



Merrilands School Newsletter

Issue 4

Friday 26 March 2021

'A CARING COMMUNITY INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNING'

Tēnā koutou katoa

The Year 5 & 6 students and a whole bunch of enthusiastic, keen parents and grandparents joined Mr S and Mrs Walsh for camp last week. What a camp they had!!!

Out at Vertical Horizons, tucked in the back of Inglewood, our campers experienced life away from home for 3 days. Bunking down in cabins proved a unique experience for many, as too the vast range of outdoor activities on offer. This camp really is jam packed and students learn even more about themselves, working both individually and as a team, overcoming challenges, experiencing things not possible at home, or at school either. Every year we hear and see the pride students feel as they accomplish new things, and grow independence in day to day life, as part of the camping group.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank our adults on camp this year. Mr S and Mrs Walsh have spoken highly of this group of people. Without you and your energy and support for the whole camping experience these events just aren't possible. We are extremely lucky to be part of such a supportive community who are there for all of our tamariki.

Check out a few of the things that everyone got up to while out at camp, on the last page of this newsletter.

This year one of our school strategic goals is to further develop cultural capabilities across the school. We will be engaging more with whānau about this, with further details to come.

Staff and students have been revisiting and developing their Te Reo, with a new phrase and whakatauki introduced each week. Matua John is leading staff with this and it is awesome to hear the kopu (words) being used around the school. Alongside the camp photos are the phrases we have been working on so far this term. Please encourage your tamariki to share these with you at home and use them in your home where you can too.

It is unfortunate that I share with you that Miss Wormald will be moving to Oakura School. She has been appointed to a new position there and is excited to be going back to a school she taught at during her teaching placement. A confirmed final day is yet to be confirmed, with Room 5 staffing being a priority before decisions can be confirmed here. We wish Becs all the best and I will be in touch with Room 5 parents to share plans when they are confirmed.

Ngā manaakitanga
Michelle Cronin
Principal

Key Dates for Term 1 & 2

MARCH	
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

Easter Tuesday Explained:

Easter Tuesday is a school holiday where schools are NOT allowed to be open. This is set out by the Ministry of Education.

Easter usually falls in the school holidays, meaning many parents are not aware of this as it happens so infrequently. It last happened in 2018 but has been in place since at least 1997.

Full details can be found on the MOE website [following this link](#)

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

At the Week 8 assembly the following students were acknowledged for their super efforts:

Room 1	Arorangi Ofahengaue-Te Kura - For a fantastic attitude towards camp. You were awesome to camp with and a super team member. Harper Scrivener - For supporting others to achieve their best at school, camp and in sports. Ka rawe!
Room 2	Pirihira Nathan - For being a super learner! It is awesome to see you looking at visuals and communicating clearly.
Room 3	Ciana Allardice - For persevering on the Jelly Fish challenge on Camp. This was a great example of our Never Quit value. Kia kaha! Saphire-Rose Glover - For displaying Excellence during the Archery challenge on Camp. Right on target, just like Robin Hood!
Room 4	Amelia Crofsky - For being a super helpful team member in Room 4. You always help out and set a great example for others! Ricky Rewa-Liddell - For giving your best effort in reading. You never quit and always try your hardest. Kei runga noa atu!
Room 5	Ojzhan Rangitonga-Karaka - For being Miss Wormald's and Colleen's SUPERSTAR! You are beginning to show what it takes to be a great rolemodel. Traysharn Waiwiri-Nathan - For being an all-round SHINE star! You are a delight to have in room 5. Keep up the amazing effort!
Room 6	Ellie Gillum - For making huge progress in mathematics! Well done Ellie, you are a shining star! Kaziem Rangitonga-Karaka - For working so hard to write stories independently. The effort you are putting into your learning is exceptional! Keep it up!
Room 9	Brice Bridger - For trying so hard with all of your work. You have a great 'can do' attitude and you are happy to give anything a try. Well done. Josiah Graham - For trying hard with all of your work. You have a great 'can do' attitude and you are happy to give anything a try. It must be hard having 3 teachers! Keep up the good work.
Room 10	Anna Barnfather - For being a great example to others and showing enthusiasm for your learning. Celestina Manunui-Kavafolau - For trying really hard with learning new words in literacy and striving to be the best you can be each day at school.
Room 11	Maddison Smith - For being the most improved swimmer in Room 11. You were a courageous and keen participator in the water. You SHINE! Max Kawau - For trying your best to self-manage in class and having a positive attitude to learn in class. Keep SHINING!

LUCKY SHINE WINNERS AT OUR WEEK 8 ASSEMBLY DRAW:

JUNIOR

Brooklyn Pihema - Rm 9
Sienna Smith-Rees - Rm 9
Cameron Inwood - Rm 10

MIDDLE

Maddison Terry - Rm 5
Katie Henderson - Rm 5
Riley Lindsay - Rm 5

SENIOR

Sam O'Keefe - Rm 1
Isaac Marr - Rm 1
Noah Laires - Rm 3



MINIBALL / BASKETBALL

Miniball / Basketball registrations close on Wednesday 31st. Please complete the online form and make payment directly into the school bank account. Payments need to be received or contact made with the school office to arrange a payment plan, in order for players to be placed into teams.

