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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 7th February - Week 2 Term 1 2019

Important Dates:

7th February – PTA Meeting 7:00pm Learning Centre
13th February – Meet the Teacher Hui 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm
14th February – Book Club Orders Due to the Office
15th February – 2:15 First Assembly for 2019 run by Ruma Kereru
19th February - Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Learning Centre
20th February – School Swimming Sports

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

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

SCHOOL VALUES

Week 1 & 2 – Respect We have been talking about how we can show respect towards our school mates both in and out of the classroom. One of the strategies we are encouraging the students to use when someone does something they don't like – “Please don't do that I don't like it.”

Weeks 3 & 4 – Nurture – The focus will be on looking after ourselves and our classmates.

Week 3 Assembly – 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 2019 is Exploration and the children have begun the year by looking at culture and customs as part of developing positive relationships in their classrooms and across the school. We are focusing on the setting of shared expectations around positive behaviour and all of the classes are creating treaties for how they will work together and developing a sense of belonging. Tūrangawaewae is our major focus for the first part of Term One. Tūrangawaewae means a place where one has the right of residence and belonging through kinship and whakapapa (genealogy). This fits perfectly into the important building of relationships that is the focus of learning programmes at the start of the school year. Relationships between the teacher and students, student to student, family and home relationships are all of the important building blocks that underpin successful learning. Classes have also been swimming this week, with most classes having a session with our swim instructor Marina Jones, these will continue for the next 5 weeks. Preparations are well underway for our School Swimming Sports on Wednesday 20th February – look for further information next week.

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPECTATIONS

We would just like to remind parents that if you, or any of your designated people are collecting your child from school during school hours then they need to be signed out from the sign out book in the office, they also need to be signed in if returned to school during school hours. Please also remind anyone collecting your child after school that they need to collect them from the classroom and to check in with the class teacher. It is also good if we know in advance if there is going to be someone different collecting them. This is extremely important while our new staff get to know their classes and their families.

CLASS COMPOSITIONS

Every year we endeavour to make seamless class placements. These are based on a number of factors, some of these are the number of students in each year group, social groupings and the individual needs of the learner. In 2019 we have the added bonus of having 6 classrooms. Due to our numbers in Years 1 to 4 being high and in order to keep the numbers in classes as low as possible, it has meant that the extra class created is a Year 3 & Year 4 class – meaning that learners typically classed as juniors are in a class labelled and located in the senior area of the school. In reality this is only for management reasons, 2 learning teams of three classes is more manageable than one team of four classes and on team of two classes. The class programme being run in each class is designed around the learners in the class and their needs and interests. Our teachers work tirelessly to ensure that what they are teaching is at the correct level and contains the elements needed by the learners. If you have any specific questions about the class programme in your child's class please in the first instance, speak to their teacher.

TIRAU PRIMARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our hard working Board of Trustees have the first meeting for the year on Tuesday 19th February at 7:00 pm in the Learning Centre. Our first meeting will be focused on finalising our school Charter and Strategic Plan for the 2019 year.

TIRAU PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

The first meeting for our PTA will be held on Thursday 7th February (**Tonight**) at 7:00pm in the Learning Centre to set the fundraising agenda for the year. This group is a hardworking part of our school community and they would really appreciate the support of some new members in 2019. If you are interested in coming along please join us.

PRIME MATHS PROGRAMME

This year we are adding the Prime Maths resource to our teaching programmes alongside some in-depth professional learning for all our teachers around the teaching of mathematics with Jill Peterson from the Institute of Professional Learning, University of Waikato.

Prime Maths is based on an extremely successful programme rigorously developed in Singapore schools over the past 35 years, which was introduced into New Zealand schools in 2014. Since its introduction Prime Maths has been extensively critiqued and evaluated by a team of researchers led by New Zealand education expert Lester Flockton who was integral in the development of our New Zealand Curriculum. It aligns very closely with the New Zealand Maths curriculum and involves children following a facilitated learning model where they first learn in a hands on way with concrete materials such as counters, then moving to a pictorial model where the concepts are modelled by pictures and then when learners are confident they move on to the abstract level using numbers, mathematical symbols and mental strategies to complete problems. All of these steps will be worked through in small group teaching workshops with a teacher, then the students will move onto independent tasks. We will be having a parent information session later in the term once the staff and students have been using the programme to share further information.

As part of our preparation all the students have been levelled, however we know that there will be some changes as we get into teaching. Because there is an activity book that we have asked every student to purchase we don't want to start using these until we are sure that each child is on the correct level so we are not giving these to students for the first few weeks. Thank you to all families who have already paid for these, learning teams will let you know when they are using them.

MEET THE TEACHER HUI

On Wednesday 13th we will be holding a Meet the Teacher Hui in the Learning Centre. To cater for as many of our families as possible we are offering two times 3:30 and 6:00 pm. Come along and meet our new staff and hear about what exciting things are coming up this year. The hui will begin with an introduction session for everyone and then we will have a junior session followed by a senior session so that the learning teams can share specific information.

UNIFORM

Please ensure that your child's uniform is clearly named on more than just the tag we recommend that you write their full name on the back of the school logo and on the inside hem at the bottom so that we can easily check names.

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 \$5. 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.

COLOURED PENCIL FEES, READING LOGS AND PRIME MATHS BOOKS

This year we have included a coloured pencil fee as part of stationery lists. This is to cover the costs of coloured pencils that are used in classes across the year and this stationery has already been bought and paid for by the staff. The school reading log that will be being used by every student is also only available from the office at \$5.00. Please ensure that you pay these fees as part of the stationery requirements for the year. We have also asked you to pay for a Prime Maths Activity Books, which the students will be using as part of their class maths programmes from later in the term. There is further information about this above. Many thanks to those of you who have already paid.

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

Have A Go Cricket 2019:

Year 1-4 students, this will coincide with the Putaruru Schools Junior Cricket starting on the same night Monday 18 February with Grant Hall. Come along on the night to register and have a go!! Older students not comfortable playing in the cricket competition are welcome to join in with HAG cricket too.

TIRAU TENNIS CLUB

New to the Tirau club! Junior tennis.

No coaching – this will start again in October.

Starts Tuesday, 12 February from 4 to 5.30 pm.

For school students of all ages who have basic skills and want to learn more about game playing, scoring, court etiquette etc.

Parental involvement is always a bonus – and kids love playing with parents!

Own racquets preferably, but some are available at the club.

Enquiries to Janet Palmer – 027 2729835 or 07 8831452.