



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2019



Meadowbank School

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28 March 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This week our Year 6 students and teachers have been at Lakewood Lodge at camp. I spent the day down there yesterday and I can report that everyone is having an absolute blast!

The Lakewood Lodge staff have been extremely impressed with the attitudes, courage and friendliness of our Year 6 cohort. The students have been great ambassadors for our school.

The top favourite activities so far have included the mud run, rock climbing, zip line and horse riding just to name a few.

I was particularly impressed with the groups I visited during survival. They managed to cook their lunch and dinner over a camp fire.

You can see what the children have been up to on their camp blog.

## Year 6 Lakewood Lodge Camp 2019

*Click on here to view the blog*

<https://year6lakewoodlodgescamp2019.blogspot.com/>

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

### Day Two! Having an AMAZING time

Day Two began early for our Survival Teams who had to pack up and be ready to walk back to camp before 7am! We managed it, and everyone had the most amazing time 'surviving', pitching tents, enjoying the mud run and the cooking our own dinner! It was delicious.

Today was jam packed with so much fun. Groups 5 - 8 headed out for their survival night and the rest of the teams enjoyed the awesome activities. Here are a few pictures from yesterdays survival and some of the fun we had today! Enjoy!

Contributors

Mrs Bickley

Room 30

Blog Archive

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Day Two!  
Having an  
AMAZING

## MOIRA BLAIR WINS PROMOTION

It is our great pleasure to announce that Moira Blair has accepted the position of Principal at Three Kings School. Her new position starts at the beginning of next term.

Whilst we are never happy to see one of our excellent staff members leave, it is important to celebrate the fact that Meadowbank School is growing leaders that go on to lead some of Auckland's largest primary schools.

Moira has contributed her talent, expertise, passion and energy to her role as DP over the last 7 years and her impact on this school has been significant. We wish her all the best in her new role and we know that she will do great things with her new school.

The school will be recruiting for a new Deputy Principal over the coming weeks. We will make sure parents are advised in the next newsletter of how we are covering Moira's duties in the interim.

In the meantime, Moira will be continuing her work as DP here so we look forward to saying farewell in the upcoming weeks.

# PLAY BASED LEARNING

Last Thursday, we had Sarah Aiono from Longworth Education present to both teachers and parents on the fundamental need for students to learn through play in the 'Early Years', defined as 3-7 years. Children who are at the same chronological age can be at very different stages socially, emotionally and developmentally. Learning through play enables teachers to design a curriculum that reflects a developmentally appropriate response to student's needs.

For the past 12 months, teachers in New Entrants to Year 2 have been implementing programmes that allow the children to explore, experiment, discover and solve problems in imaginative and playful ways. The key points covered on the night included:-

- ☞ The schools vision for learning through play and how it aligns with the overall direction of the school. The teachers at Meadowbank School have defined four key reasons why this approach to teaching and learning is crucial:-
  - To ensure the transition from ECE to school is positive for all children.
  - To develop secure foundation skills to enable children to reach their full potential.
  - To develop strong oral language skills.
  - To develop resilient, life long learners who have a positive disposition towards learning.
- ☞ The research and evidence to support this pedagogical approach as:-
  - Neurological research now confirms the power plays in developing key neural pathways and strengthening Executive Functioning Skills in childhood.
  - Children are more likely to develop higher-order cognitive and socio-emotional skills than if exposed to direct teaching and adult structured learning opportunities.
  - Research documents the developmental importance of play in all aspects of learning: social, emotional, physical, cognitive, sensorimotor.

If you attended the evening, we would love your feedback.  
Please use the link below to complete a feedback form.

<https://forms.gle/Cvy5MwRjTs5zoz4o9>

# SWIMMING POOL

With Hilton Brown lessons now completed, we have moved through to our year group Swimming Sports. The Year 5 & 6 competition was held a few weeks ago, Year 3 & 4 will be held next Tuesday, 4 April. Year 1 & 2 was due to be held today but due to the weather was cancelled - we are currently looking at options to hold this during the last week of term.

Our zone representatives competed last week at St. Kentigerns.

