



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2018



Meadowbank School
68 Waiatarua Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050
Phone: 520 3739
www.meadowbank.school.nz

15 November 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we head into the final 6 weeks of the year, the process of planning for 2019 is going well.

- ♦ You will be aware that the Board of Trustees has appointed Phil Toomer (Principal, Glenavon School) as my successor, and that he will take the reins at the start of next year.
- ♦ This week the Management Team completed the appointments of teachers for all classes. This has been no easy task with the sparsity of teachers available. Go back 5-6 years and we would have received in excess of 200 applicants per vacancy. Today we are lucky to receive 4-5 with most not being of a quality that meets our expectations or at a level you would wish of your child's teacher.
- ♦ The Annual Plan is receiving its final tweaks and before its final approval by the Board, I will discuss and add items with our new Principal.
- ♦ The Budget process is going well with everything falling into place.
- ♦ Teachers have commenced the planning process for the Term 1 concept as well as for trips and visitors associated with the topics.
- ♦ And of course progress towards the major building project is going well - the existing Administration Block will be demolished over the summer break and the Ministry is talking a start on the new building by May.
- ♦ The Management Team is also working on the Student Achievement Goal for 2019 and the associated teacher professional development plan.
- ♦ Teachers have commenced the placement of students into their 2019 classes.

END OF YEAR REPORTS

Teachers are well into writing the End of Year Reports. After proofing and moderating they will be printed ready for sending home on Friday, 14 December.

2019 TERM DATES

Term 1	Thursday, 31 January - Friday, 12 April (Waitangi Day, Wednesday, 6 February)
Term 2	Monday, 29 April - Friday, 5 July (T.O.D - Friday, 31 May, Queens Birthday, Monday, 3 June)
Term 3	Monday, 22 July - Friday, 27 September
Term 4	Monday, 14 October - Tuesday, 17 December (Labour Day - Monday, 28 October)

ATHLETICS DAY

- ♦ Yesterday our Year 3 to 6 students participated in their athletics sports day at Mt. Smart Stadium. We will bring you the results in our next Newsletter. From the Year 5 & 6 events we will select our team to represent Meadowbank at the Zone Athletics Sports Day. Thank you to all the parents who came along and supported.
- ♦ Our Junior Athletics Sports Day will be held on Tuesday, 11 December (9am - 12noon). Further details will be sent home closer to the time.

YOUNG CHINESE TESTS (YCT)

- ♦ These are international standardised tests which provide a benchmark against which we can measure the progress and achievement of students with their Mandarin learning.
- ♦ The Mandarin programme at Meadowbank School is second to none amongst NZ Primary Schools. We offer the opportunity for all our Year 5-6 students to sit the annual YCT Exams - Level 1 for Year 5's and Level 2 for Year 6's and every year we see outstanding results.

MANDARIN AFTER MEADOWBANK

- ♦ In 2016-17 Meadowbank led the Asian Languages in Schools Contract amongst 8 local schools. It saw Mandarin also being introduced or extended at Remuera Primary, Victoria Avenue, Newmarket and Cornwall Park Schools.
- ♦ Regrettably many of our children do not get the opportunity to continue extending their Mandarin capability at Year 7 & 8.
- ♦ For 2019, Amy Ko our Mandarin teacher is looking to offer after school group tuition to help children continue preparing for high school. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Amy directly 📧 ako@meadowbank.school.nz

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

- ♦ We have 124 Year 6's moving on at the end of this year. Approximately 70% have only attended Meadowbank School so the transition to one of about a dozen other schools is a big event. The biggest number of course do go to Remuera Intermediate.
- ♦ One of the rites of passage for all Year 6's is the official Graduation ceremony where all students cross the stage. Each year we like to bring back a past pupil who have excelled at High School - we have previously had Head Boy / Head Girl, Dux, Sporting Excellence pupils from Selwyn College, Glendowie College, St. Kent's, Epsom Girls, St. Peter's and Baradene. This year we have Jack Kiely (Year 6, 2011) who is currently Head Boy at Sacred Heart College.
- ♦ After the Graduation Ceremony there is the Social/Dance for students whilst parents have time to mix and mingle in the Library.

THE STRIKES WHAT ARE THEY ABOUT?

This week has seen teachers across NZ withdrawing their labour for a second day. It is not something teachers do lightly - but there is a real crisis happening with the supply of teachers and the workload expectations.

