



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Meadowbank School
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2 February 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2018 school year. I particularly extend a warm welcome to our 37 new students and their families. I am confident our Meadowbank family will help you settle in quickly.

The school roll started at 722 and by years end I expect this to rise to around 840 students - more than 2017 but less than 2016.

Staff News

I welcome the following new staff to Meadowbank School:-

- ▶ **Teal Gray** (Y5/R23) : Teal comes to Auckland from St. Joseph's in Morrinsville.
- ▶ **Louise Ayling** (Y3/R19); **Isabelle Benington** (Y1/R18); **Jayne McKenzie** (Y2/R16) :
All three are Beginning Teachers commencing their careers with us. Louise and Jayme trained in Auckland, Isabelle trained in Otago.
- ▶ **Mel Liu** (Y3/R38) : Mel returns to NZ after spending time in international schools in Morocco and Beijing.
- ▶ **Bianca Porter** (Music) : Bianca takes over the reins in the Music Room and will have direct contact with all children across the school. Before children, Bianca taught at Rangitoto College.
- ▶ **Part-Time Teachers** :
Chris Newton who will be job sharing with Sara Pasco in Year 1 / Room 10.
Carlene White; Michelle von Detten; Jenni Brookes; Steph Lyons are all returning to Meadowbank after time off for children. All will be in part-time roles.
Kim Murphy : Kim will be supporting our ESOL students with classroom support.
Lena Chua is a Beginning Teacher releasing classrooms twice a week.
Mel Douglas returns to us and will be taking our Reading Recovery programme.
- ▶ **Jo Badland** : Jo takes over from Paula Hollies in the senior school office working alongside Carlene Callinan.

I'm sure that you will all help make these new and returning staff most welcome to our school and community.

Meet the
TEACHER

WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY - BRUCE McLAREN HALL
5.30pm - Presentations in the Hall / 6.00pm - Move to classrooms

This will involve presentations from the Board and Senior Management about key events and plans for our school this year. Then there will be a chance to move to your child(ren)'s class to meet their 2018 teacher(s).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board is the governing body of our school. They establish the school's policies and strategic direction. The Senior Management Team then ensures that these priorities are acted upon. Our trustees are:-

Anna Thorburn (Chair)	☎ 021 119 0086	💻 anna.thorburn@oceaniahealthcare.co.nz
Rachel Murdoch (Deputy Chair/Community)	☎ 521 2339	💻 rachelmurdochca@gmail.com
Tim Traviss (Club Meadowbank)	☎ 021 333 511	💻 timothytraviss@mac.com
Derek Phillips (Treasurer)	☎ 021 431 115	💻 rachelmurdochca@gmail.com
David Fehl (Property)	☎ 027 479 2192	💻 davidfehl@outlook.co.nz
Sarah Valentine (Health & Safety)	☎ 021 158 2263	💻 sarah@samjam.net

The Board meets monthly and these are public meetings. Our first meeting for 2018 is **Wednesday, 21 February** at 7pm in the Senior Staffroom.

Guest SPEAKERS

We have organised two outstanding presenters to host parent evenings this year.

Nathan Wallis - Thursday, 22 February

Mike King - Wednesday, 9 May

Nathan Wallis : You may well have heard Nathan on National Radio or via Brainwave Trust. He will include two key themes in his presentation:-

- **The Developing Brain** : How we as parents can help our children develop by having an understanding of the brain.
- **Anxiety and Depression** : The human stress response system, changes taking place in a teenagers brain, and effective approaches to reduce stress and anxiety.

We are opening tickets initially to Meadowbank parents but will be opening up to other local pre-schools and schools. Tickets are just \$10 (other schools charge up to \$30). It will be a sell out, so be in early.

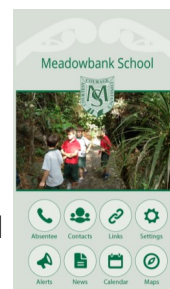
Mike King : Well known comedian and now prominent speaker on mental health with particular focus on children and adolescents. He was the stand-out speaker at last year's NZ Principals' Conference. He has waived his fee to speak to us, but we have committed to a koha to be given to a mental health charity. This will be standing room only so add this date to your calendar.

More details to follow on how to order your tickets.

School App

This is extremely valuable in sending out alerts and for parents to quickly advise of their child's absence.

If you previously selected your child's class for alerts last year, this will have changed and you will need to reset your groups (go to the settings tab on the home page). If you don't have the App you can download this from your smartphone for free via the Play Store and search for Meadowbank School.



Ice Block Friday

FOMS popular Ice Block Friday starts again next week
\$2 per ice block or 3 for \$5. They will be sold at both school gates after school. A great way to end the school week on these hot days.



By the end of next week each child will bring home their account relating to the 2018 charges.

