

We are already more than half way through term one, and it has been wonderful to see all our staff and children working together to make the most out of their time at school. The past seven weeks have been very busy and full of excitement and our children have already had the chance to participate in sports events, trips, and exciting classroom activities. It is extremely rewarding to witness our children grow and progress, and we are very proud of how they step up to the challenge day in and day out.

It has also been a very interesting and exciting few weeks for Education as a whole. The Ministry of Education has finally acknowledged the fantastic work our teachers do, and the extreme pressure they are under every day. In the next few weeks, the NZEI (our teachers' union) will start to negotiate our next collective agreement with the Ministry. They are going to focus on improving our working conditions, and increasing the support schools receive to ensure we can do the best possible job for our children and families. This process is often challenging, but at the same time full of possibilities, so we will keep you informed about any developments. I trust we can count on your support as we work together towards providing a better future for all our children.

Cheers

Mr Piantelli



Swanson School Principal



## Upcoming Events

### March 20

Whanau Hui, 6pm-7:30pm in the school hall. All welcome.

### March 21

Refuse Recycling Centre trip Pohutukawa.

### March 23

Mufti day and sausage sizzle. Totara camp fundraiser.

### March 30 until April 3

Easter holiday, school closed, Friday, Monday and Tuesday.

### April 11

Junior Dicso – In the hall at lunchtime. Year 1-4.

### April 12

Senior Dicso – In the hall at lunchtime. Year 5-8.

## Thank You...

Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who have managed to connect with their child's teacher this year. We appreciate all the parents who came out to meet the teacher a few weeks back.

Developing communication with your child's teacher can be a real benefit to supporting their learning and improving the teachers ability to teach and relate to your child.

In Pohutukawa team we have been learning about our bodies and how they work. We had fun creating blood splatter paintings and skeleton paintings. We have also been hard at work on our Reading, Writing and Maths.

We are looking forward to our trip to the Waitakere Refuse and Recycling Centre. We hope to become experts on how to reduce our rubbish and on the things we can recycle.



Kowhai have made a great start to 2018. This term we have had a blast learning about our body parts and how they work. We have done a lot of activities around our topic like naming bones, body parts, healthy eating and learning the Skeleton song/dance.

We start each morning looking after our body and keeping fit by running around the field. Most of us can go twice around without stopping. We focus on healthy eating and have been learning which foods will make us strong and which ones are treat foods.

This year our focus will be on looking after the important things in our lives. Ourselves, our close environment and our world.



Nikau children have settled in well to their 2018 year of school and are immersed in their classroom programmes for learning. Our classroom programmes are fun and involve some interesting activities.

We are noticing a huge reduction in rubbish thanks to the 'waste free' philosophy we have adopted again this year. Thanks for your support in helping children recognise the value in recycling and reducing waste where they can.



Tapa Cloth / Drama / Dance / Softball / Cricket Blitz / Camp Fundraising / Learning about ourselves and each other / Statistics / Writing from experiences - these are some of the things our Koromiko students have been doing to start the year.

One of our Year 5/6 softball teams ended up finishing second in their tournament in Week 7. What an outstanding achievement! Our mixed Cricket Blitz teams have been playing in an after-school competition against Y7/8 girls. They have both won games and represented our school fantastically. Congratulations to D7 for winning the Koromiko inter-class Netball competition. A huge thank you to Miss Kingston for organising the competition.



Totara have had lots of extra-curricular activities going on recently. All of our classes had the opportunity to go to Piha Beach to have a go at surfing. All children had a great time and enjoyed learning about beach safety and getting out on the surfboards to catch some waves! Great job guys.

Our Car Wash fundraiser for Camp was a huge success! We had a very busy day washing cars and sizzling sausages. A big thanks to all family, teachers and community members that came to support. And to the children and teachers that came to help on the day!



Life is not about being rich, being popular, being highly educated, or being perfect. It is about being *real*, being humble, and being kind.

## In the Community

### Whanau Hui:

On Tuesday the 20th of March we will be having a whanau hui in the school hall from 6pm – 7:30pm. This is a time to share what's happening in the school with our MASAM group (Maori achieving success as Maori) and to connect with whanau about how you can help support programmes in school this year. All are welcome.

### Reading Together:

Thanks to those parents who have come in to be a part of our reading together programme. The last session for this round will be in week 11.

We will be starting up another new programme in term three for any new parents who are interested.

### NZEI Meeting:

The NZEI Teachers Union are holding meetings around different areas in Auckland at the moment. Our staff will be attending meetings on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

### School Contact

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