

Te Totara Primary School
PO Box 28134
Rototuna, Hamilton 3256

31 Hector Drive
Rototuna North, Hamilton 3210
Ph: (07) 853-0039
www.tetotara.school.nz
principal@tetotara.school.nz



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 14TH MARCH, 2013

WEEK 7

Kia Ora (Maori/NZ), **Hello** (English), **Bula** (Fijian), **Welkom** (South African), **Huān yíng** (Chinese-Mandarin), **Ayubowan, Vanakkam** (Sri Lankan), **Namaste** (India), **Bem-vindos** (Brazil), **Marhaba** (Arabic), **Hallo** (Dutch), **Choum Reap Sour** (Cambodia), **Geiá sou** (Greek), **Mbote, Jambo** (Congolese)

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH, 2013 TEACHERS UNAVAILABLE FROM 12.25PM TO TEACH

The school has been advised by the NZEI Te Riu Roa that it is holding a Paid Union Meeting for teachers on **Wednesday 20th March, 2013**. Accordingly, the majority of the school's teaching staff will be unavailable after 12.25pm on that date. I encourage you to collect your child at 12.25pm or make some other arrangements for the duration of the meeting. Children are welcome to bring their lunch.

However, if you wish your child to remain at school from 12.25pm to 3.00pm, please contact me via e-mail principal@tetotara.school.nz.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2013

I would like to remind parents who have booked their child in for Wednesday 20th of March that they still need to pack their child's lunch for that day.

We provide afternoon tea at 3.00pm as per usual, however lunch still needs to be packed.

Thanks! ☺ Anna Herbert

CASUAL FEES - BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

If your child is permanently enrolled at After School Care the fee is \$6.00 per hour, if your child is a CASUAL the fee is \$8.00 per hour.

Please advise Anna by Friday 15th March so she can ensure we have enough staff to cover.

NZEI is the union that represents Primary Teachers, Primary Principals and Support Staff. Under the Employment Relations Act, paid Union Meetings are a legal entitlement to discuss union business. In this case, NZEI has advised that purpose of the meeting is to discuss what it sees as a lack of progress towards a fair settlement of the Primary Teachers' Collective Agreement, and other key issues impacting on teaching and learning. In our experience, NZEI calls paid Union Meetings infrequently and only when it believes that there is urgent and important business to discuss with its members.

Thank you for your co-operation and assistance.

Brian Sheedy, Principal

TE TOTARA REACHES ALL 2012 TARGETS

We are delighted with the progress we made last year to continue to lift achievement at our school.

To measure the gains made, we measure the same group from one year to the next.

Features include:

- 90% achieving at or above in relation to National Standards in Writing (using the same 2011 cohort)
- 95% achieving at or above in relation to National Standards (using the same 2011 cohort)
- 92% achieving at or above in relation to National Standards (using the same 2011 cohort)

A full report can be found here in our [Analysis of Variance](#), where you can also find National Standards information as well as a detailed review of the 2012 year here as well.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We are delighted to announce the appointment of new teaching staff to the school. We had 70 applicants for teaching positions and were delighted with the high quality of the people who want to be at Te Totara.

We have three of our wonderful team having babies shortly; families in these rooms will be pleased to know that plans are in place. For the new teachers taking over classes, we will be having a transition time where the new staff work with the existing teacher. All of our new teachers are able to join us when it is appropriate for our existing teachers to have their babies!

Shortly, we will be uploading biographies on our website of our wonderful new people and I will let you know when that happens.

Our new staff are:

New Teacher	Taking over from...
Cyra Wells	Whaea Emma Jordan R8
Bridget McLaughlin	Mrs Pratt R6
Anna Jenkins	Miss Campbell R17
Jemma Shannon	New Entrant Class R35

In addition, we are delighted to announce that Sharon Hatherill (R36) and Caron Ace (R2), who currently teach at our school, are here on a permanent basis.

2013 - WHAT ARE WE DOING?

A journey of continual improvement to fulfil our mission of Growing and Learning Together is what we aim to do. Please click for our [Charter, Strategic & Annual Plan](#) to see our exciting year ahead. Next week we will be sending home a family friendly pamphlet version.