These include Excursion/Performance Fee; Year 6 Camp; Year 6 Waterwise; Year 5 EOTC; Garden to Table (Year 4 & Year 5); Athletics (Y2 to Y4); Maths-Whizz (Y5 & 6) Reading Eggs (Y1 & Y2); Hilton Brown Swimming; School Donation Request.

The preferred method of payment is through the parental portal <https://parent.musac.school.nz> and follow the steps on line - if this is your first time registering – you will need to use the email address you have supplied the school with and this will activate a password for you. There is also a link on our school App under the Links tab. **If you pay via internet banking you must return your Request for Payment form advising what you have paid – this will ensure accuracy of receipting your child's account.**

SCHOOL DONATION REQUEST

The Board of Trustees have decided to keep the request the same as last year. The cost per child is as follows:-

Full Rate	Discount Rate (paid by 31 March)	Per Term	Monthly (Feb-Nov)
\$490.00	\$465.00	\$122.50	\$49.00

Next to the Ministry of Education grants, the donation is the school's largest income source. Last year over 90% of our families contributed \$285,000. Every cent of this money was spent on additional staffing over-and-above the Ministry provision.

- Specialist Teachers (Languages/Music/PE/Sport)
- Needs based programmes (Reading Recovery, Booster teachers, Gifted and Talented, Teacher Aides)

EXCURSION/PERFORMANCE FEE

This is fee which covers the costs of buses, entry fee (eg: MOTAT, Arts Centre, Zoo etc.), visiting performers and presenters (Science Van, Life Education). Charges remain at the 2015 levels:-

Year 5/6	Year 3/4	Year 1/2
\$80 (\$20 per term)	\$72 (\$18 per term)	\$64 (\$16 per term)

MATHLETICS (YEAR 2 to YEAR 4)

A Licence Fee is \$24 per student which enables children to access Mathletics from school and home.

MATHS-WHIZZ (YEAR 5 & 6)

A new programme for our senior students has been introduced this year. The Licence Fee is \$30 per student giving access at school and home.

READING EGGS (YEAR 1 & 2)

The Licence Fee is \$20 per student which enables children to access Reading Eggs from school and home.

GARDEN TO TABLE (YEAR 4 & 5)

There is a \$24 per student charge (\$6 per term) which funds the cooking ingredients in this extremely valuable programme.

EOTC ACTIVITIES

- **Year 5 EOTC** : \$50 per student which will cover a wide range of outdoor activities during week 8 (19-23 March) - one highlight planned will be team building challenges at the Birkenhead Leisure Centre.
- **Year 6 Camp** : \$300 per student which will cover the 3 night/4 day camp at Lakewood Lodge in Huntly (26-29 March).
- **Year 6 Waterwise** : \$40 per student for 2 terms covering the bus costs to Okahu Bay.

There is a small Ministry allocation to help ensure that welfare dependent families don't miss out on valuable classroom experiences and activities. If your family is in this situation and are seeking support for these compulsory fees, please contact either myself principal@meadowbank.school.nz or Steph de Frere sdefrere@meadowbank.school.nz

Hilton Brown SWIMMING

Once again we have Hilton Brown providing a Swimming Enrichment Programme of 10 x 30 minute lessons for all students in Year 1 to 6 (except Room 1 students who will swim in Term 4).

For \$52 they provide 3-4 professional swimming instructors who work with smaller groups of children, being in the water alongside the students. Dates for swimming lessons are as follows:-

Year 5 & 6	Monday, 12 February to Friday, 23 February
Year 1 & 2	Monday, 26 February to Friday, 9 March
Year 3 & 4	Monday, 12 March to Friday, 23 March

All Year 5 & 6 students have received their permission form which needs to be returned to their classroom teacher by next Wednesday, 7 February. Invoices will be sent home on Monday.

Swimming Sports

Please note the upcoming Swimming Sports events

Year 5 & 6	-	Tuesday, 6 March at Glen Innes YMCA Pools
Year 3 & 4	-	Thursday, 5 April (held in our school pool)
Year 1 & 2	-	Thursday, 29 March (held in our school pool)

Zone Swimming Sports for Year 5 & 6 will be held at St. Kentigern's on Tuesday, 20 March.

Class & Individual Photos

Next week all students have had their class and individual photos taken.

You do not order your child's photos until you receive an order envelope featuring the photo of your child.

There are three packs to choose from and these will be displayed on the front of the envelope with the relevant cost.



Term 1
Thursday, 1 February to Friday, 13 April
Term 2
Monday, 30 April to Friday, 6 July
Term 3
Monday, 23 July to Friday, 28 September
Term 4
Monday, 15 October to Tuesday, 18 December

Friday Flyers

Throughout the year your child will come home with various flyers on a Friday from local businesses. These flyers are distributed at a cost from the originator and are a valuable fundraiser for the school.

Mobile Phones

If your child brings a mobile phone to school, they are to leave their phone in the school office and collect it at the end of the day.

