

Te Totara Primary School
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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 6th DECEMBER, 2012

WEEK 8

Kia Ora

Much of this newsletter is devoted to the remainder of the year and also 2013 planning. I realise there is a bit to read but I hope it keeps you well informed.

2012 DATES COMING UP

Friday 7th December

- 2013 Class Lists up on next years rooms at 12.30pm
- PTA Sausage Sizzle
- 1.50pm Class Awards Assembly

Tuesday 11th December

- 9.15am School Tour
- 5.45pm End of Year Celebration

Wednesday 12th December

- 5.45pm Reserve End of Year Celebration Date

Thursday 13th December

- 1.30pm Children visit new classes for 2013

Friday 14th December

- 9.15am "shifting time" - move furniture to 2013 rooms
- 11.10am Annual Year 6 "water play"
- 3.00pm School Finishes for 2013

NEW BUILDING WORK

To cater for our growth, there will be two temporary classrooms added to the school before the 2013 school year.

These will be located behind Marama and will be used to cater for new entrants during the year. These are currently being repainted and recarpeted.

During 2013, a further ten new classrooms will be added to the site for the beginning of the 2014 school year.

**SCHOOL STARTS FOR 2013 ON:
TUESDAY 29TH JANUARY
@ 8.55am**

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER, 2012 @ 5.45pm

As you can appreciate our annual end of Year event needs to be well organised to cater for our 530 students and families. Below are details which we ask everyone to abide by to ensure we can celebrate a great year at Te Totara:

- The event is like a concert in the park, families can bring along picnics, rugs, food, drink of your choice and enjoy celebrating what a wonderful school we have.
- Parking will be minimal, we urge you to stroll to school.
- The two hills on the back field will be used as outdoor stages with families facing the stages.
- All our children are involved and are expected to attend to perform.
- It is a school event so the whole school sits together on their own class chair in a roped off area.
- At the celebration there are six major awards around the STARS. These are selected by the Principal and reflect those students (among many) who exemplify the STARS characteristics. The criteria used can be seen on the school web site under the STARS power point.
- Families are asked not to disturb the children when sitting together as a school, they are under the control of the school and teachers.
- If younger or older children attend they are asked to watch the event. If this is a challenge, they may wish to play on the playground, please not on the field or the astro turf as it disturbs the show.
- Ra and Earth toilets will be open for use.
- At the end of the show, children will return their chairs to their class and parents are asked to collect their children from the classroom.
- Expected finish time is by 7.15pm
- If the weather is wet and you are unsure, please check our facebook page or school website for information. We will also send an automated text message if we have your correct mobile number. The postponement date is Wednesday 12th December 5.45pm, if this date is wet the event will be cancelled.

2013 SCHOOL ORGANISATION

During the last few months we have been preparing for 2013, this has included appointing teachers, budgets and working on priorities. This has culminated in the information below:

Senior Leadership Team

Brian Sheedy	Principal
Anne Fraser	Deputy Principal
Paula Wine	Assistant Principal

Leadership Team

Jennie Brook –Watt	Team Leader	Marama Team
Anna Pratt	Team Leader	Milky Way Team
Jennifer Dalton	Team Leader	Orion Team
Andrea Johns	Team Leader	Matawhero Team
Kelly Good	Team Leader	Earth Team
Helena Kirkham	Team leader	Ra Team

Reading Recovery

Nikki Watson-Paul
Amie Kiely

Marama Team

Learning Area 1	Chris Chase	Year 1
Learning Area 2	Caron Ace	Year 1
	<i>likely to start in February</i>	
Learning Area 25	Sharon Hatherill	Year 1
	<i>likely to start in March</i>	
Learning Area 26	To be decided	Year 1
	<i>Likely to start in May</i>	

Milky Way Team

Learning Area 3	Bridie Carr Neill	Year 1
Learning Area 4	Casey Frew	Year 1
Learning Area 5	Sue Robertson	Year 1
Learning Area 6	Anna Pratt	Year 1

