

BIRKDALE

NORTHSCHOOL

Respect Integrity Perseverance Empathy
Manaaki Whakakotahi Manawanui Aroha

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Tuesday 9th February

2021

Newsletter

Term 1 No.1

Principal's voice:

Tēnā koutou, talofa, bonjour, malo e lelei, kia orana and hello,

Welcome back

It was fantastic to welcome our tamariki back to school last week. It was evident they were happy to be back at school, catching up with their friends and excited to start their learning. The nicest feeling in the world is having a child run up and greet you with a huge smile and a "Hi Mrs McDonald". Children have a way of making you feel special and your children definitely do that to me, how lucky am I to have a job that is so rewarding!

"Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti aroha o tātou mahi"

"Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work"

As we are all very much aware last year brought many new challenges for us. It made us think outside the square from a school and learning perspective. It alerted us to the fragility of our lives and how quickly things can change. It made us gain a perspective about what is truly valuable and important and for many, to some degree, has made us reset.

I truly hope that as immunisation becomes more prominent worldwide we can get back to a more relaxed and flexible time. For now just a year of no lock downs would be great! Be assured we will keep you updated with any information we receive regarding Covid or lock downs. For now we ask that we work together to reinforce the importance of good hygiene - sneezing into your elbow, washing and drying hands thoroughly and for us as adults not to get complacent about tracing where you are, please ensure you use your tracer app when entering school, we have several placed around the school to scan.

The newsletter will be sent every second Tuesdays instead of Friday

We are going to trial getting our newsletter out every second week on a Tuesday instead of a Friday. (It is often the case anyway.) This will give us more time to check photos etc of children who have been given certificates on a Friday instead of rushing through the process.

Our Powhiri

We will be welcoming our new teachers, students and whanau with a powhiri on Monday 22nd February at 9:30am. **Everyone** is welcome to come along and be part of this celebration.

Meet the Teacher evening

We will be holding our meet the teacher evening on Monday 22nd February starting at 5pm. This is a time to meet your child's teacher and visit their classroom. We will be cooking some sausages for the first half hour from 5:00 - 5:30 before we start proceeding in the hall. Everyone is welcome.

Take the opportunity to be part of the home learning policy review.

We have one policy in review and open for community consultation School Docs at present; **Home learning**, please take time to read through the policy and add your comments. All consultation is considered in the final policy review. [click here](#) to link to school docs.

The user name for BNS is: birkdalenorth

The password is: BNS

For the past few years BNS have tended to have a no homework bias with the exception of daily home reading, all students should be reading in one form or another on a daily basis at home. We will continue with reading only until the home learning policy is reviewed and we have a clearer picture of what our community would like.

Research in general is a little vague from what I can find with strong arguments for and equally strong arguments against homework. There is no real evidence suggesting there are gains in primary age children .

A big welcome to our new staff members

Welcome to Mrs Lisa Ellsworth who is in room 10, Miss Nicole Stephens in room 9 (EDN) and Whaea Kerry Majurey in room 5 (Nga Muka). We also welcome back Maitresse Caroline Sailhan in room 12 and Brooke Matthews as one of our teacher aides.

[Click here](#) to go to our website and meet our staff.

What's been happening around the school?

I am sure you will have noticed the extra security around our pool at present. We have had the pool painted and are now in the process of getting new fencing around it. Pool covers are also being fitted to help keep the heat in, hopefully allowing us to be able to swim for a few weeks longer. Unfortunately it does mean we have no pool to use at present but we are hoping it will be open for us to use in two weeks time. We are very excited!

The concreting has been completed outside the library area. This will make a huge difference from a safety perspective, you may recall how uneven the paving stones were.

I have had no word from the Lion foundation as yet regarding my application for funding for our playgrounds. I hope to hear something in the very near future.

Green Certificate winners

Green certificates will commence next week.

Have a fantastic week with you amazing tamariki. Take advantage of this beautiful weather but please remember to SLIP, SLAP, SLOP!

Nga mihi nui
Jan.

Upcoming Events

Monday 22nd February	Powhiri to welcome new teachers, students and Whanau. 9.30am
Monday 22nd February	Meet the teacher 5pm
Tuesday 23rd February	WDHB Vision and Hearing technician visit. 9.30am
Thursday 11th March	BNS Swim sports day (TBC)

Term dates 2021

Term 1	Wednesday 3rd February - Friday 16th April
Term 2	Monday 3rd May - Friday 9th July
Term 3	Monday 26th July - Friday 1st October
Term 4	Monday 18th October - Wednesday 15th December

Public holidays - school closed

Monday 8th February	Waitangi day observed
Friday 2nd April	Good Friday
Monday 5th April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 6th April	Easter Tuesday
Monday 26th April	ANZAC day observed (Term 1/Term 2 break)
Monday 7th June	Queens birthday
Monday 25th October	Labour day

Community News

Pocket Rockets Dance
Specialist Dance North

Tap, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, Ballet, Ballroom, Contemporary

Phone: Jane 027 140 3786
www.pocketrockets.co.nz

Pocket Rockets Dance is excited to be back at Birkdale North school in 2021!
Come and try our Hiphop classes on Wednesdays at morning tea in the school hall!
Taught by the amazing Kisha September!
Enrol here:
<https://www.pocketrockets.co.nz/enrolment>
Contact: Jane
021 140 3786
jane@pocketrockets.co.nz
www.pocketrockets.co.nz

NEED AN AFTER SCHOOL CLASS FOR YOUR CREATIVE CHILD?

Music Lab

Music writing classes for kids age 8-11 (Years 3-6)
Experiment with music!

Tuesdays 3.30pm - 5.00pm
Highbury House, 110 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead

Music Lab

Package includes: Performance practice
Music Lab 027 410 8834
1000's of music ideas
New Zealand's leading
1500+ reviews

Music Lab classes start Tuesday 16th February.
Our music writing classes are designed to be fun as well as theoretical and include movement and instruments as well as music theory.
Classes held at Highbury House, 110 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead.
Tuesdays 3.30pm to 5.00pm, \$200 per term.
for more information or to enrol contact,
Mariah Brunt 027 410 8834 or
email contact@musiclab.co.nz