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO) VISIT

Next week we will be visited by ERO, to look at our processes, systems and achievement. This is a valuable external review that will support our school to continually improve.

They will provide a written report, which will be available to the community in a month or so after visit - we'll let you know when it is available.

GRANT FOR A SWIMMING POOL

We are delighted to have been successful in gaining \$20,000 from the Lion Foundation for a pool. We are looking at raising \$60,000 for this project and this certainly helps. For more information follow the link to see what we are raising money for:

[Pools in Schools information](#)

LOCK DOWN TRIAL

At least twice a year we hold a Lock Down Trial, to ensure everyone's safety in an emergency. We talk with the children around this to reassure them that it is a trial only! We held one this afternoon at 1.35pm and this is a big help in looking at our procedures, especially early in the year when we have so many new staff and students in the school.

MUFTI DAY

To help our fundraising for a pool and to support our Rising STAR Regan Standing, (more info here...[Regan Standing information](#)) we will have a Mufti Day on **Wednesday 17th April**, where we hope everyone brings a gold coin donation to the School Office, with the proceeds being split 50/50.

A "Mufti Day" is when our student can come in their own clothes rather than wearing our school uniform on that day.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

Shortly, we will be calling for nominations for our Board of Trustees. If you are interested then you might like to come along to a Board meeting to see what it entails.

Our next Board of Trustees meeting is on Thursday 28th March 6.30pm. You would be more than welcome to come along. This will be held in the Staff Lounge.

You may be interested in also finding out further information; a good web site is the School Trustees one, which has lots of information:

[Becoming a Trustee](#)

FOOD AT SCHOOL

We have children at our school who are highly allergic to dairy products and nuts and exposure to these foods could potentially be life threatening to them. We have procedures in place for 1:1 support for these children to ensure their safety. At present we will continue to carry on with our normal food eating programme, but we have to carefully plan school events/learning area celebrations etc. With this in mind, please don't be offended if any kind offers of food to the school are scrutinised. Please ensure all food containers are clearly named.

UNIFORM UPDATE

We received four competitive requests for supplying our school uniform. We are currently examining them and looking at the best option for our school. We are taking time to get this process right and are aiming to have this process finished in a few weeks. We will let you know the details as soon as we have the system in place, trialled and making sure it works well for the end user.

In last weeks survey feedback I forgot to mention that we had received five queries on uniforms, around the colour. A review on uniform was conducted over a year ago and there are no current plans to change what is in place.

NEW SCHOOLS IN OUR AREA

It is great to have more surety on what is happening in our area for future schooling. There is a lot more consultation work to be done by the Ministry of Education (MOE) around zones, start times etc.

Over the coming months there will naturally be a lot of 'swirling information'. To support our community we will supply factual information as it comes to hand through our newsletter. We will be proactive in finding this information and using our networks to help. Our Board have worked long and hard with the MOE over the last few years, supplying information, meeting with them regularly and keeping them updated with actual data. The Board of Trustees role has been significant.

VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL (INCLUDING PARENTS)

If you are visiting our school for business reasons, or as a parent dropping off things to your child during school hours, please report to the School Office before entering the school grounds.

LEARNING PLAN DISCUSSIONS

To help the teachers formulate Learning Plans due out during Term 2, 2013. Learning Plan discussions will take place on **Tuesday 26th March & Wednesday 27th March, 2013**. To make an appointment time for your child/ren, please use our online booking system

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz – our school code is

A7GHS If you are unable to access a computer, please phone Marise in the School Office on (07) 853-0039 to make a convenient time.

Bookings close Friday 22nd March @ 3.00pm

Please Note: We will not be able to accept bookings after Friday 22nd March @ 3.00pm.

Due to Learning Plan Discussions, school will finish at 2.00pm on Tuesday 26th March & Wednesday 27th March. Students will need to be collected by parents/caregivers at 2.00pm please.

After School Care will begin at the earlier time of at 2.00pm for those children enrolled at After School Care.

