

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 31st JANUARY, 2013

WEEK 1

Kia Ora (Maori/NZ), 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)

You may have noticed that we have updated our welcomes above to better reflect the wonderful backgrounds of our families. We have endeavoured to get all our different welcomes correct, but if you have one we have missed or one that needs updating, then please let me know and I will update our list ☺

It is great to be back at school!

We had 54 new students start this year and at school had a Powhiri this morning to welcome our four new full time teachers at school. I wish them, and all families, a warm welcome to the 2013 school year at Te Totara. We now have 525 students at school and 23 classrooms in operation. We will shortly be opening our 24th classroom (Room 2 - New Entrants) with Caron Ace teaching. We have an exciting year of learning ahead and our aim is to keep everyone informed of these and other school happenings.

OUR JOURNEY

Across the school this term, we are learning about "Our Journey" involving lots of different opportunities for our children. One of the activities to celebrate our school journey is the school's 5th Birthday. We'll be holding a walkathon on Thursday 4th April, for a late afternoon event. More details to come.

CAR PARKING - SAFETY AT OUR SCHOOL

Please, **NO parking on the grass at the front of our school.** This is very dangerous for children and drivers whilst coming and leaving school. Signs are now in place to confirm **NO parking areas.**

SCHOOL UNIFORMS - EMBROIDME

We have just found out that the local Hamilton store of EmbroidMe that supplies Te Totara uniforms, has gone into liquidation. The nature of liquidation means that it is foisted upon the business suddenly so

there is often no warning to customers and suppliers. This means Te Totara currently has no supplier of our school uniform. The school is moving as quick as we can to support our community at this time.

Some FAQs:

If I have a current uniform, will it become useless?

No, the current uniform will stay and one criteria for a new supplier is to continue the current style of uniform as close as possible to the existing school uniform.

My child doesn't have correct uniform, what do I do?

Don't worry, send them to school with as close as possible to the existing uniform, we will not be worried about that. The main thing is that they have a smile and enjoy school.

What happens to future uniforms?

We will now go out in the market with a request for a proposal to supply uniforms to the school. This will be a competitive tender to get the best arrangement for all. We will update you on further developments in this area.

LOST PROPERTY 2013

This year there will be lost property boxes situated in each of the pods only. **There will no longer be a lost property box in the Matariki Hall.** Each pod will be responsible for handing out any named items. To make this process easy **please ensure that your child's uniforms are clearly named (in full) with your child's first and last name.**

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

MATHLETICS

We are in the process of rolling over all students to their next year level in Mathletics. This will be done by next week. In the meantime, your child can still benefit from Mathletics by:

- Continuing to complete their tasks from last year, working towards mastery of these concepts
- Go onto Live Mathletics to verse other Mathletics from around the world
- Try the Problem Solving option for a new challenge
- Go onto Rainforest Maths

OUR SCHOOL AND HAPPENINGS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Our team of 63 staff and Board of Trustees have been busy over the school holiday period, some features include

- Our teachers undertaking a two day retreat last week, where we were involved in Professional Development in helping ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages), Writing, School organisation, Team (i.e. Orion etc) and Committee meetings (Sports, Enviro, Year Book, Whanau & Visual Arts).
- After School holiday programmes.
- Moving After School Care in Matariki.
- Two new rooms being moved on site and completely refurbished inside and out.
- The selection of Architects (Chow Hill) who are working on concept plans for eight new classrooms due to be completed in September. Once plans are confirmed we'll have a section on our web site on this.

OUR SCHOOL ORGANISATION

This link below has been created by our wonderful Webmaster Michelle Simms and is an interactive map of our school which is a great way to find out where everyone is, with up to date biographies of our fantastic team.

http://www.tetotara.school.nz/4/embedded_items/11-interactive-site-map

KEEP IN TOUCH-JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

Our face book is a great way to stay in touch. We currently have over 430 followers, and are aiming for 500, so please join us. You will find regular updates and photos of school happenings as well as keeping you up to date of school events that may have to be postponed at short notice due to weather.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

We are keen to add a community directory to our website to promote goods and services provided by our families. To participate you must be a family member of a current student at the school. If you are interested in featuring in the directory please contact MichelleS@tetotara.school.nz for more information.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

With the arrival of iPads in our school our teachers are keen to use this technology to share our students' learning with the community. In some cases this may involve uploading videos to YouTube and featuring them on our website or in a class blog. Children's full names will never accompany the clips. If you have any concerns about this please contact me – principal@tetotara.school.nz

SANITARIUM WEET-BIX KIDS TRYATHLON

This year's Weet-Bix TRYathlon will be held on **Sunday 17th February 2013 at the University Fields, Hamilton East.** We are excited to be entering a school team of 61 participants! We will have our school gazebo set up on the day as a meeting point for students and their families and will aim to set this up as close to the finish line as possible.

A few important things:

* Please visit the <http://tryathlon.weetbix.co.nz> to download the Race Preparation Checklist and a map of the event.

* Make sure you allow plenty of time to get to the event (which is open from 7am on the day) and to find a car park

* Once you arrive you will need to get through the numbering, check in your child, and talk through the transition process with your child before the transition closes (8:15 am on the day of the event).

