



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Meadowbank School
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1 March 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last week in two separate sessions guest speaker, Nathan Wallis, both informed and entertained firstly staff (and 60 teachers from neighbouring schools) and then parents as to the latest in brain development research and how it impacts on both educating and bringing up children.

He challenged several of the practices that are held dear in NZ. These included the relevance of homework, and the appropriate age for when formal schooling (the teaching of reading, writing, maths) should begin. I am sure that all 200 parents felt that they received very good value from the evening.

Early next term we will have an evening with Mike King - comedian, mental health spokesperson and finalist in the 2018 New Zealander of the Year Awards. On **Wednesday, 9 May** he will talk about a very serious issue for NZ - the mental health of children and adolescents. I'm sure that we will have an even greater audience because it relates to the futures of all your children. And I hope that we will have more dads in the audience - parenting is not just a role for Mums.

EARLY ARRIVERS

An increasing concern is the growing number of students being dropped at school earlier and earlier in the morning. For children to be dropped off by parents before 8.15am is not appropriate.

This is still 15 minutes before doors open and 35 minutes before school starts. Our school has extensive grounds and early arrivals are not supervised. We don't wish to round-up children to put in holding pens but this may have to be an option. We can't continue to have children dropped off by parents as early as 7.30am.



If being this early is absolutely necessary, parents need to consider Club Meadowbank as an alternative.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Term 1 Pōwhiri : Tomorrow is our Term 1 official welcome for new students their families and staff members. We look forward to seeing everyone here at the early time of 2pm.

With it also being Chinese New Year and with the Lantern Festival at the Auckland Domain, after the Pōwhiri has been completed our new Mandarin Learning Assistant, Hehan Zhao will present a Chinese Dance to the school.

The first of our presentation assemblies for 2018 will be on **Friday, 9 March** with Rooms 14, 15, 16 (Y2) starting at 2.15pm - all parents are welcome.

MAORI / Te Reo Lessons



- Last week we commenced lessons for parents on Thursdays at 2.15pm.
- We appreciate that due to work commitments some parents cannot make this time. As an alternative you may wish to consider evening lessons at Selwyn College. Introductory 8 week Te Reo courses commence 8 May, 31 July, 16 October and the cost is \$65.
www.selwyncomed.school.nz



SWIMMING LESSONS

- Year 1 and 2 classes are in the midst of their fortnight of lessons with Hilton Brown Swimming.
- Year 3 and 4 classes commence their lessons on Monday, 12 March. Permission forms will be sent home tomorrow and payment for these lessons must be **paid by the 12th**.
- Year 5 and 6 Swimming Sports will be held at the Glen Innes Pools next **Tuesday, 6 March**.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At last week's Board meeting the following matters were discussed:-

- Finalising the Charter, Strategic and Annual Plans before submitting them to the Ministry of Education.
- Discussing the review of the Statement of Variance to be submitted to the Ministry - it's the variance between the 2017 Raising Achievement Plan goals and the final outcomes.
- Preparations for the Board's annual community survey. This year the survey will be early in Term 2.
- Planning for a special strategic direction meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 March.
- Completing the required questionnaire for the upcoming visit from the Education Review Office.
- Reviewing Home Learning and Financial Control and Expenditure Policies.
- Reviewing accounts and the 2018 Budget.
- Discussing plans for installing lights on the covered court.
- The monthly Club Meadowbank Report.
- The monthly Health and Safety Report.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday, 21 March at 7pm**.

BOARD MINUTE SECRETARY WANTED

The BOT is looking for a new Board Minute Secretary to attend its monthly meetings and take minutes. A good knowledge of Microsoft Word is needed, as well as accuracy and attention to detail. This is a paid position.

Please contact Anna Thorburn ☎ 021-119-0086 or 📧 anna.thorburn@oceaniahealthcare.co.nz for more information.

Having the most well trained and pedagogically up to date staff in front of all classes is an extremely important part of the culture of Meadowbank School. It is still early in Term 1 but below I list the commitments already made towards the professional learning and development of staff.



