

NGA WAI 2020

//// TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

//// KIA ORA NGA WAI WHANAU, AND WELCOME TO 2020.

We would like to welcome those students and families who are new to Nga Wai. We are sure you will enjoy the year ahead. Welcome back, to those returning for Year 6.

Our teaching team welcomes Rachel Peterson from Queen Margaret College, and is the teacher in Waitomo. Rachel has a keen interest in science and sports and is bringing many great ideas to the team . If you see her around the school, be sure to introduce yourself.

2020 sparks the starting point for a new decade. Education has taken great leaps over the last decade and this one will be no different. The pace of change requires a shift in teaching practice. Alongside the fundamentals of numeracy and literacy now sit skills required to be successful in a fast changing, constantly evolving 21st Century. Collaboration, Imagination, Adaptability and Problem Solving are a few of those skills that we look to instill in our Nga Wai students.

The Nga Wai teaching team are excited about the opportunities for Real World learning that 2020 brings, from the Olympics to Camp Makahika.



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//// DATES TO REMEMBER

School Fair - Sunday 1 March

Eastern Zone Cricket - Wednesday 4 March

Swimming - From Tuesday 11 February

Parent Information Evening - Thursday 13 February 6:45 pm

Learning Conference - Tuesday 17 March and Thursday 19 March

//// MANA, MANAAKI AND AKO

Over the course of 2018 and 2019, we as a school have been establishing the groundwork for a new behaviour management model called PB4L. This programme is run by a majority of NZ schools, allowing them to incorporate their school culture, values and community into its construction.

Term 1 of 2020 sees all the work put in come to fruition. The premise of the programme is to promote positive behaviours in students across all areas of learning and society. We know the world isn't perfect and there will be situations where behaviour needs to be addressed. We have developed, and will continue to develop, pathways for dealing with these behaviours. Staff have undertaken professional development involving restorative practice techniques to assist in resolution of such incidents.

Our new value is **RESPECT**.

Mana- Respect for Ourselves.

Manaaki - Respect for Others.

Ako - Respect for Learning.

New signage for these three aspects is currently found around the school, placed in different areas to advise of the expectations of that particular area.

As mentioned, the true focus is on reinforcing the positive actions of students. Across the entire school, classes and teams have implemented reward systems to act as motivators for students. We feel that if students are respectful across all three aspects, their potential to succeed and thrive increases.

////INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

We are incredibly fortunate in New Zealand to have an amazing Curriculum document. It offers an intriguing and broad range of contexts, learning areas and specific content from which to create an engaging programme of learning.

Our planning begins with the five key competencies, Managing Self, Relating to others, Participating and Contributing, Thinking and Using Language, Symbols and Texts. These are present and promoted in all our planning.

From there we are driven by the contexts and objectives offered across Social Science, Science and the Arts at and around Level Three of the Curriculum. These contexts and objectives are brought to life by interconnecting Literacy, Mathematical, and Technology process skills.

We also understand the specific base knowledge required in Mathematics. Our programme will balance teaching of those core basic facts and beyond but we will be doing even more “Big Idea, Real World” tasks which offer students the opportunity to see where they can apply what they are learning to solve problems.

For 2020 Nga Wai will be focusing on the wider concept of “Growth”.

We will be exploring the idea of growth within the contexts of the learner, cultures and societies, flora and fauna.

Growth also fits perfectly alongside our new behaviour management programme.

In Term One, we will also conduct specific “workshop weeks” to reinforce abilities in areas such as Spelling, rather than spreading it out over the term. Rest assured however it will be by no means a “boring” week of spelling tests, possessive apostrophes, double consonants and phonemes.

////SPORT AND PE

In Term One, Nga Wai will be concentrating on both Basketball Skills and Swimming.

Swimming commences Tuesday of Week Two. Please ensure your child takes responsibility for getting their own togs and towel ready. The Basketball sessions offer students the opportunity to develop motor skills, coordination and teamwork.

////HOME LEARNING/FLIPPED CLASSROOM

Nga Wai’s home learning programme has evolved considerably over the past two years. We understand the time commitments of students and their families, but see the value in strong, meaningful kōrero between our students and their whānau.

From Week Four of Term 1 students will have short tasks along the lines of our “Carpool Conversations” from 2019. These will prepare students for classroom work the following week. We will continue our strong tradition of oral presentations in class.

We also welcome students to bring their interests into the classroom. If they have something they have been working on and wish to share or demonstrate, they can discuss an appropriate time directly with their classroom teacher.

////STUDENT LEADERSHIP

From Week Two, students will have the opportunity to apply for leadership roles within the Nga Wai team.

Year 6 students can apply for any of the following leadership roles; PE, Lunch Team, Art Team, ICT, Site Managers and the PALS Team.

Year 5 students can apply for the PALS Team.

Details on how to apply will be shared with students.

We are constantly looking for more leadership opportunities for our students and will advertise them as they come to fruition.

As a team we have picked up a section of the school-wide sustainability leadership. Nga Wai are now responsible for the veggie gardens and flora of the school. This team wide leadership will be woven into our classroom learning.

////CORRESPONDENCE AND CLASS DOJO

All teachers in Nga Wai are accessible via email. We are also available at the beginning or end of the day for short catch-ups and the organisation of longer meetings if required. Longer meetings can be scheduled through the office or directly via email. While we try to be as diligent as possible, we do our best to respond to emails within 24 hours. We do not respond to emails between 5.30pm and 7.30am.

The other avenue that we will use for communication is Class Dojo. We used this last year as a team-wide trial and we enjoyed the benefits of being able to quickly share classroom events via the app. We will again be running the system so stay poised for your invitation emails over the next week.

We ask that you respond as soon as possible to this invitation and any subsequent correspondence that would require your response.

////REMINDERS

Year 5 and 6 is a stage in schooling that applies more responsibility to the student. Students are responsible for their stationery and other belongings. If left lying around, they can be damaged, lost or acquired. Clothing will inevitably end up in the school lost property. The volume of lost property at Hataitai School is astounding and we are regularly reminding students of the cost to families.

Please ensure all clothing and valuable equipment is named.

Hats are compulsory in Term 1. Any students not wearing one will spend break times under the shade cloths and also miss other classroom activities that are outdoors. The school has hats for sale at the office.

WE WISH YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY A WONDERFUL TERM.