ICAS 2013 DATES

We would like to give your year 4 -6 child the opportunity to compete in the 2013 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) run annually by Educational Assessment Australia with the University of NSW. If your child has ability, interest or aptitude in any of the subjects below, he or she may enjoy this challenge.

The 2013 ICAS dates and costs are listed below:

- Computer Skills, English, Mathematics and Science \$8.50 per test
- Spelling \$10.50
- Writing \$19.50

SUBJECT	SITTING DATE
Computer Skills	Tuesday 21 May
Science	Wednesday 5 June
Spelling	Tuesday 18 June
Writing	Wednesday 19 June
English	Wednesday 31 July
Mathematics	Tuesday 13 August

As you will notice from the ICAS dates above, the first exam is Computer Skills on Tuesday 21st May, 2013. **In order to ensure all exams arrive in time we would ask that student registration and payment to the School Office by the Friday 12th April, 2013.** If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Paula Wine.

ENVIRO TEAM NEWS

Welcome to another year with a new team both staff and children. Our staff involved with the Eco-kids this year are; Mrs Robertson in Milky Way 5, Mrs McCann in Matawhero 14, Miss Campbell in Earth 17, Miss Pulman in Orion 10, Mrs Stewart in Ra 20 and our Caretaker Barnie. For Term 1 we have invited the senior school to be a part of the Eco-kids with the idea that in Term 2 we will use their skills to teach members of the junior school. Due to the weather patterns at present, planting is on hold but there are other issues around the school that the Eco-kids will be involved in. We currently have two issues within our playground that the Eco-kids will be a part of solving. One of the issues is the walkway in the garden outside Mr Sheedy's office. We would like to collect 80 ice-cream punnets. If you are able to help us with this could you please drop them to Mrs Robertson in Milky Way 5.

In term 2 we will take part in the Arbour Day Plant on the 31st May at the Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park. We attended this for the first time last year and it was a fantastic day. The labour is intensive and some 'man' power would be greatly appreciated as it does involve digging many holes for the approximate 24,000 trees that are planted. This year the Eco-kids will be provided with their own spades but if you would like to attend this with us could you please let Mrs Robertson in Milky Way 5 know.

CLUSTER SWIMMING SPORTS

Next week on Tuesday 19 March, we have 17 year 4-6 students who have been selected to represent our School at the Fairfield Cluster Swimming Sports. We wish them well and know that they will be great representatives of our School.

FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY TOMORROW

This week's assembly will be held tomorrow, **Friday 15th March 2013 at 2.15pm in the Matariki Hall.** This week our children starring will be Orion 11. Everyone is welcome.

TE TOTARA SPORTS

PLAYER OF THE DAY

CRICKET

- Midgets** No game
Minis Dulina Haegoda, Charlie Jordan, Daniel Fitzgerald, Rory Allison
Terrors Olivia Kjestrup-Traue
Thunders Logan McKay, Ben Davidson
Mystics Leneshen Govender, Fletcher Warren

TOUCH

- Rockets** Taine Morrison
Gunns Madison Long, Cameron Hopping
Chiefs Ethan Hight

VOLLEYBALL

- Spikers** Kendyll Blissett
Setters Mikaela Millwood

DATES COMING UP

- Mon 18 March** ERO at school this week
Tues 19 March Year 4-6 Cluster Swimming Sports
Wed 20 March Pick-up children at 12.25pm
Teachers Union Meeting
Tues 26 March Learning Plan Discussions 2pm-5.30pm
School Finishes at 2.00pm
Wed 27 March Learning Plan Discussions 2pm-7.00pm
School Finishes at 2.00pm
Thurs 28 Mar BOT Meeting @ 6.30pm
Fri 29 March School Closed - Good Friday
Mon 1 April School Closed - Easter Monday
Tue 2 April School Closed - Easter Tuesday
Thu 4 April School's 5th Birthday Walkathon
Fri 5 April Balloons over Waikato Visit
Routine N/E Hearing & Vision Testing
Thu 11 April PTA AGM @ 7.00pm, Meeting @ 7.30pm
Wed 17 April "Mufti Day" at School
Fri 19 April School Closes for Term 1 @ 3.00pm

Brian Sheedy
Principal

TE TOTARA PTA



PTA

Te Totara Primary School

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Thursday 11th April 2013 in the Staff Lounge.