Student / Teacher Agency	-	All Staff
Solo Taxonomy (Pam Hook)	-	All Staff
First Aid Qualifications	-	All Staff
Beginning Teacher Development	-	Sara van Rossen, Jayme McKenzie, Louise Ayling, Isabelle Benington
Incredible Years' Programme	-	Jo Bickley, Chris Buchan, Teal Gray
Mentor Teachers (supporting Beginning Teacher)	-	Katy Synge, Libby Patterson, Natasha Brookshaw
Coaching & Mentoring (Lead Teachers)	-	Judith Hannan, Laura Wheeler, Nicky Durkin, Lauryn Buchanan, Marguerite Williams, Jo Bickley, Kim Carson, Tessa Bastin
SPELD Tutoring	-	Michele Hucker, Nicky Durkin
Orff Music	-	Bianca Porter
Early Childhood Transition	-	8 x New Entrant and Year 1 teachers
Nathan Wallis Brain Development	-	All Staff
Language Learning / Mandarin	-	Amy Ko
International Conference on Thinking	-	Peter Ayson
Permaculture	-	Wendy Masters
Front Office Communication Skills	-	Carlene Callinan, Jo Badland
Play in Classroom	-	New Entrant and Year 1 Teachers
Leadership Professional Learning Groups	-	All 4 Senior Management

To date we have committed over \$50,000 to have the best possible staff for your children.



During Term 1 the Year 5 & 6 classes have several experiences related to and extending their learning in environments outside of the classroom. These end up being highlights for children in their year's learning and include:-

- Waterwise : Opportunities during Terms 1 and 2 for Year 6 students to learn to sail on Optimist yachts, to kayak and to extend water safety knowledge.
- Year 6 Camp : Annually our Year 6 students spend several days at an outdoor pursuits facility. Later this term classes go to Lakewood Lodge near Huntly.
- Year 5 EOTC Week : Later this term students will spend a week doing a variety of one day experiences including high ropes, team challenges, boat safety and cooking for a retirement village.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

An important part of dealing with bullying is for all students and all parents to understand how we define it:-

- ▶ When someone does or says something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once, this is **RUDE**.
- ▶ When someone does or says something intentionally hurtful and they do it once, that is **MEAN**.
- ▶ When someone does or says something intentionally and they keep doing it even when you have told them to stop, that you do not like it and show them that you are upset, that is **BULLYING**.



Photo Orders

A reminder that if you wish to order your child's class photo and / or portrait orders need to be received by Friday, 9 March. You can simply order on-line using your shoot key (listed on the envelope) - www.schoolmemories.co.nz or fill in your envelope and return this along with your payment to either school office.

IMPORTANT DATES



MARCH

- 2 Year 6 Waterwise commences
Pōwhiri Assembly - 2pm
- 5 Room 18 & 19 visit Corban Estate Art Centre
- 6 Year 5 & 6 Swimming Sports @ Glen Innes Pool
- 7 FOMS Meeting - 7.30pm - Senior Staffroom
- 9 Room 14, 15, 16 Assembly presentation - 2.15pm
- 12 Year 3 & 4 swimming lessons commence
- 19 Year 5 EOTC Week
- 20 Year 5 & 6 Zone Swimming Sports
- 21 BOT Meeting - 7pm - Senior Staffroom
- 23 Room 17, 18, 19 Assembly presentation - 2.15pm
- 26 Year 6 @ Camp until 29 March
- 27 Year 5 Zone Summer Field Day
- 29 Year 2 Swimming Sports @ 9am
Year 1 Swimming Sports @ 11am
- 30 **Easter Friday - school closed**

APRIL

- 2 **Easter Monday - school closed**
- 3 **Easter Tuesday - school closed**
- 4 Parent—Teacher Interviews
- 5 Year 4 Swimming Sports @ 9am
Year 3 Swimming Sports @ 11am
Parent—Teacher Interviews
- 13 Final Day Term 1
- 30 Term 2 commences

REMUERA CHINESE NEW YEAR EVENT

Last Friday Remuera Shops celebrated the Chinese New Year.

Congratulations to Mary Meredith and Rebecca Lowe who achieved outstanding results in the Lantern competition. Their handmade lanterns are displayed in shops on Remuera Road.

Congratulations to Zachary Lambert for his Mandarin speech and Mikayla Chung for her graceful ballet dance.

Friends of Meadowbank School (FOMS)

We hope to have good representation from all classes and all year levels at next week's first meeting for 2018 on **Wednesday, 7 March at 7.30pm** in the Senior Staffroom.

STEVE HOOD
MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

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