Orion Team

Learning Area 7	Brenda Horwood	Year 2
Learning Area 8	Whaea Emma	Year 2
Learning Area 9	Cath Glyde	Year 2
Learning Area 10	Alana Pulman	Year 2
Learning Area 11	Jennifer Dalton	Year 2

Matawhero Team

Learning Area 12	Emma Dunbar	Year 3/4
Learning Area 13	Ryan Jordan	Year 3/4
Learning Area 14	Heather McCann	Year 3/4
Learning Area 15	Andrea Johns	Year 3/4

Earth Team

Learning Area 16	Rebecca Griffin	Year 3/4
Learning Area 17	Jemma Campbell	Year 3/4
Learning Area 18	Kelly Good	Year 3/4
Learning Area 19	Renee Dutton	Year 3/4

Ra Team

Learning Area 20	Jo Stewart	Year 5/6
Learning Area 21	Angela Sweeny	Year 5/6
Learning Area 22	Whaea Becky	Year 5/6
Learning Area 23	Helena Kirkham	Year 5/6
Learning Area 24	Falstaff Mitchell	Year 5/6

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do we work out classes?

Factors we take into account include:

- Groups of children who work well together
- Staffing needs
- Asked children who their friends are
- Expected enrolments
- Parent opportunity for input

Will my child have a great teacher?

We pride ourselves on having great teachers and are fortunate to select from high quality applicants. For 2013 we had 164 applicants for teaching positions, lucky us!

Our staff to prepare for 2013 will have each students Learning Plan, will have discussions with previous teachers, team meetings and a two day programme to prepare for 2013. As well they will spend many hours preparing themselves to ensure they are ready for an exciting 2013.

Do we stream classes?

Our classes are not streamed. The programme is determined by the needs, interests and abilities of the students in the class. There are no separate programmes for each year level in the school, we use curriculum levels.

Why does the school have some composite (i.e. Year 3/4 and 5/6) classes?

This allows the school to ensure our numbers don't get too high i.e. If we ran straight year groups then we would have classes of 32 Year 4's to start 2013.

It also allows us to have teams who work together in a manageable way. For instance in Year 3 & 4 we have two teams of four, who will operate separately but will also combine where necessary. We have a term for this; "structured flexibility."

The school has huge roll growth (over 100 each year) and allows us to spread out enrolments across the school. For 2013 there are at least five options for new Year 2 students, eight options for new Year 3/4 children and five options for Year 5/6 children who enrol. This allows for settled classes where the growth is managed across the school.

My child is a Year 6 or Year 4 in a Year 3/4 or 5/6 class, does that mean they will be held back and should I be worried?

No, the level of learning is based on the curriculum levels and not the Year level. We don't stream the classes.

Teachers differentiate the curriculum by having groupings for Reading, Writing and Numeracy. In addition, the curriculum for Year 3 & 4 is based around Level 2 of the NZ curriculum and also Level 3 for Year 5 & 6. It is the quality of teaching that will make the difference and being able to cater for the range of children in a class. We know that our teachers and school can successfully cater for this.

The Learning Plan is crucial for each of our students and this is used to help determine individual, group and school programmes. Teachers use this information to help our students with their learning.

How does the school support the students with the transition?

Before the end of the school year we will talk with the children about next years arrangements and answer any queries they have.

On **Thursday 13th December 2012 @1.30 pm**, students will visit the next year's teacher (if they are available) and this will allow time for an outline of the following school year, and answer any queries.

In addition our Learning Plans travel with the student into the following year and teachers have all the information on each of their students so they are able to begin programmes from day one next year based on the learning needs of the children in their care.

If I am not comfortable about what is happening for my child what can I do?

After classes are set on Friday we would only consider exceptional circumstances regarding class arrangements. Factors we must consider include not only the individual but possible flow on effects of changes as well. For 2013 we have made sure that each child had at least one friend that was nominated - a logistical challenge, but reflects the care and consideration given by our staff.