Everyone is welcome. AGM at 7.00pm, then normal meeting will start approx. 7.30pm.

ICE BLOCK FRIDAYS

Lemonade Popsicles will be available for sale at a cost of **\$1.50 each** outside the Matariki Hall after eating for learning has finished at 12.35pm.

Please ensure your child/ren has the correct amount of money as no change will be given.

All proceeds will go towards fundraising for our children. Parents, if you are available to help with the selling of the Ice Blocks on any of the Fridays (approx ½ hour of your time), please e-mail tracy.jessep@gmail.com or text Tracy on 021 755 385.

CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISING

There has been a great response to this, so thank you very much. I have now obtained a few more boxes of the variety packs only, which contain 10 peppery chews, 10 chocolate fish, & 10 buzz bars. If you would like a box to sell please contact me.

****For every full box of chocolates you sell, your name will go into the draw to win a 'Fujifilm JX500 Compact Camera Bundle', worth \$119. Runner-up prizes as well. All money must be returned by 3.00pm Thursday 4/4/2013 to be into the draw****

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

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS - \$60.00 EACH

Yes, that time of year has come already - the new bigger and better Entertainment Book is at the printers now. Here are some of the fantastic valuable offers in the book, Furnace, The Abbey, Cullens, Keystone plus so much more!

Great news is that \$12.00 of each book sold goes straight to Te Totara School fundraising for new sports equipment. Pre-sales are happening NOW, do not miss the exclusive Bonus Offers which include over \$150.00 and can be used straight away. Simply pay for your 2013-2014 Entertainment Book by contacting Kristy MacIntyre, Ph 021440016, rigamac@orcon.net.nz

Get in quick, limited supply!

Mid May an Entertainment Book will be issued to the oldest child in each family, this is a fantastic fundraiser and great treat for the 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.

MISSING SCOOTER

Black and red MGP. Black T bar with red handle grips, red wheels and red and black deck. Unfortunately it is unnamed but it does have a green sticker on the vertical T bar.

It belongs to Eva Carter, Room 11. It went missing yesterday.

Te Totara Primary School

BARNARDOS TE TOTARA GALA DAY, THIS WEEKEND SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 2013, 8.30AM – 12 NOON

Come along to Barnardos Family Gala Day, lots of fun for all!

8.30am – 12 noon in the Te Totara School Hall.

It would be great to support our neighbours.

HAMILTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FAIR

SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2013 FROM 9AM – 3PM

Come and enjoy the day with us. Food stalls, books, games and much more. 9am till 3pm.

HRFC GRADING

Sunday 17th March For all registered 10th and 11th grade HRFC Players. 10th grade 8.45, 11th grade 10.15 at Grosvenor Park Any queries please phone Karyn Walters on 8539988 or visit www.hrhc.co.nz

GET READY TO RIDE!

Join us on Sunday, April 7th at 10.00am in celebrating the opening of Te Awa River Ride's cycle/walkway with a community bike ride and walk. For further details www.brianperry.co.nz

SPEECH AND DRAMA LESSONS AVAILABLE

Develop confidence! Drama, public speaking, poetry, reading aloud, improvisation skills, voice quality and projection and many other skills covered. Competitions and exams available. Ages 9-15. \$13-17 per one hour group lesson. Contact Laura Watson A.S.B. [0220896158](tel:0220896158) or [078563303](tel:078563303) or lauraw09@gmail.com

ASTRA MOTOR LODGE

Hamilton's newest motel due to open Easter weekend.

Advertising for housekeepers wanted, between the hours 9am - 1pm. Weekend work available. All enquiries welcome.

Please call Bronny or Steven on 0800 427 872.

MARTIAL ARTS
FOR KIDS, TEENS
AND ADULTS

Confidence
Beats Bullies

Te Totara School, (5-12 years) Tuesdays 6.30pm
Also at: Chartwell, Dinsdale, Glenview, Pukete, Rototuna
P:0800TKMANZ www.tkma.co.nz