

Tēnā koutou katoa

One of my first tasks as Principal of Swanson School was to review our School Vision, and ensure it was a true representation of our collective aspirations for our āko and our school.

Back in term 3 and 4 last year, we gathered your thoughts and ideas about what you expected from our school, and what skills and competencies you would want your child to develop during his/her learning journey at Swanson School. The feedback you provided at the 'Meet the Principal' evening and subsequent surveys was used by our staff to come up with our new Vision.



After several meetings, discussions, and many drafts, we are thrilled to share Swanson School's vision with you. Our vision compares our children to the Kauri tree. The Kauri is the largest, strongest tree in the forest, and that is what we would want our children to be like; stand tall and strong, and be leaders in their communities.

The branches represent the core skills we would like our āko to develop: be resilient risk-takers, who are inclusive and have mana, while the leaves break down these skills into qualities. At the heart of the tree, there is hauora, because our main aim is to ensure the holistic well-being of all our children: taha whānau (social well-being), taha wairua (spiritual well-being), taha hinengaro (mental and emotional well-being) and taha tinana (physical well-being).

The roots represent what we believe we need to be like to ensure we feed the tree, and support it to grow and thrive, always drawing our strength from the New Zealand Curriculum and Treaty of Waitangi.

In the next few weeks we will share our implementation plan with you and your child, that will include specific teaching of these skills, children self-assessing their progress, and a reward system to acknowledge their achievement.

We hope you share and feel represented by our new Vision, and look forward to work with you to make our vision come true.

Kind regards

Mr Piantelli
Swanson School Principal



Upcoming Events

May 28 until June 1
Samoa Language week

June 4
Queen's Birthday day off.

June 22
Teacher's union meeting.
School closes at 1pm.

June 29
Reports sent home.

July 4
Parent teacher meetings.
2pm - 730pm. School closes 2pm.

July 6
Last day of term 2. Holidays begin.

Thank You...

To all of our support staff at school. We have a wide variety of staff in our school that work in our office, in our classrooms, and around our school grounds who all put in a huge effort to make this school what it is. Often it's our support staff who are the first person a student sees if they have been hurt in the playground or are struggling with learning and need some extra support. They have a huge role to play in supporting your children. A great big thank you for all the amazing work you do within our school.

Fun times ahead...

Term two is looking like a busy, fun, and full of learning type of term. All of our whanau groups are working hard to improve your child's ability and understanding across our curriculum. As well as the "traditional" Reading, Writing and Maths skills, our staff are looking to include different skills like problem solving, communicating well with others, sharing ideas, and collaborating with one another, into their programmes.

We are well aware that many of the skills our students are going to need in the future involve being able to tackle a new problem from all angles and think outside the box to come up with solutions. Many of the jobs our students will be taking on haven't yet been invented. Their roles could be so diverse that the skill set needed may still be being developed.

It is our role to create "learners" who are able to take on new things, learn how to do them, and be able to communicate in a variety of ways the means in which they figured it all out. A fun and exciting time ahead in education.

We have developed some new leadership roles within our school and now have staff leading programmes called STEAM and MASAM.

STEAM stands for Science Technology Engineering Arts and Maths. The teachers leading this programmes are looking to include a wide variety of learning experiences for students in all of those curriculum areas. It is a fun and exciting way of learning and gives our students an interesting way to solve problems and share learning with others.

MASAM stands for Maori Achieving Success As Maori. The teachers responsible for leading this programme are passionate about Maori success and incorporating programmes in our school that incorporate Te Reo Maori, and Tikanga Maori. We have already seen some awesome development with our Powhiri and whanau hui but look forward to more exciting things in the future.

Chris Hood – Deputy Principal

Parent consent for EOTC activities...

We are implementing a system at school where we collect consent from parents for their child to attend EOTC (Education Outside The Class) activities.

There will be a letter going home that explains the system and how we as a school will plan to keep your child safe at any of the activities they will be involved in.

We ask for all the consent forms to be sent back to school ASAP so that we can start logging this data into our system.

This will mean that once these consent forms are in, parents will be notified of any EOTC activities but will not need to return any permission forms before their child can attend.

This system will hopefully improve the way in which we get our students involved in EOTC.



In the Community

Parent Teacher meetings:

On the 4th of July, school will be closing at 2pm so we can hold parent teacher meetings. This is a time for parents and caregivers to come in and talk with their child's teacher about progress and where to next. It's an important part of your child learning to communicate between home and school, so we encourage all parents to attend. On line booking information will be sent out closer to the time.

NZEI Meeting:

The NZEI Teachers Union are holding a West Auckland meeting on Friday the 22nd of June. All of our teachers will be attending so school will be closing early at 1pm that day. We appreciate all parents and caregivers support.

Camp reminder:

Totara and Koromiko students are going to camp in September this year. Just a reminder to parents that you can do part payments for these camps and put a little bit in each week or month to pay this off. Contact the school if you wish to do this and we can help.

School Contact

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