My child is in a different building than the team name, how does that work?

Our classes don't fit neatly into four learning areas. We have used the building, the Team Leader is located in, as the base for that team.

My child is upset about next year, what do I do?

Hopefully this will not be the case as teachers will have talked to students and explained how things have been arranged. Queries at times may relate to friendships.

In addition, children will visit their new rooms on **Thursday 13th December 2012 @ 1.30pm** where they will meet the new teacher (if available). This will help with the transition and reassure them.

During our lives we all have times of change and what is valuable is the ability to adapt and move forward. We are delighted with our children and they have readily adapted to our school so we would see the following year as a great opportunity to further *"Grow and Learn Together."*

SCHOOL STATIONERY ORDERING FOR 2013

We have teamed up with OfficeMax MySchool so that you can buy all your school stationery needs for 2013 over the internet or by mail order. If you do not have access to the internet, you can purchase stationery direct through Office Max (cnr Victoria St & Princes St, Hamilton) Ph: (07) 838-8604. Advise them that you are from Te Totara Primary School and the year level your

child (ren) will be in 2013. They will have hard copies of stationery lists available at the shop from Monday 17th December 2012 onwards.

Many of our families used this online system last year and will be familiar with the ordering process. This website is available from Friday 14th December 2012 for ordering at www.myschool.co.nz/tetotara Instructions on ordering stationery will be placed on our website under "Newsletters".

Please note: You do not need a Student ID, please leave this field blank. If you have a new entrant starting in Term 1, 2013 you are able to order through this website – your child will be a Year 1.

Please ensure you have placed your order no later than 16th January 2013 to ensure delivery before school starts on Tuesday 29th January, 2013. Be in to Win \$1000, order by 16th January 2013 and you're in the draw!



The advertisement features a blue and yellow header with the text "Back to School Stationery" and the OfficeMax logo. Below the header, it promotes "Easy online ordering with OfficeMax MySchool" and lists three bullet points: "View school stationery lists & order at www.myschool.co.nz", "Free delivery for online orders over \$57.50", and "To guarantee delivery before school starts please order by the 20th of January". The ad also includes an image of school supplies like notebooks, pens, and a stapler, and the website address "www.myschool.co.nz".

SCHOOL LIBRARY OPEN IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We are happy to confirm that our library will be open every Thursday in the school holidays from 1pm - 4pm. If you would like to know more about this initiative please click on this link

<http://www.tetotara.school.nz/102/pages/45-summer-holiday-lending>.

Please return all Library books to school, we have 146 books still to be returned please before the end of term.

SECURITY OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

A note to everyone for your assistance over the School Holidays with regard to security at Te Totara School. We would really appreciate you keeping an eye out for any suspicious behaviour around the school. Several of our neighbouring schools have been the victims of burglary and graffiti lately, and we would like to do our very best to ensure that this does not happen to our school.

It is just a matter of keeping our eyes peeled for any suspicious behaviour and phoning the police (**dial 111**) if you do.

TE TOTARA ENVIRO GROUP & SPORTS PHOTOS AVAILABLE TO ORDER IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE

These are now on display in the School Office, Order Forms are available for you to complete beside the photos.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE CLOSED 13TH & 14TH DEC, 2012

We will need to close After School Care on the 13th and 14th of December as we are shifting before & after School Care to the Matariki Hall.

The Holiday Programme will be run out of the Matariki Hall and before & after School Care will be permanently run in Matariki from 2013.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Regards Anna Herbert

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME AT TE TOTARA

Please remember to return all Holiday Programme Enrolment Forms to Anna Herbert by tomorrow, **Friday 7th December 2012**. Enrolment Forms can be found in the School Office, Matawhero 13 or e-mail Anna Herbert at:

afterschoolcare@tetotara.school.nz

AFTER SCHOOL CARE 2013

If you have not already done so, please complete your before & after School Care Enrolment Forms for 2013. Enrolment Forms can be found in the School Office, Matawhero 13 or e-mail Anna Herbert at afterschoolcare@tetotara.school.nz

LOST PROPERTY

Any property left at the school at the end of term i.e. clothing, shoes, socks etc will be on display in the foyer of the Matariki Hall on the following days:

Friday 7th December 2012

Please check to see if any items belong to your family as all unclaimed items (*other than school uniform*) will be donated to the Salvation Army.