Games usually get underway early in the new term so Mr Shipkov and Mrs Lee-Mori are aiming to have these teams all set up and ready to go before the school holidays.



BRASS CLASS

We are excited to have so many new students register for Brass Class this year. So many so, Mr Farrow will be taking a learners group and a more advanced group. These classes start up on Wednesday. Full details will come home directly to these students. We look forward to following their musical journey.

Last year we farewelled James and Mika who had both been learning with Mr Farrow at school for a number of years. Hearing how well they played at the Year 5 & 6 Dinner Dance was a testament to their hard work and dedication to learning while here at Merrilands School, and also to the skills and expertise of our wonderful Brass Tutor, Mr Farrow.

KAPA HAKA

Just to clarify what is happening for Kapa Haka this year, Matua John is leading Kapa Haka this year, with support from Mr Kennedy, as Whaea Unity was unavailable weekly as Kapa Haka has been run in previous years. Whaea Unity is also a performing arts teacher at NPGHS and their rolling timetable made having Kapa Haka as we have had in the past not possible. As previously shared, Whaea Unity will continue to be connected with our roopu to provide guidance where required and to enable our roopu to still be involved in events in our area. Matua John is an experienced Kapa Haka tutor and I have every confidence our roopu will continue to flourish.

HOCKEY

We are putting out a call for Hockey players this year. We are very lucky to have a family join us with loads of hockey experience and a keenness to support children keen to play.

Please complete this [online form](#) and we will be in touch to confirm details when we have an idea of numbers.

Like cricket, we hope to grow this sport as another option for children to play over the winter months. Be in touch with Mrs Cronin for more details.



HOME & SCHOOL NEWS

The Home and School had a busy few weeks with the Community BBQ/Picnic and then Swimming Sports. They successfully raised the following amounts:

Community BBQ – \$619.60
Swimming Sports BBQ – 223.58

Money raised is going to go towards reading games in the middle school and blinds for the Reading Recovery Room.

The AGM is coming up on the 3rd May – 7pm in the staffroom. We'd love for you to come along and either join the Home & School committee, or join the group of keen parents who want to help out at events and activities around the school. There's a place for everyone and we all know that many hands make light work!

With LeeAnn's son leaving at the end of last year we will be in need of someone with some financial experience to take over the great work she has been doing in the Treasurer role.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



BOARD NEWS

You continue to have a really dedicated group of people working on your behalf on our school Board. Their role is in Governance, overseeing the bigger picture of school operations from a finance, property, health & safety and legislative perspective. You will have seen first hand the progress in relation to property that has been happening and we will continue to see work going on throughout this year too.

The upgrades to 6 classrooms, resource space and roofing work has all enhanced the spaces available for our children to learn and teachers to work.

Next on the agenda is getting the swimming pool repainted. We've been lucky to secure grant funding from NZCT and TSB Community Trust to enable this to happen. On behalf of our community we thank these organisations for making funding available for us to complete this work.

POLICY REVIEW:

You will have received an email last week, and also pushed out through the app, instructions on how to participate in the current policy review. The Board is seeking your feedback on the following policies:

Home Learning

It's simple to contribute, just follow these instructions:

1. Visit the website <https://merrilands.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username (merrilands) and password (shine).
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
4. Read the policy.
5. Click the Policy Review button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type "Parent".
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Submit your ratings and comments.
9. If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

Following each review the Board will report back and all feedback is valued.

TE REO MAORI

QUESTION OR PHRASE OF THE WEEK:

<i>Kei te pēhea koe?</i>	How are you?
<i>Ko wai koe?</i>	Who are you?
<i>Ko wai ai?</i>	Who is he/she?
<i>He aha tenei?</i>	What is this? (classroom items)
<i>Homai te....</i>	Bring the ...
<i>He aha tenei?</i>	What is this? (items with colours)
<i>Ko te aha tēnei ra?</i>	What day is it today?

WHAKATAUKI OF THE WEEK

Mā te hē ka tika

We learn from our mistakes

Whaiwhia te kete mātauranga

Fill your basket with knowledge

Ki te taea e moemoea e koe taua mea e taea e koutou te reira

If you can dream it, you can do it

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi

With your basket and my basket the people will live

Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au

I am the river and the river is me

Piki ake ki ite tihi

Strive for Excellence

KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE
CARPARK

Please help us to keep our kids safe by NOT coming into the school carpark before or after school. Both driving in, as well as backing out again puts our tamariki in danger. They are small and potentially could dart out in front or behind you. They do this as they are still young, and still learning about road and car park safety. As adults it is our job to keep all of our tamariki safe and this is how you can help.

We do not want the tragedy of losing a student, as happened last week up north, to happen in our community!

Students should also be pushing their scooter or bike and carrying their skateboard through the car park. Pushing past the painted area on the footpath or to the pole with the yellow hazard tape enables both pedestrians and wheels users to use this space safely together. Please encourage your child to follow these school rules.

A FEW CAMP SNAPS

