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Whatever is worth doing
is worth doing well

School Community Newsletter



TIRAU SCHOOL 69 Main Road, Tirau Phone 883 1653 Fax 883 1269 Email office@tirau.school.nz



TIRAU PRIMARY SCHOOL

Te Kura o Tirau

"What ever is worth doing, is worth doing well."

Thursday 11 February - Week 2 Term 1 2015

Important Dates:

- 17th February – El Gregoe @ 9:30
- 18th February – Parent Learning Hui
- 19th February – Bike wise sessions
- 25th February – School Swimming Sports – postponement 26th
- 3rd March – Interschool Swimming Sports

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Tena koutou i te whanau
Tenei he panui kia koutou
Nau Mai, Haere Mai!

CHESS SETS

The senior students are going to be learning to play chess this year and Mrs Watkins has asked for any donations of used or unwanted chess sets for the students to use. If you have a chess set you would like to donate please see Mrs Watkins or send them to Ruma Kereru.

LEARNING AT TIRAU

I have been impressed with the focussed and engaged learners I have seen this week as I have visited classes, it is great to see the exciting and stimulating programmes that the teachers are running in the classrooms. Our school-wide inquiry for Term 1 is Interactions and the children have begun the year by looking at relationships and developing positive relationships in their classrooms and across the school. Later in the term the children will be looking at the science of interactions. Classes have also been swimming this week and preparations are well underway for our School Swimming Sports on Thursday 25th February – look for further information later in the newsletter.

BIKEWISE

In preparation for our School Tryathlon later in the term we have the Bikewise co-ordinator visiting next Friday. We would like as many children as possible to bring along their bikes and helmets so that they can be safety checked and then there will be skills sessions run by the Bikewise co-ordinator for those children with bikes.

TIRAU PRIMARY SCHOOL APP

From our community consultation at the end of 2015 we have been looking at ways to improve our communication and make this streamlined and easy to access for parents and also easy for staff to keep updated. As a result we have had a school app designed. This give you access to school newsletters and you can receive alerts from the school calendar and also from your child's teacher about any notices. There is also a facility to submit school absences although we do ask you to contact the school directly if your child is going to be away for more than a day. You can download the app from either the Apple Store or the Google Play store and once it is installed on your phone or device make sure to subscribe to the alerts for the calendar, newsletters and for your child's class. If you need any help with this Siobhan will run a session in the staff room before assembly this coming Friday at 1:45.

OUR FIRST LEARNING HUI – Thursday 18th February

On of the areas that came up in our community consultation at the end of 2015 was where parents were wanting a clear understanding of the learning expectations at each level of schooling.

This year we have decided to trial termly learning hui's where we will share a range of information about learning and our expectations in the core areas of the curriculum.

We will be running our first session on **Thursday 18th February** and want to make this a family celebration. You are all invited to join us for a picnic tea in front of the Learning Centre from 6:00 pm, at 6:30pm we will begin the learning hui in the Learning Centre.

We will speak to the whole group first and then split into 3 groups who will join staff to talk about our learning progressions for reading, writing and mathematics and how these are used to work out where children are learning and identify next learning steps. We will also share what the expectations are at each year level. You will continue to meet these progressions in classes and through portfolios this year so we want you to understand them as much as possible. You will have the opportunity to learn about all three curriculum areas as we will share each session 3 times and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. We will also touch on ways parents can support at home.

These introduction sessions will be followed by more in-depth sessions each term. Please let us know if you have any ideas for sessions or topics you would like us to cover this year. We look forward to seeing you there next Thursday.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the Shannon family who have donated 2 tennis racquets and a large number of tennis balls to the school. Your generosity is much appreciated.

TIRAU PRIMARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our hard working Board of Trustees have the first meeting for the year next Wednesday 17th February at 7:00 pm in the Learning Centre. Our first meeting will be focused on reviewing our school Charter and Strategic Plan for the 2016 year. This year in May will be the Board of Trustees elections and we will be looking for new parents who are interested in standing for election. If you are interested in standing in the election you are more than welcome to attend our meetings to get a sense of what we do. There will also be an opportunity to meet some of our Board members at the Learning Hui on Thursday 18th February.

UNIFORM

Unfortunately we have been let down by our uniform supplier and the order we placed at the end of 2015 is still to be filled – this means we only have very limited stock. We really appreciate the patience of those of you who we know are waiting for the stock to arrive and we will be in touch as soon as it arrives. **Please ensure that your child's uniform is clearly named on more than just the tag as there have been a number of children who have misplaced their shirts already this year.**

As Term 1 is a summer term please ensure that your child has an appropriate wide brimmed hat, or a cap with a flap to cover the neck. Black bucket hats can be purchased from the school office for \$8. We also recommend that you apply sunscreen to your children before they get to school and that they have sunscreen to apply at school, especially before swimming. Classes do have a supply of sunscreen for children to use if they have forgotten theirs.

SWIMMING SPORTS

We will be holding our annual School Swimming Sports on Thursday 25th February at the Tirau Community Pool. The senior swimming (Children 7 years and above) will begin at 9:15 am with the Open Events (2 lengths of the pool). The junior swimming display will take place from approx. 10:30 am.

Along with the main swimming events we will also have non-competitive events such as relays along with the family relay and Pyjama Race. Parents we invite you to bring along your togs and towel and get involved.

Ages for the swimming sports are determined by the date of the Interschool Swimming Sports, which is Wednesday 3rd March, this may mean that children may be swimming in older age groups.

PENCIL AND COLOURED PENCIL FEES

This year we have included a pencil and or a coloured pencil fee onto stationery lists. This is to cover the costs of pencils and coloured pencils that are used in classes across the year. These fees are to cover the costs of this stationery that has already been bought and paid for by the staff. Please ensure that you pay these fees as part of the stationery requirements for the year. Many thanks to those of you who have already paid.

CALENDAR

As part of our goal to keep our school community up to date about what is happening we have decided to create an events calendar for the year. All of the dates on the calendar are on the Events Calendar in our School App and we will also upload the calendar of events to the website as a pdf as we won't be using the event calendar on the website this year. We have tried to put in as many dates as we could but there will be new items added as and when they came up and we will send the calendar out at the beginning of each term. We will also continue to advise of up-coming events at the beginning of the school newsletter.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further please do not hesitate to contact me. principal@tirau.school.nz, or through the school office.

No reira ma te manaakitanga
Kia tou, ki runga, kia koutou katoa

Siobhan Patterson
Principal

JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING starts again after school (3.30 or 4.30) at Tirau Tennis Club on Tuesday, 16 February.

Six lessons with professional coach Clem Apted; an oldie, but a goodie. Racquets and balls are provided and can also be purchased. Numbers are limited. \$40 per child for the six week course.

Tennis coaching for high school students and adults (good for those keen on a tennis comeback after watching the Aussie Open) is at 5.30, also starting on 16 February. Same cost, venue etc.

Please ring Janet Palmer 8831452 or 027 2729834 for more information.

CRICKET TASTER

On Monday 15 Feb there will be a free cricket taster session held for all Year 1-4 students(5-8 year olds) at Glenshea Park from 4-5pm. You don't need to register for this taster session, just turn up on the night. If they are interested to take it further this also leads up to **Have A Go cricket** for the following 5 weeks. **Cost of either \$15 for the 5 weeks or \$50** which includes cricket gear. You can register with Evan Fraser at the taster session - turn up on the night.