NAMING OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please, please, please can you make sure all items of school uniform are clearly named? It is not good enough to assume that your child will know that something belongs to them "because it has a black dot on the tag". If an item of clothing is found out on the fields it can not be returned unless it is named. We go out of our way to identify and return lost property, but patience runs thin when clothing is not named. **TIP, Please use a black marker pen as ink pens do wear off after such a short time!**

OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS

Invoices were sent home earlier in the month; we would appreciate any outstanding invoices to be

Te Totara Primary School

cleared by the end of term. You are welcome to pay through the School Office either by EFT-POS (sorry, no credit card), cash, cheque or internet banking. Our internet banking details are:

Te Totara Primary School
38-9006-0273959-00

Please indicate what the payment is for i.e. school donation, hockey fees, athletics etc...

FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY TOMORROW

This week's assembly will be held tomorrow, **Friday, 7th December 2012 @ 1.50pm, A class awards ceremony will be held. Everyone is welcome.**

WEET-BIX TRYATHLON

We have registered Te Totara as a school group in next year's Weet-bix Kids TRYathlon to be held **Sunday 17th February, 2013**. This group entry gives our athletes a discounted entry price of \$35.00 per participant, as well as the chance to win \$5,000 worth of sporting goods, as well as other prizes. Our event kits will be couriered to our school for free and we will also be sent a school group photo which will be taken on the day.

If your son or daughter is interested in being part of the Te Totara School Team, please e-mail Paula Wine with your child's full name and age to ap@tetotara.school.nz

SPORTS DRAWS

Sports draws will be on display on the below classroom windows or via our school website, please click on the below link to our "After School Sports" page

<http://www.tetotara.school.nz/39/pages/44-after-school-sports>

CRICKET	Orion 10 window
HOCKEY	Orion 10 window
TOUCH	Milky Way 5 window
VOLLEYBALL	Ra Pod window

TE TOTARA PLAYERS OF THE DAY

CRICKET	
Midgets	TBA
Minis	TBA
Mystics	TBA
Terrors	TBA
HOCKEY	
Ticks	TBA
TOUCH	
Chiefs	The whole team
Gunns	Jadon Embling
Rockets	Sean Ralph, Dean Ralph, Zane Renton
VOLLEYBALL	
Spikers	Anika Sky Hamilton & Braydon Cook
Volleys	TBA

DATES COMING UP

Fri 7 Dec	2013 Class Lists on display lunchtime
Fri 7 Dec	PTA Sausage Sizzle at School
Tues 11 Dec	End of Year School Celebration 5.45pm
Wed 12 Dec	End of year School Celebration 5.45pm – Reserve Date
Thurs 13 Dec	Students visit 2013 Classrooms
Fri 14 Dec	END OF TERM FOR 2012, School finishes @ 3.00pm

Brian Sheedy
Principal



TE TOTARA PTA

PTA CLEAROUT SALE – WEDNESDAY 12th DECEMBER AT 2.30-3.30PM

We will be having a clear-out sale of chocolates, juice, water, and cookbooks. Come and see us outside the School hall.

CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISING

We still have **\$900** outstanding, so please return your money or chocs. If you have part boxes left unsold these can be returned along with the money for the sold chocolates. Please return the collection envelope with correct money (\$60/box) cash or cheque made out to 'Te Totara Primary School PTA' to the green 'PTA' box in the school office. Alternatively you can bank transfer to the PTA account: **Te Totara Primary School PTA 03-1355-0711498-00. Please ensure child's name & class are used for reference.**

Any queries please email tetotara.pta@gmail.com, or contact Lisa Clay 0211 333 997.