- ♦ As mentioned earlier in the Newsletter, only a short time ago we would receive over 200 applications for a vacancy. Today we are lucky to receive 5. I know colleagues who are receiving no applicants.
- ♦ Teacher graduates are down 40% on 10 years ago. We really need to ask, why is it that 18-22 year olds are deciding against entering teacher training? Is it the status of the job? Is it the pay rates being considered inadequate?
- ♦ We are losing 3 teachers as they move to other parts of NZ in search of cheaper housing (teachers in Invercargill get the same pay as in Auckland and hence have a greater disposable income).
- ♦ The government made a big announcement in the last week to provide 600 extra "Learning Support" teachers. This is fantastic but the reality is the 600 will only make the classroom teacher supply even worse.
- ♦ The government is frantically searching the world for teachers to make up the shortfall. Again that is great but we really do need kiwis who are familiar with our country's culture, our curriculum, the nature of who we are. Those who come from overseas are looking for a new lifestyle. Kiwis particularly those living in Auckland, are looking for adequate remuneration.
- ♦ The Minister, Chris Hipkins at recent presentations criticised schools because 20% of graduates were not being employed. Principals responded by pointing out the high number of inadequate teacher trainees and that the training institutes appeared more interested in taking money for bums on seats rather than seeking quality applicants. Or could it be that quality applicants are looking at other more rewarding professions?
- ♦ Comments like "The Police accepted the same 3% offer" don't really respect the full facts. While we are not trying to compare notes, the Police are paid while they train, teachers often start their careers with a sizeable student loan following 4 years of full time University study. The starting wage for a Police Officer is currently over \$57,000 plus allowances and overtime. The starting salary for teachers is \$47,980 with no overtime or allowances. While our Police are absolutely valued and appreciated and they earn every penny, it is not fair to suggest that because Police accepted 3% so should teachers.
- ♦ The statement that most teachers would receive a \$10K salary increases is simply incorrect. A Beginning Teacher with a 4 year degree will receive around \$19 per week straight away. A teacher with 10 years service and full degree will get \$27 per week.
- ♦ The teachers know that the strike is a hassle for you but they are at a loss as how to be heard. The teachers are most grateful for the overwhelming support that they have received from the Meadowbank community.

Where are things now? A facilitator has made a recommendation and the NZEI will be balloting teachers regarding acceptance (or not) of the recommendations.

HOME STAYS REQUIRED ...

- ♦ Our new MLA (Mandarin Learning Assistant) for 2019 is looking for a homestay close to school. If you are interested in hosting please contact Amy Ko via e-mail:- ako@meadowbank.school.nz for further details. 
- ♦ 2 week homestay required, breakfast and dinner meals for weekdays, no lunch or weekend meals. One double bedroom, one double bed / or two single beds for 1 adult and 1 child (mainly is mum and child) - water / internet / house facility to be included.
\$ 350.00 cash for each week
Please contact Morven on 0211879886 / or email to anyu@barefootltd.com for a chat.

LORAX GARDEN WORKING BEE

Next Saturday, 24 November if your free and would like to help out the FOMS freshen up the Lorax Garden on the junior school please come along with your water bottle, old clothes ready to paint from 9am. Refreshments will be provided.

Please email the FOMS to let them know
 foms@meadowbank.school.nz



UPCOMING Events

NOVEMBER

16	Cultural Groups Assembly - 2pm
19	Year 6 monitors @ Rainbow's End Year 2 Parent Showcase
21	BOT Meeting - 7pm
22	Parent Helpers' Morning Tea - 10.30am
23	School Wide Enviro Day
26	New Entrant Hilton Brown Swimming
27	APPA Choir Dress Rehearsal
28	Year 5 & 6 Zone Athletics Year 2 trip to Auckland Museum APPA Performance
29	Family Picnic
30	New Entrant Assembly - 2.15pm

DECEMBER

3	Year 5 Bike Safety Programme
6	Year 5 Road Patrol Training

A big thank you to everyone who supported and helped with the Old Library Book Sale! It was a great success and we raised \$442.00 to purchase new books for the Library.

Just a reminder that the Library closes soon for the annual stock take and the last day to return library books is Friday, 30 November 2018.

Please look under beds, in desks and on your bookshelves for any library books, we would love them back!



"Selling Meadowbank homes since 2001."



STEVE HOOD
m:021 911 606

Barfoot & Thompson