



# Merrilands School Newsletter

Issue 3  
Friday 12 March 2021

'A CARING COMMUNITY INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNING'

## Tēnā koutou katoa

It's an exciting week ahead on the Senior School calendar with their biennial camp happening at Vertical Horizon from Wednesday to Friday.

Education outside the classroom has so many benefits for students, developing not only their curriculum knowledge but also their ability to get on with others, problem solve, develop increased independence and work together in a range of different situations that aren't necessarily as familiar to them as everyday school life. We always see students returning to school from camp with wonderful tales of their time, huge pride in themselves and their peers, and parents who go along too, with an even greater appreciation for staff as they organize, manage and rally the troops through the whole camp experience.

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to staff members Mr Shipkov and Mrs Walsh who have organised camp this year. Also thanks to all of the parents who have kindly offered to go out too. Without this help camps just aren't possible. During the week we will also have Mr Bridger, Matua John and Teacher Aide Nicola spending time out at camp too. We know they will all have a fabulous time!

While we really do hope not to need to use it, we have been spending some time planning for the possibility that some time in the future we may again need to move to COVID-19 Alert Level 3.

Reading back over newsletters I shared with you this time last year, it's hard to believe how far we have come and how much we have navigated together as a country and community over the past 12 months. We know how useful it is to plan ahead and as has happened throughout this whole pandemic, we will do the best that we can for our children and our community.

If you haven't already, please follow this [questionnaire](#) link and complete the information asked, to help us in this planning process.

Lastly, thanks to all those who came along to the Community BBQ / Korero Mai Time and Swimming Sports last week. We love having you all here at school to share and celebrate the many different things happening.

Ngā manaakitanga  
Michelle Cronin  
Principal

### Key Dates for Term 1 & 2

MARCH	
Wed 17- Fri 19	Yr 5 & 6 Camp – Vertical Horizons
Wed 17	Rippa Rugby Sessions – Year 3 & 4
Mon 22	Home & School Meeting
Wed 24	BOT Meeting – 6.30pm
Fri 26	Assembly 10.15am – Middle Team
Tue 30	PB4L Student Leader Training
Wed 31	Rippa Rugby Sessions – Year 5 & 6
APRIL	
Thu 1	Teacher Only Day – School Closed
Fri 2 – Tue 6	Easter – School Closed
Fri 16	Assembly 10.15am – SHINE Assembly followed by SHINE TIME
Fri 16	Term 1 Ends
MAY	
Mon 3	Term 2 Starts
Fri 14	Assembly 10.15am – Leaders
Fri 28	Assembly 10.15am – Seniors
JUNE	
Mon 7	School Closed – Queen's Birthday Weekend
Fri 11	Assembly 10.15am – Middles
Fri 25	Assembly 10.15am – Juniors
JULY	
Fri 9	Assembly 10.15am – SHINE Assembly followed by SHINE TIME
Fri 9	Term 2 Ends

## CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

*At the Week 6 assembly the following students were acknowledged for their super efforts:*

Room 1	<b>Lilly-May Moore</b> - For making a huge effort and contributing to our school positively. Great initiatives! <b>Mia Mercer</b> - For stepping up to challenges and showing great leadership in class and the playground.
Room 3	<b>Cerys Williams</b> - For excellence in writing. You have the ability to entertain and link ideas beyond your immediate world to everyday situations, Tino pai! <b>Amerra Blake</b> - For excellence in art. Your self portrait shows your ability to understand proportion and your desire to produce quality. What a talent!
Room 4	<b>Jaxon Dear</b> - For for being a mathematics whizz! Your effort and positive attitude in maths is fantastic, keep it up! <b>Harper Olsen</b> - For being a self managing star. You consistently set a positive example for others by always managing yourself. Ka rawe!
Room 5	<b>Izayah Taipari</b> - For never quitting in swimming. You should be proud of the confidence you now have in the water. <b>John Taylor</b> - For being a fantastic helper in room 5. You are setting a great example for others. Ka rawe!
Room 6	<b>Jonathan Barnfather</b> - For showing EXCELLENCE in Reading and Maths! <b>Zuri-Rose McGill</b> - For making super improvement in swimming. Keep shining Zuri!
Room 9	<b>Hudson Smith-Rees</b> - For being brave and putting your head under the water for the first time. Well done Hudson. <b>Peyton Anderson-Hayston</b> - For being brave when learning new languages. Keep trying Peyton.
Room 10	<b>Landen Martens</b> - For being a great example to others and showing enthusiasm for your learning. <b>Indie Lind</b> - For working hard at school each day to do your best work.
Room 11	<b>Elissa Jensen</b> - For trying your best in class to learn and improve your skills and knowledge. Thank you for being a helpful student too - You SHINE! <b>Arden Gilchrist</b> - For taking on the challenge to be a role model in class and being a responsible student! Keep SHINING!

### LUCKY SHINE WINNERS AT OUR WEEK 6 ASSEMBLY DRAW:

#### JUNIOR

Sienna Smith-Rees - Rm 9  
Dziah Skipper-Ngatai - Rm 9  
Michael Pihema - Rm 11

#### MIDDLE

Sophie Kuriger - Rm 5  
Traysharn Waiwiri-Nathan - Rm 5  
Marlo Doherty - Rm 5

#### SENIOR

Hunter Brand - Rm 3  
Harmony Dravitzki - Rm 1  
Ciana Allardice - Rm 3



## SWIMMING

Our swimming season draws to a close at the end of this week.

It's been great to see the progress students have been making in both confidence in the water and stroke development.

Here are a few pictures from swimming sports on Thursday:



## MINIBALL / BASKETBALL

Miniball / Basketball registrations have been called for. Miniball is for Year 1-2 & Year 3-4. Basketball is for Year 5 & 6. This has been a sport keenly supported in years gone by and we are sure will be popular again this year.

See the app notice for details on how to register online or contact the office. Played at the TSB Stadium in Term 2-3.

## YEAR 5 & 6 CAMP

The Year 5 & 6 students and staff head off to Vertical Horizon Camp this week. They are away from Wednesday – Friday and will be involved in a range of different activities including swimming, ropes courses, cooperative activities, bush walks, night time activities and plenty more.

Thanks to all those parents who have kindly offered to help in a range of ways, to ensure this camp can again go ahead. Opportunities for students to grow and develop outside of school is really important and we know they will all get a great deal out of this experience.

Look out for the updates in the next newsletter!

Wednesday – come to school packed and ready to go!

## NETBALL

Registrations have also been called for Netball. If you haven't already, please get your registration into Mrs G or Miss Wormald, along with fees for the season.

A reminder that these need to be paid directly into the school bank account. Contact the office if you haven't got this account saved yet.

## JUNIOR ASSEMBLY

On Friday we were treated to the Junior School Assembly.

Thanks to Arden and Emily for leading the assembly. Here are a few pictures of what they shared:



Room 10 Maui & The Sun Art Work



Room 9 Ukulele Playing



## FDMC GALA



**SATURDAY**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**11 AM - 2 PM**  
**201 TUKAPA ST**

**Food stalls, white elephant, rides, games, lucky buckets, plants, silent auction, quickfire raffle, cake stall, used clothing**