



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2018



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

29 November 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The end of the year is rapidly nearing with just 13 school days until we break for Christmas and the summer holidays. For me it is coming down to a succession of lasts - this amongst them in it being my final full school Newsletter.

Last night's attendance at the APPA Town Hall Music Festival was another last. What a fantastic evening as the Meadowbank children (and many of our ex pupils at Remuera Intermediate) glowed. Here is another example where providing a breadth of opportunities enables children to shine beyond the basics. One young man at Remuera Intermediate was a star in dance items, and his mum is so proud that what started at Meadowbank takes him to perform with the NZ Ballet next week.

PRINCIPAL HANDOVER

Just to let you know that the handover to our Principal-in-waiting, Phil Toomer, is going very smoothly. In all, I have met with Phil numerous times - three times prior to his appointment and already twice since. We are also in regular communication.

We have brought him up to speed with our Strategic and Annual Plans, our budget and a meeting is planned in relation to property matters. Tomorrow he meets with the 2019 Management Team and then has morning tea with staff. He attended last week's Board Meeting and will attend the next meeting, on Wednesday, 12 December. He has also had his first meeting with our Community of Schools. There is one final formality to be done prior to him putting his feet under the desk, a Pōwhiri to welcome Phil formally is to be held on Friday, 14 December.

LEAVING MEADOWBANK?

We know that all Year 6 students are moving onto another school next year. We are also aware of a few others from Year 1 to 5 classes who will not be returning in 2019, be it moving to other parts of Auckland, NZ and possibly overseas.

Where this is the case we are preparing files to be forwarded to their new school to enable the children's new teacher to be well prepared.

If your child is leaving and you haven't notified us, please do so now. It is also advantageous at our end ensuring that our 2019 classes remain well balanced. Please contact Carlene either ☎ 520 3739 or 📧 ccallinan@meadowbank.school.nz

BUILDING PROGRESS

Plans for the demolition of the Administration Block are going well. The Ministry of Education is about to announce the successful contractor. The day after school closes we expect the demolition process to begin. However there are some preparations that we need to achieve before that occurs.

Monday, 10 December

Year 3 classes (Rooms 17, 18, 19) need to be moved out of their rooms. Initially they move into temporary rooms (Mandarin, Music, Garden to Table rooms) before their furniture is relocated to Room 6 to 8 on the Junior Campus for 2019.

Tuesday, 11 December

The cleaners move in to clean Room 17, 18, 19 prior to them being converted to a temporary Administration Block. Contractors will also re-hang blinds from the old block.

Wednesday, 12 December

We empty out the Administration Block - Main Office, Sick Bay, Staffroom, Principal and Finance Offices and Storeroom.

Room 17 will become the new Staffroom.

Room 18 will be a shared office of the Management Team and Finance Officer.

Room 19 will be the Main Office and Sick Bay.

We NEED MUSCLE! If you can spare 30 to 60 minutes on either Monday, 10 or Wednesday, 12 December or both days that would be really appreciated. Please meet in the Senior Staffroom at 9am. We will also be relocating signs and some fittings so screw driver sets could also be helpful.

2019 CLASSES

The Management Team are in the final stages of placements of children into 2019 classes. This process has involved a thorough process involving teachers, special needs staff and where appropriate parents. Each year we inform children and parents of class placements at the same time as the End of Year Report (Friday, 14 December).

At 11am on the final day (Tuesday, 18 December) children will meet their 2019 teacher and classmates in their 2019 classrooms.

ASSEMBLIES

There are just three assemblies to go this year:-

- > **New Entrants tomorrow.** This is the biggest assembly of the year with many Mums, Dads, Grandparents coming to support their children's first on stage performance.
- > **Principal's Farewell** - Friday, 7 December at 2pm (covered court) - Students farewell and parents are welcome to attend.
- > **Year 6 Finale** - Monday, 17 December at 2pm - a celebration of their year's learning.

YEAR 6 STUDENTS

The end is also near for our 124 Year 6 students. Approximately 70% have only attended one primary school - Meadowbank. So after 6+ years the final day can be emotional. Likewise for some families this can be the end of 10+ years association with Meadowbank.