Congratulations to:-

Alex McIntosh - 3rd - Y5 girls 25m freestyle / Toby Schuller - 1st - Y5 boys backstroke

Carol Zhang, Kate Slyfield, Emma White, Rebecca Lowe:-

- 3rd - Y6 girls 4 x 25m freestyle relay

- 3rd - Open girls medley relay

Junho Suh, Reagan Brookes, Caleb Chung, Alessandro Bezzina

- 3rd place - Open boys medley relay

# PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held next Tuesday, 2 April and Thursday, 4 April in the Bruce McLaren Hall (except our New Entrant and Room 33 classes). Looking at the bookings we can clearly see that the vast majority of parents have already made a booking.

If you are yet to book an interview go to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and use the following code **kf8qw**

**Bookings close at 12noon on Tuesday, 2 April.**

# DROP OFF ZONE

We have once again received a number of complaints from concerned parents and neighbours regarding the actions of some parents when picking up and dropping off students at school. The problem exists on both the junior and senior side, however the drop off zone on the senior side remains the biggest concern.

We would like to remind parents that parking and road rules apply at all times. This includes not parking on yellow lines, not parking over driveways and not double parking on our busy roads. The children's safety has to remain the top priority for all of us.

Auckland Transport are currently conducting a routine assessment of the surrounding parking and drop off zones.

# NZEI UPDATE

You may be aware that the paid union meetings last week were cancelled out of the respect for the events the week before in Christchurch. The teachers are now voting online on the new pay offers and we will await the results of that vote. There was a teacher strike that was pencilled in for the 3rd of April, but this is now not going ahead.

NZEI have not advised members of possible next steps so we have no other updates to give at this point.

# YCT EXAM

In November 2018, over 200 students in Years 5 and 6 sat the YCT Level 1 & 2 exams. YCT is an international Chinese language test which is administered by the Confucius Institute.

Meadowbank is the first and the only school in New Zealand to have over 200 students sitting the test. Children have been working very hard to prepare for the test and they have achieved some fantastic results. There are 2 students who have achieved full marks and 12 students have achieved 90% (180+ marks) in the Level 1 test!



Students proudly received their awards in the special presentation assembly.

# FOMS CONSERVATION CRUISE

On Friday, 26 April FOMS have booked a Conservation Cruise on the Waitemata Harbour. A great opportunity for children to join marine scientists for expert education and interactive research studies.

Tickets are limited to just 80 people. 9.30am until 12noon - \$49 per person - to book please order your tickets through Kindo.

Please note that they do not guarantee viewing of whales and dolphins as this is not the focus of the cruise.

To view the cruise please click on the link below ... ..

<https://youtu.be/tKBPURhEMMI>



## MARCH

- 29 Year 4 Kapa Haka performance - 2.45pm
- Year 6 return from camp

## APRIL

- 2 Year 3 & 4 Swimming Sports
- Parent-Teacher Interviews
- 4 Parent-Teacher Interviews
- 5 Pacific Eats
- Year 6 Camp Assembly Presentation
- 8 Year 5 Enviro Leads trip to Highwic House
- FOMS Meeting - 7.30pm - Senior Staffroom
- 9 Year 4 trip to Okahu Bay
- 12 Assembly - Celebrating Whanaungatanga
- Final Day - Term 1 - school closes @ 3pm
- 15 Club Meadowbank Holiday Programme
- 26 FOMS Conservation Cruise
- 29 Pōwhiri
- Book Week

## MAY

- 1 BOT Meeting - 7pm
- 3 Singing Assembly
- 13 FOMS Meeting - 7.30pm - Senior Staffroom

# BOOK WEEK

29 APRIL - 3 MAY

In week 1 of next term we will be celebrating all things book related.

Dates to be aware of:

Thursday, 2 May - Book Exchange  
(further details to come)

Friday 3 May  
Book Dress Up Day

## 2019/20 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

2019/20 Entertainment Book is coming soon ... you can purchase now and get bonus Early Bird Offers.

[www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/  
orderbooks/954w53](http://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/954w53)

You can order a book or digital version. Your membership contains valuable 2-for-1 offers, special rates and up to 50% off on activities, dining, shopping travel and leisure.

All proceeds raised will be going to our new Senior Playground.