* If you are going to receive your event kit through the school you need to head to the Numbering Flags to have your bib number written on your arms and legs by HELP TEAM volunteers in red T shirts. You must have your bike, bib number label sheet and T shirt with you. Then you and your child need to head towards Transition where the "Check-In: Flags are to be quickly scanned in and receive your Arena Swim Cap. Remember, you must bring your bib number label sheet with bar code for scanning and t-shirt with you from your official Event Kit. Once you have checked in you will keep moving to rack your bike (with one parent/caregiver to help their child). See the Weet-bix website for the Transition checklist.

* At approximately 12:30 pm the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon concludes and prizegiving begins. You must be present at prizegiving with your event number to claim any prizes. The TRANSITION area will open at the conclusion of prizegiving. You should plan to be at the University Fields until approximately 1pm.

* We will have a Te Totara Weet-Bix TRYathlon Team photo taken after the event.

* Approximate distances for event:

7 year olds - 50m swim, 4km cycle, 1.5km run

8-10 year olds - 100m swim, 4km cycle, 1.5km run

It is a good idea to practise these distances a few times before the event, and especially practise the transitions from swimming to cycling to running. Another great suggestion is to have a flag or scarf to mark your child's bike so that they can more easily locate their bike after their swim.

Good luck to all of our participants and well done for giving it a go! If you have any questions please check the Sanitarium Weet-bix Kids TRYathlon website or contact Paula Wine.

FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY TOMORROW
Friday, 1st February 2013 at 2.15pm, stars ALL our new children to Te Totara School. Everyone is welcome.

WELCOME BACK TO A BUSY TERM FOR SPORTS
 Calls for interest in Cricket went home this week and need to back by Friday 1st February, as the season starts very soon. You will also hear about interest in Touch Rugby within the next two weeks, and later on the term you will hear about Hockey and Netball. Please return these notices as soon as possible, so your child can be placed into a team. If you are interested in coaching/managing a team, please get in touch with Rebecca Griffin (Matawhero 16) and she will take your information down.

All children playing a sport will need to purchase a Te Totara Primary School Sport T-shirt which is separate from your child's everyday school uniform. This is in the process of being organised and you will be updated as the process unfolds. In the meantime, children will be given a sport shirt to borrow. If you have any queries about purchasing a sports t-shirt you may contact the Principal.

Brian Sheedy
Principal

DATES COMING UP

Wed 6 Feb	School closed-Waitangi Day
Wed 13 Feb	Whanau Group Meeting 12.35pm
Thu 14 Feb	Meet the Teacher 5.40pm Marama, Milky Way, Orion 6.10pm Matawhero, Earth 6.40pm Ra
Sun 17 Feb	Weetbix Tryathalon
Thu 21 Feb	PTA meet 7.30pm
Thu 28 Feb	BOT meet 6.30pm
Mon 18 March	ERO at school this week
Fri 29 March	School closed Easter
Mon 1 April	School closed-Easter
Tue 2 April	School closed-Easter
Thu 4 Apr	School's 5th Birthday Walkathon
Fri 5 April	Balloons over Waikato visit
Fri 19 Aril	School closes for Term 1 @ 3.00pm

TE TOTARA PTA

Next meeting date:
Thursday 21st February, 2013

<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.

HOOF BEATS RIDING SCHOOL OPEN DAY
 Sunday 10th February 2013, 176 Gordonton Rd Rototuna.
 Come and meet the ponies and have a ride gold coin donation. Raffle and sausage sizzle
 Riding school specials.

SPEECH AND DRAMA LESSONS AVAILABLE
 Develop confidence! Drama, public speaking, poetry, reading aloud, improvisation skills, voice quality and projection and many other skills covered.
 Ages 7-15 Contact Laura Watson A.S.B. [0220896158](tel:0220896158) or [078563303](tel:078563303) or lauraw09@gmail.com

DANCE FOR LIFE, TE TOTARA SCHOOL HALL
 This is a Latin American dance fitness programme for ladies in Te Totara School Hall, Thursdays, 6.15pm. The first lesson, on Thursday 31 January, is absolutely free, so come along and join in with no obligation. Latin American dance is great fun, interesting, and there's always something to learn, so you'll exercise your mind as well as your body! Phone Sheryl Avery (qual. Associate NZFDT), mob. 021 08 369 852.

NEW KARATE CLASSES, TE TOTARA SCHOOL HALL
 Hamilton Wadokai Karate Club – established over 15 years and Hamilton's leading dojo in Karate New Zealand with World ranked students has started classes in Te Totara School teaching authentic Japanese Wado-Kai Karate. Monday/Wednesday 6-7pm. Instructor Robbie Smith 7th Dan. Call Robbie for more details: [07 8592252](tel:078592252) or [021365677](tel:021365677). www.wadokai.co.nz

GUITAR AND UKULELE LESSONS
 Musiqhub will be running guitar and ukulele lessons at Te Totara School this term. They will be held on location at school, on Fridays. It's fun and good for the brain. If you are interested in guitar or ukulele lessons please contact Malcolm Hart on 021 229 8820 or 07 825 2296 or email malcolm.hart@musiqhub.co.nz.

CALLING ALL KEEN CRICKET PLAYERS!
Suburbs Cricket Club needs you!
 Games are on 9am Saturday mornings
 16th February to 23rd March (6 weeks)
 If you are interested or have any enquiries please ring Bridget Frost, [07 887 6662](tel:078876662).



Last chance to enrol for Term 1, 2013. Only a few spaces left! 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 and start Week 3, with the show on 12th April 2013