

Ngahere Team Newsletter Term 1 2016

Tena Koutou Parents / Caregivers

A warm welcome to all our new whanau joining our syndicate for the first time, as well as whanau who will continue to work with us for another year in 2016. As a teaching team, we are all looking forward to a great year and are excited to be working with, and alongside, you to support your children in their learning.

Introducing the team...

Candis Wood - Room 12 - Co Team Leader - candis.wood@titahibay.school.nz

I am a local born and bred Titahi Bay girl! I feel absolutely privileged to commence my seventh year of teaching at this amazing school. I gain huge satisfaction daily working with our tamariki and growing their love of learning new skills and knowledge alongside their peers. I especially enjoy supporting children to take on leadership opportunities to grow themselves as leaders within our school. I enjoy spending time with my whanau/friends, especially my two handsome nephews Tamati and Mahe, as well as kicking and punching the pads at the local Alpha kickboxing gym. Bring on 2016!

Nicky Bell - Room 10 - nicky.bell@titahibay.school.nz

This year will mark my 11th year of teaching and 6th year at Kura Street! Originally from Liverpool, England, I'm far from home. Like many people who travel overseas, sometimes you end up being drawn into a particular place and group of people and that's why I've stuck around. The staff and children at Kura Street are my extended whanau now! Teaching is a vocation for me, every day brings something new and interesting when you are working with young minds. When I'm not teaching, I'm out walking, driving to new places and hanging out on Cuba Street where I am fortunate enough to reside at the moment. 2016 will mark my return to the Ngahere syndicate. I am looking forward to a year full of new opportunities working with seniors, the role models of our school.

Janelle Reid - Room 11 - janelle.reid@titahibay.school.nz

I have been working at Titahi Bay School for about six years now. I was born in Melbourne, Australia but would never call myself an Aussie. I am a Tawa girl but I now live in Porirua with three other flatmates and three dogs. My dog is called Marshall. I love sports and I consider myself to be very competitive. My passion is football (soccer). I have played for the last 20 years and have recently started a tennis club with my friends. My special talent is whistling.

Matt Tan - Room 13 - matt.tan@titahibay.school.nz

My full name is Matt Yaohui Tan (yup, I'm half Chinese). I have been married for 10 years to my wife Elise. We live in the Bay with our two young daughters Olivia and Asha. In my spare time I enjoy writing songs, watching movies and playing video games. The main sports I follow are football and American Football. I have been teaching here at Titahi Bay School since the

beginning of 2014. I am really looking forward to being a part of the Ngahere team for the first time! Bring on 2016.

Gillian Tumoana - Room 18 - gillian.tumoana@titahibay.school.nz

I am known as Whaea Gillian to the tamariki and I have been teaching at Kura Street for 10 years. In this time I have taught across the school from new entrants through to seniors. I absolutely love teaching at this Kura. I live in Tawa and I have four children and three mokopuna (one due next year - hooray). Nothing makes me happier than to be spending my free time with my whanau.

Delwyn Gardner - Room 19 - delwyn.gardner@titahibay.school.nz

I now reside in Room 19. I have a passion for Te Reo Maori and thoroughly enjoy teaching Kapa Haka within the school.

On a personal note, I have a son, Falcon, who is a Year 3 student in Room 16 with Mr Edgecombe. I enjoy playing sport and spending time with my family.

I am looking forward to a great 2016 year with my wonderful class in Room 19.

Mihi nui

Communication

Communication with parents and caregivers is very important to the Ngahere Team. Therefore, if you have anything you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to see your child's teacher. Email is also an effective way of communicating with your child's teacher and they will always endeavour to reply as soon as possible. If there is something you would like to discuss about your child please see the classroom teacher first otherwise either see Candis Wood or Nicky Bell as syndicate leaders.

Classroom Programmes

At the start of the year, all Ngahere classes will be focussing on building and setting up their classroom culture; class treaty, classroom routines and expectations of how children will work together. There will also be a lot of emphasis on what leadership will look like for all children as seniors and children will be given various opportunities to take on different leadership roles both within our syndicate and across the school.

