

Te Totara Primary School  
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## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 13th DECEMBER, 2012

WEEK 9

### Kia Ora

This is our final newsletter for the year. It has been another wonderful year and it was fantastic to see our children demonstrate the qualities of our school 'STARS' at our end of year celebration on Tuesday evening. Our children are indeed Te Totara STARS!

To the families leaving Te Totara, my thanks for your support of the school and children and all the very best for the future.

To families returning in 2013, we look forward to another productive year with many exciting opportunities ahead. To see key dates please check our calendar section on the school web site.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our Board have been amazing, they do much that is unseen at school, supporting initiatives, ensuring resourcing is in place and fulfilling their Governance role to enable our school to be a happy and harmonious place. Their special efforts this year with ensuring the building of ten new classrooms is simply staggering.

My special thanks to them for ensuring our children receive the best possible education we can provide.

They will be busy over the holiday season, with meetings, planning and construction timelines being worked on right through the summer break to ensure we provide the best we can for our children.

### THANKS

To our school groups who contribute so much to our school, the PTA, Whanau and Enviro groups. Their efforts are indeed appreciated.

**SCHOOL STARTS FOR 2013 ON:  
TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

**@ 8.55am**

### TERM DATES FOR 2013

Term 1	Tue 29 Jan - Fri 19 April
Term 2	Mon 6 May - Fri 12 July
Term 3	Mon 29 July - Fri 27 Sep
Term 4	Mon 14 Oct - Fri 13 Dec

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Term 1	Wed 6 Feb	Waitangi Day
	Fri 29 March	Good Friday
	Mon 1 April	Easter Monday
	Tue 2 April	Easter Tuesday
Term 2	Mon 3 June	Queen's Birthday
Term 4	Mon 28 Oct	Labour Day

### 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**, students visited their next year's teacher (if they were available), 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 were set on Friday last week, 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 visited their new rooms on **Thursday 13th December 2012** where they met 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 8612 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012 for ordering at [www.myschool.co.nz/tetotara](http://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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013 to ensure delivery before school starts on Tuesday 29th January, 2013. Be in to Win \$1000, order by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and you're in the draw!**



Back to School Stationery OfficeMax

Easy online ordering with OfficeMax MySchool

- View school stationery lists & order at [www.myschool.co.nz](http://www.myschool.co.nz)
- Free delivery for online orders over \$57.50
- To guarantee delivery before school starts please order by the 20th of January

[www.myschool.co.nz](http://www.myschool.co.nz)

## ECO-NEWS FOR THE YEAR

Thanks to all the Eco-Team, teachers, Barnie, Ian, Eco-kids, helpers, supporters, parents and the community for your continued support of our school environment. We have had another very busy, productive year and I am looking forward to further developing the areas we have begun next year. Over the past two weeks we have been fortunate enough to have James Wine and Ray Jackson deliver a truck load of fabulous rocks for the area between Milky Way and Marama. Thanks to the additional help of Scott Robertson to put these rocks into place for the children to enjoy.



This week we had from Rent-A-Dent arrive to deliver the donated flax for the area between Milky Way and Marama. Thanks to Callum Harris for your acceptance speech and the planting of the first flax.

A job well done Eco-kids! It has been a pleasure working with all of you this year. Have a fabulous break and we look forward to seeing you in the Enviro team next year.



Mrs Robertson, Mrs McCann, Mrs Gordon, Mrs Dalton, Miss Campbell, Miss Frew, Barnie and Ian

## 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.

## WEETBIX TRYATHLON

Thank you to all the students who have entered our school Weetbix TRYathlon team. We now have a team of 48 participants, which is very exciting! On Tuesday of this week a permission form (named) was sent home with your child and this form is due back, completed, by tomorrow, Friday December 14th. Please return the forms to the School office and they will be forwarded to Mrs Wine. The payment is not due until February of 2013 but Mrs Wine must register all members over the summer holidays so it is essential that these forms are completed and handed in. Thanks! Any questions please e-mail Paula Wine at [ap@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:ap@tetotara.school.nz)

**NO FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY TOMORROW**  
**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

## 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>

<b>CRICKET</b>	Orion 10 window
<b>HOCKEY</b>	Orion 10 window
<b>TOUCH</b>	Milky Way 5 window
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>	Ra Pod window

## TE TOTARA PLAYERS OF THE DAY

<b>TOUCH</b>	
Gunns	Morgan Codd
Rockets	Joshua Blaikie & Imogen Dryden

## Brian Sheedy

Principal

## TE TOTARA PTA CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISING 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.

### KELLY SPORTS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Now at Te Totara School January 7<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

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](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz) or contact Leonie

Email [waikato@kellysports.co.nz](mailto:waikato@kellysports.co.nz) | Phone 07 839 9017

### AGRIKIDS NZ COMPETITION

Fun filled skills based competition with all sorts of agricultural tasks.

16<sup>th</sup> February 2013, Claudelands.

[www.agrikids.co.nz](http://www.agrikids.co.nz) or phone 0508 247 4545

### SUMMER IN GARDEN PLACE

Calendar of events, Dec 2012-Mar 2013

Fun for all the family in the heart of Hamilton

[www.summerringardenplace.co.nz](http://www.summerringardenplace.co.nz)

### XRACE

Xrace is a fantastic mystery adventure, a challenging race against the clock and against other family teams. Event date for Hamilton Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Phone the XRACE team Ph 021 185 9798 , email [kieren@xrace.co.nz](mailto:kieren@xrace.co.nz) or view [www.xrace.co.nz](http://www.xrace.co.nz)

**Jitterbugs**  
Dance Lessons  
Jolie Hopping Ph 021 117 9633 Email [jitterbugs@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:jitterbugs@vodafone.co.nz)

I am now 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 held at Te Totara Primary School. Any queries or to enrol please email or phone me.

**FOOD FACTS!**

To reduce the amount of fat (eg butter or oil) used in baking, try a half-half fat substitution using pureed canned peaches, mashed bananas or pureed apples.