There have been many highlights to date in the year for our Year 6 students including their Camp at Lakewood Lodge, the magnificent Production in term 3, Waterwise and many leadership opportunities and responsibilities that have arisen. The final countdown does include a few more:-

- > Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, 6 December followed by their End of Year Social;
- > Finishing with a Finale Assembly on Monday, 17 December at 2pm.

On our final day, Tuesday, 18 December, most Year 6's get their classmates to sign their uniform polo shirt. If any parent does not wish their child to participate in this (possibly due to handing down items) please ensure you make your child aware of this.

STAFFING CHANGES

Besides my retirement the staff leaving at the end of the year include Tessa Bastin (Y5/Rm20) moves to Christchurch; Lizzy McLachlan (Y4/Rm32) moves to Wanaka, Kim Carson (Y1/Rm6) moves to Kerikeri, Lauryn Buchanan (Y1/Rm9) is taking maternity leave; Mary Smol (Y6/R28) is taking a year off to travel; Mel Douglas will be taking up a new role with RTLB; and Han Zhao our Mandarin Learning Assistant will be returning to China.

I wish to thank these members of staff for all that they have contributed as part of the Meadowbank Team. They will be missed and I'm sure that you join me in wishing them all the best.

We welcome the following new teachers to our team:-

- Polly Stewart (Year 5). Polly is a Meadowbank parent and former Teacher Aide & returns to us as a teacher with many strengths including being a very talented artist.
- Wendy Templer (Year 4). Wendy is an experienced teacher who has previously worked at Maungahwau, Edendale, ACG and Royal Oak schools.
- Abby Ogram (Y4). Abby is a former pupil who now returns in a very different role as a teacher.
- Ally Cockrill (NE). Ally is returning to NZ after time in the UK and comes to us with experience in both Junior classes and pre-school.

PRIZE GIVING

Our annual celebration of the achievements and successes of children will be held on Thursday, 13 December.

Senior Prize Giving (Year 3 to 6) - 9.15am - Bruce McLaren Hall
Junior Prize Giving (New Entrant to Year 2) - 11.15am - Bruce McLaren Hall

Notification will be sent home next week announcing trophy and award recipients.
Parents and whanau are welcome to attend these celebrations.

FOMS REQUEST

Our Sausage Sizzle team is looking for an extra person to help our Kindo team run the Sausage Sizzle ordering reports once a month on a Friday at 9am which can be done from home or at school.

If you would like to help out or have any queries, please contact Felicity for further information.
☎ 021 028 15224 or ✉ mckenziefef@gmail.com

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Host families are needed for January 2019 in the local area (4 weeks).

If you are able to accommodate these students who are from Korea - \$300 per child (payment made one week in advance).

Please contact TaeHo Kang either ☎ 021 308 802 or ✉ nz_tk@hotmail.com for further information and outline of requirements.

2019 STATIONERY

We are pleased to be working with PaperPlus Meadowbank again to bring you your stationery packs for 2019.

Tomorrow your child will be coming home with a letter advising you how to order your packs and a copy of the full list of your 2019 requirements.

NEW ENTRANT SWIMMING LESSONS

Currently our New Entrant classes are enjoying their 10 lessons with Hilton Brown swimming school which is great for their water confidence.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 30 Y6 trip to Selwyn College
- New Entrant Assembly - 2pm

DECEMBER

- 3 Year 5 Bike Safety Programme
- 5 Zone Schools Robotics Challenge
- 6 Year 5 Road Patrol Training
- Year 6 Graduation
- 7 Year 5 Waterwise Testing
- Principals Farewell Assembly
- 8 Lorax Garden Tidy-Up (FOMS)
- 11 Junior Athletics - Colin Maiden Park
- 12 BOT Meeting - 7pm
- 13 Prize Giving
- 14 New Principal Pōwhiri
- EOY Reports Issued
- 17 Y6 Assembly - 2pm
- 18 Meeting 2019 Teacher - 11am
- School dismissed - 1pm

LOST PROPERTY

There is a mountain of unclaimed items sitting in both the Junior and Senior Lost Property areas. All items will be displayed regularly over the next fortnight. Any items left will either be sent to our second hand uniform shop or to the clothing bins.



"Christmas is Claus for celebration!"

STEVE HOOD
m:021 911 606

Barfoot & Thompson