Specific KURA values that will be focused on within classes will consist of the following; KURA in the classroom, stop/walk/talk, being prepared and ready to learn, entering and exiting the room, moving around school, going to the office, ordering lunch and going to the printer, as well as having a good attitude towards learning and involving oneself in syndicate and school activities.

Literacy (Reading, Writing and Spelling) and Numeracy programmes will be taught daily and teachers will be in touch during Term 1 to discuss support programmes that will be in place for any children who are identified as target children in all specific learning areas.

Chromebooks

All Ngahere classes will be using Chromebooks to support children's learning and as evident in 2015, these are motivating tools. We will be introducing the Chromebooks over the first few weeks and working alongside students to:

- Establish KURA for Chromebook expectations for our students to understand how they are used and cared for.
- Explore how to sign in and out using their individual logins and emails.
- Explore features of Chromebooks; creating and saving documents, labelling documents and general features of using google documents, as well as new apps that can be used to support classroom learning for children.
- Initially we will use Chromebooks for Maths Whizz and for everyday writing. We will eventually use Chromebooks for other curriculum areas as we progress through the year.

We understand this will be a new way of teaching and learning for both children and parents; however, we are excited about the positive impact Chromebooks will have on our student's achievement and the visibility of your child's learning for you at home to discuss what your child is learning at school and to see the work they are producing. We have scheduled an evening to meet with ALL Ngahere families mid-way through Term 1 to discuss with you more specifics about the use of Chromebooks within the classroom, ways to ensure digital safety at home and ideas of how you can support your child at home with their learning using their google accounts. (Details about the date and time of this evening will be sent home early in Term 1 and there will be the expectation that all parents attend this evening.)

Our Term 1 inquiries are:

"My Taonga" - Things that are precious to us; people, places, belongings. At the beginning of the year, children will be sent home with a sheet outlining more specifics about what this will require. This inquiry will involve them learning and sharing more about themselves and their whanau, so they will need your support with this.

Our second inquiry will be a Science Inquiry about the "Body's Mechanics." During this inquiry, children will be exploring the human skeleton (bones and muscles) that make up our body and their functions. This inquiry will correlate with the children's learning and practise leading up to the school triathlon.

Physical Education:

Our P.E programmes this term will focus on; preparing for our whole school Triathlon coming up on Saturday 19th March. Students will be work on their fitness and also concentrated training on each discipline (running and biking). It is essential that your child wears suitable footwear to school daily, as they will be practising each day for this event.

Pedal Ready will also be back in school to work with our children to practise and refine their biking skills.

Year 5s - Review of Grade 1 and specific activities to prepare them for the triathlon.

Year 6s - Recap of Grade 2 and lots of practise with decision making. Also activities to prepare them for group riding on the road.

Children are encouraged to bring their bikes and helmets to school every day in order for them to practise during school. If your child does not have a bike, they may use one of our school bikes.

The Pedal Ready notice that comes home will clearly inform you of the day to which your child will be involved in Pedal Ready and therefore the day they will definitely need to have their bike at school.

The Arts

Our visual focus for the start of the term will be creating a detailed self-portrait and name art, as well a digital korowai. We will also focus on learning about weaving and how to do stitching.

Our music and dance focus will be on participating in senior kapahaka to revise known waiata, as well as to learn new waiata which we will perform during our Noho Marae experience (end of Term 1) and at Kapo Kapo in Term 2. (Details about our Noho Marae experience will be sent home early in Term 1 once we have a date confirmed with the local Marae and know the logistics as to how this will be run.)

Homework

It is expected that all children will be reading for at least 20 minutes at home with a book of their choice and going onto our new online Maths programme Maths Whizz daily to practise maths concepts taught in class. We cannot stress the use of this online maths programme enough, which the school has paid a lot of money for, as it supports your child by specifically targeting their areas of need. At the start of the year, all children will undertake an essential spelling list test and words that the children need to learn will be highlighted and sent home with various ideas of what you can do at home to support your child with learning how to spell these words correctly. Spelling is an essential part of the writing process so it is an important skill to practise regularly.

Nāku, nā

Candis Wood, Nicky Bell, Janelle Reid, Matt Tan, Gillian Tumoana, Delwyn Gardner.