PTA Sausage Sizzle

Our first sausage sizzle will be **Friday, 16 February.**

Please note that there will be no cash orders accepted.

Remember to update your child's classroom number.

<https://tinyurl.com/MeadowbankShop>

Trying to please all customers is always a difficult task. With school Newsletters there are two camps:-

- those who like to receive the hard copy every fortnight and stick it on the fridge or table;
- those who don't like paper and would prefer to read it via the School App or on the school website.



This year for a second time, we offer parents the opportunity to opt out of the paper / hard copy. If you no longer wish to receive the paper copy via your eldest child, please email Carlene in the senior office indicating this (ccallinan@meadowbank.school.nz). It is essential that you clearly identify the first and family name of your eldest child and their room number - please use Stop Newsletter in the subject line.

Future Newsletters will then be accessed by the school App or school website.



Over the holidays we received notification that the new Admin / Classroom project has the green light. Expect time for appointments of architects, project manager and contractors and the development plans.

I would expect it will be late this year before there is action on the ground, and the current Admin Block disappears.

New Mandarin Classroom - Room 39

You will see that there is a temporary classroom in the senior carpark - the Board actioned and funded this in order to limit interruptions to children's learning and to keep all our Year 3 students on the senior campus. Teacher, Amy Ko and our new Mandarin Learning Assistant, Hehan Zhao have moved in with lessons for Year 2 to 6 students starting Monday.

Bridge Pathway

This was repaired and re-laid and looking much better and safer.

Room 5

The last part of upgrading this downstairs classroom on the Junior Campus has included adding a veranda cover.

Room 3 & 4

Completing the upgrade of these paired classrooms with new carpet, wall lining and LED lighting.



We are looking for parents to train as Road Patrol supervisors for the senior side. The commitment is one duty per week for a minimum of one term. If you can help us please contact Matt Aukett to register your interest

maukett@meadowbank.school.nz

Those who trained last year are most welcome to volunteer again this year 😊

MAYPOLE DANCERS NEEDED

Boys and girls from about 7 years up are invited to train for the Meadowbank Maypole Dancers. They perform about 12 times a year, in the city's big festivals and other interesting places. Training will be before school for 2 weeks beginning Monday 12th February.

Contact Tutor Rae Storey

raestorey36@gmail.com

☎ 524-9504

School Uniforms

Hats : A reminder that the school hat is **compulsory** during Terms 1 and 4 for all outdoor activities. This includes morning tea and lunch breaks.

Sports T-Shirt : These are for students in Year 4 to 6 only and should be worn when they are doing Physical Education and Sport *only* - not their daily uniform top.

Second Hand Uniforms : A wide range of second hand items are available to purchase at very reasonable rates. These are available in the Junior School office between 8.30am and 3.15pm daily.

As we have over 700 students all wearing the same items, it is essential that parents clearly name all items. This will help us to return lost items to their owners.

Lost Property : If your child has lost any uniform items they can check the Lost Property (outside the Sick Bay); or inside the foyer of the John Boyens Block (Room 29-31).

Student safety is our priority. If your child is sick / absent or going to be late for class please ensure that you contact the school, either:-

Reporting

Absences



- click on the Report Absence function on the homepage of the school website, completing the relevant details; or
- click on the Absentee tab on the School App; or
- phone the school office;
- please do not email the teacher as they may be absent too.

Please provide the reason for the child being away ie: doctor, sick, tutoring, holiday etc. If we do not receive a message we will need to contact you. With 5-6% absenteeism on any one day (more on a Monday / Friday); this can take some time and valuable time is lost in locating a missing child.

February

- 12 Year 5 & 6 Swimming
- 14 Meet the Teacher Evening @ 5.30pm
- 21 BOT Meeting @ 7pm
- 22 Nathan Willis Evening
- 26 Year 3 to 6 Standardised Testing
- Year 1 & 2 Swimming

March

- 2 Year 6 Waterwise commences
- 6 Year 5 & 6 Swimming Sports @ YMCA Glen Innes
- 7 FOMS Meeting @ 7.30pm Senior Staffroom
- 9 Room 14, 15, 16 Assembly presentation @ 2.15pm
- 12 Year 3 & 4 Swimming
- 19 Year 5 EOTC week
- 23 Room 17, 18, 19 Assembly presentation @ 2.15pm
- 26 Year 6 @ Camp
- 29 Year 1 & 2 Swimming Sports
- 30 Good Friday - school closed

April

- 2 Easter Monday - school closed
- 3 Easter Tuesday - school closed



STAFF CAR PARK

With over 70 staff and very limited staff carparks; we ask that parents please be aware that the staff car park is only for staff between 7.45am and 4pm and is not to be used as a drop off zone.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

If you have moved addresses or changed jobs and have a new work number or mobile; we ask that you please let us know by using the link below on the school website



Update your contact details

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