implementation of our communication review. To date we have:-
 - **Newsletters** : Enabled parents to opt out of receiving hard copies and instead receiving them via the School App or viewing on the school website.
 - **School App** : Reminding all to download if you haven't already, and to change the groups to which you belong - class number, sports teams etc.
 - **See Saw** : Already you should have received a notice advising that all classes have adopted See Saw instead of blogs as a means for you to be aware of what your child is doing in their class. Have you joined yet?
 - **Classroom Coordinators** : In response to parent feedback their role as disseminators of school information/messages has gone. It was felt there was a lack of consistency with distribution of messages and some with multiple children felt it became akin to receiving SPAM. Class teachers will distribute emails about class news / events and the school office will distribute information about school events.
- **Nathan Wallis Evening** (next Thursday, 22 February) : A reminder about what a bargain parents are getting with this quality, high in demand speaker. A teacher workshop costs \$350 - we are asking just \$10 per person. The information he provides about brain development could seriously impact on your parenting. It certainly will on our teaching and school organisation.



Each year our school/students support two charities. This is usually via a couple of Mufti Days in Terms 2 and 3.

Currently I have on my desk requests from multiple charities for our school to support. In order to get down to two, please email me what you consider to be the most important and relevant charities for our children to support.

Please send your responses by **Thursday, 1 March** - ✉ principal@meadowbank.school.nz

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- The first Board meeting for 2018 is next **Wednesday, 21 February**. Meetings are open and they are held in the Senior School Staffroom commencing at 7.00pm.
- Policies for review in Term 1 include:-
 - Home Learning;
 - Financial Control and Expenditure.
- Meadowbank is one of approximately 700 schools which has adopted School Docs Policies. Parents can access these policies by going to www.schooldocs.co.nz

Community Username : meadowbank
Community Password : gully



FRIENDS OF MEADOWBANK

The first meeting for 2018 will be held on **Wednesday, 7 March** starting at 7.30pm in the Senior School Staffroom - all welcome.

Sausage Sizzle : The first Friday Sausage Sizzle is tomorrow. Remember to order your child's lunch by gam tomorrow and also to update your child's classroom. <https://tinyurl.com/MeadowbankShop>

Ice Block Fridays : It hasn't been very sunny but the heat and humidity has been with us. A cool ice block at the school gate is a great way to end the week. \$2 each or three for \$5 - sold at both school gates.

Special Programmes

- All our special programmes commenced last week. I'm sure that you appreciate by having specialists in Music, Physical Education/Sport, Mandarin, Te Reo and Coding/Robotics working across all classes, we can provide a richer and more consistent programme for students.
- All our special needs support programmes also sparked into action last week. We employ 13 staff over and above the Ministry allocation to provide support for children with learning difficulties. These include Reading Recovery, Senior and Junior Booster Groups, ESOL classes and in-class Teacher Aide support.

Hilton Brown Swimming



- ▶ Year 5 & 6 classes are in the midst of their fortnight lessons with Hilton Brown Swimming.
- ▶ Year 1 & 2 classes commence lessons on Monday, 26 February. Payment for lessons needs to be paid prior to lessons commencing.
- ▶ Year 3 & 4 classes commence lessons on Monday, 12 March.

2018 Number Facts

- ▶ Our school roll as of today is 729. This compares to 733 at the same time last year.
 - ▶ We expect numbers to grow to 830-840 by December.
 - ▶ We are currently operating 29 classrooms but this will grow to 35 by the end of the year. Additionally we operate 3 specialist classrooms.
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- ▶ By the end of this year we will have 87 staff on our payroll - so we are a reasonably sized business.
 - ▶ Class sizes vary between 20 (New Entrant/Year 1) and one Year 2-6 class at 28 students. These numbers are remarkably low for a state primary school. We manage to achieve these class sizes, special programmes and staffing as a result of:-
 - 90% of families paying the annual donation request (the voluntary tax);
 - Club Meadowbank being such a successful business arm of the school, and
 - Sound budgeting.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

As a result of increased lesson time being committed to Coding and Robotics (double that of 2017) and Te Reo (extended to 30 minutes at all levels).

One of the measures that we have enacted is a reduction in the number of assemblies from 38 in 2017 to 25 this year.

All classes will have one presentation assembly. There will also be special assemblies for cultural groups (Kapa Haka, Pacific Dance, Chinese Dance), Performing Arts, Production and sharing of learning at the end of each term.

As with last year, classes will continue year level presentations show cases of learning to parents. This is more a chance to see the process of learning and could take place in classes in the hall, in the gully, on the courts or the field.



We do our best to have the best possible teachers in front of your children. That means not only appointing quality teachers who are eager to grow themselves and their careers, but also by providing top quality professional development to ensure our staff are at the top of their game.

To date we have committed over \$50,000 towards the professional growth of our teachers, support staff, library specialists, office and grounds staff.

I will detail the breadth of their professional learning in our next Newsletter.



HOW TO ORDER YOUR CHILD'S CLASS PHOTO

Your child will come home with an envelope with their class and individual photo on the front (proof only). You can order online at www.schoolmemories.co.nz or complete the envelope provided and return this to the school office along with your payment. If you pay on-line you **do not** need to return the envelope.



PARENT TE REO MĀORI CLASSES

Ngā mihi nui o te tau hōu, Happy New Year . This year we are offering Te Reo Māori lessons to parents and whanau on a Thursday afternoon from 2.15pm-3.00pm. Lessons will be in the Community Room with Whaea Andrea our Te Reo Māori specialist teacher.



If you are interested please email Andrea, agordine@meadowbank.school.nz Please include your child's name and what class they are in.

Ngā mihi Andrea Gordine

IMPORTANT DATES

A graphic of a calendar with a red checkmark over it, indicating important dates.

FEBRUARY

- 16 Sausage Sizzle Lunch
- 20 Room 17 visit Corban Estate Art Centre
- 21 BOT Meeting - 7pm - Senior Staffroom
- 22 Room 33 & 38 visit Corban Estate Art Centre
Nathan Mikaere Wallis Evening
- 26 Year 1 & 2 swimming lessons commence
National Standardised Test Programme

MARCH

- 2 Year 6 Waterwise commences
Sausage Sizzle Lunch
Powhiri Assembly
- 5 Room 18 & 19 visit Corban Estate Art Centre
- 6 Year 5 & 6 Swimming Sports @ Glen Innes
- 7 FOMS Meeting - 7.30pm - Senior Staffroom
- 9 Room 14, 15, 16 Assembly presentation
- 12 Year 3 & 4 swimming lessons commence
- 16 Sausage Sizzle Lunch



Have you changed any of your contact details:-

- Home phone number?
- Mobile number?
- Work number?
- E-mail?

We are finding numerous outdated details we have on file. It is important that we have your correct contact details to ensure we can contact you. Please update this information via the school website clicking on the link shown below.



Update your contact details

[Change your Address/Phone/E-mail](#)