TE TOTARA COOKBOOK

The last of the Te Totara Cookbooks are available at the School Office at a reduced cost of **\$10.00** per book. Be in quick, makes a great gift for friends and family!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Te-Totara-Primary-School-PTA/30090011661692>



COMMUNITY NOTICES:

We are often asked to put Community Notices in our newsletter. Due to the large number of requests, we now have a "Community Notices" section on the notice board in the School Office, where you will find more information on the notices below. Please note that this does not necessarily imply School endorsement of these notices.

FRUITDALE ORCHARDS

Strawberries in plentiful supply now, sweet and juicy. PYO available some days, please ring before you come. Don't forget to order your Christmas berries. A good selection of other fresh fruit and vegetables will be available over the next few weeks, much of it PYO. Please call and we will let you know when these will be available. We will be closed 25 & 26th December and 1st & 2nd January otherwise we are open 7 days a week from 8.30am – 5.30pm. We would like to extend our thanks for your custom and over the past year and say "Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Period". From the owners of Fruitdale Orchard, 78 Osborne Road, Horsham Downs
Ph: 829-4838

KELLY SPORTS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Now at Te Totara School January 7th – 25th

For children 5-13 years, This Sports based holiday programme will give your children the opportunity to try different sports, learn new skills, improve their confidence and most importantly have a huge amount of fun!

Open from 8.00am to 6.00pm OSCAR / WINZ Approved. For more information or to enrol online go to www.kellyclub.co.nz or contact Leonie

Email waikato@kellysports.co.nz | Phone 07 839 9017

In Term 1 2013 –NEW KARATE CLASSES

Hamilton Wadokai Karate Club – established over 15 years and Hamilton's leading dojo in Karate New Zealand is opening a branch in Te Totara School teaching authentic Japanese Wado-Kai Karate.

Instructors Robbie Smith 7th Dan and James Grace 1st Dan National team members. Call Robbie for more details: [07 8592252](tel:078592252) or [021365677](tel:021365677). www.wadokai.co.nz

TE RAPA PRIMARY SCHOOL AQUATIC & SPORTS CENTRE

Opens to the public Saturday 1st December 2012, Amenities Include: 25 metre pool, junior pool, picnic tables, etc. Contact Steve on steve@swimsupport.co.nz



Taking enrolments for Term 1, 2013. Spaces are limited, so get in quick! Heaps of fun and great for your child's confidence, co-ordination and fitness! Sessions for both boys and girls aged 3 - 10. Cost: \$70 Lessons will be held at Te Totara School. Contact Jolie Hopping on the above email address or phone for more information

Chartwell Scout Group

Welcome Back and Registration Night. Wednesday 30th
January 2013 6.30pm
New members welcome. Chartwell Scout Hall, Belmont Ave,
Chartwell (behind St.Albans Church)

WAIKATO MUSEUM

Join the team at the Waikato Museum for a morning of fun for budding archaeologists, toymakers, artists and creative kids. Go to www.waikatomuseum.co.nz for more information about their programmes and exhibitions these holidays.

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To join our team, apply online today

www.census.govt.nz/jobs Phone 0800 CENSUS

HANNAHS FOOTWEAR - BACK TO SCHOOL

Our full range of Back to School will be available for purchase online from early January on www.hannahs.co.nz. The attached range booklet can also be viewed via our weblink: <http://www.hannahs.co.nz/bts-2013>.

BUBBLE DOME

Summer 2012/2013 Holiday Workshops, book online now.

www.bubbledome.co.nz, info@bubbledome.co.nz Phone 0800 438 282

SPEECH AND DRAMA CLASSES

Held at Te Totara School, Fun classes, start February 2013.
Contact Gaylene Lonergan ph 8556 122