



Titahi Bay School Board Newsletter Term 1, 2021

Welcome back to a bright new year at Titahi Bay School everyone! Sitting around our table this year are Sarah Campbell (Chair, Policy), Kerry Delaney (Principal), Abby Keplar (Health and Safety), Gaby Wesley-Smith (Finance, Home & School), Duncan Emo (Property), Kumeroa Brown (Māori Strategy), Vanepale Sopoaga Co-opted 2021 (Pasifika Strategy), Anna McGavin and Sharon Thompson (Staff Representative). We hope you all managed to get out and enjoy some of the wonderful weather we've had and to dip your toes in the sea. How lucky are we to have this incredible natural playground at our doorstep? This is going to be another busy year for our school and we're looking forward to making it a great one. We, like you, were disappointed we had to postpone the school TRI. We were very unsure just what might happen so we will do something in term 4 – keep an eye out for information in our newsletters.

A really important part of our role as the school board is to ensure the staff of our school are working in an emotionally and physically safe environment. Kaiako have a huge responsibility teaching our tamariki and working with whanau to ensure the best possible start for children. As a community we need to be doing our best to ensure our school staff are supported and that their privacy is always respected. Our school's core values of Kindness, Respect, Unity and Achieve all speak to this.

Kaiako and staff have become more accessible to whānau and community through email and social media, and we really love how direct and effective this makes parent-teacher communication. Unfortunately, sometimes, albeit very rarely, our staff receive communication that isn't respectful or polite, so we thought we'd share a reminder of some simple ways that we can help support our Kaiako:

- If you email staff after 5.00pm or on the weekend, please do not expect a reply until the next working day. We have asked teachers not to respond to messages outside of working hours unless urgent.
- Please be respectful in your correspondence. Kaiako and staff do their best for our tamariki, but they can make mistakes. As parents, we are rightly very protective of our children and on occasion, you may be upset about something that has happened regarding your child. We do however encourage you to sleep on it or to take some time before sending a message. Please be mindful of your language and avoid personal comments. Staff will try to arrange to speak to you face to face if you are able to. Unfortunately, non-verbal communication can easily be misconstrued and cause difficulties and be misunderstood or misinterpreted - we've all been there!
- Our administrative staff can bear the brunt of emotions. Please remember that Jodene and Lisa are often unable to answer your questions, particularly if they are teaching related. They will always do their best to help and always really appreciate your respect and courtesy.
- Lastly, but most importantly for us, please always act with kindness and respect.

We know you'll agree with these simple reminders and we really appreciate your support in this.

The Maths Whizz programme helped many of our children make great progress last year and also supported programs during home learning. The cost of this programme is \$35.00 per child. This programme has proven to be such an effective teaching and learning tool and, as we're seeing real value in our children continuing to have access to this programme, we have again agreed to subsidise the full cost per child. We hope you got along to the parent night for years 4-6 on this.

Property

We have had extensive work completed at our school over the last year

- Rms 7-13 have all been refurbished and have new carpet. During the term break, these rooms will get new external doors
- Rms 1-3 have been refurbished and will get new lino and external doors installed during the term break
- Rms 4,5,6 are getting new carpet and lino put down in the term break
- The final part of the school asbestos work will be completed in our boiler room during the term break
- The toilets by room 16 were refurbished
- Fire Alarms/Earthquake and Lockdown systems across the school have all been upgraded
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Plans have been drawn up for our staff room/admin area and work will likely start later this year.

Key Projects

Big Projects for 2021

- Hall floor re polyurethaned and marked
- Te Manawa Flooring altered so we can use this space all year round
- New sunshade outside room 8/9 at the table area
- New Māori Kapa Haka performance costumes
- Oticon systems across our school (classroom microphone system)

Home and School

We think it is time to look at the support group for school with fresh eyes, in particular:

- what the role of this support group is
- fundraising ideas for the future
- getting more whānau involved
- just being open to new innovative ideas

Kerry Delaney and the current Home and School will run a wine and cheese evening in the staffroom to come together and share our ideas. We'd love for you to come and share your ideas and thoughts. The meeting will be in Term 2, Week 1 Tuesday 4th May at 7pm.

The Board really appreciates all the work our Home and School volunteers do for our school, they have paid for many resources in our school.

Attendance

The key to achievement is being at school and we know our tamariki get sick but you can see from the grid below it really does impact on their learning if they are away regularly. Our 4th value at school is achieve so we do like to monitor our attendance levels.

If your child misses....	That equals	Which is	Over 13 years of schooling that's
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

There is also a real big difference if you are late each day and it has an effect on your child

He/she is only missing just	That equals	Which is	Over 13 years of schooling- that is
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years

School Lunches

This is all new for our school and we are so thankful our staff have worked hard to get our KURA kids to try new food each day. Our staff have been in every focus group and survey with our suppliers to ensure that we get the lunches our KURA kids will eat. If your whānau do not want lunches, please let Jodene in the office know as we don't like seeing a lot of food waste at school.

Donations

A reminder that we have NO school donation fees as we opted into the Government School Donation Scheme. These funds we receive pay for all the extra things we do at school.

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