

Dear whanau

As you might be aware, NZEI, the primary schools teacher union, is in the process of negotiating a new teachers' collective agreement.

Over the past nine years, schools and educators all over the country, and even more so in Auckland, have been facing challenging working conditions brought about by a lack of funding, resourcing, and inadequate support from the Ministry of Education. Teachers and Principals have raised concerns about high workloads, lack of support for students with additional learning and behavioural needs, and undervaluing of the profession. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Education and the past Government have dismissed our concerns, and as a result, we have reached a crisis point that requires urgent attention.

Recent figures show that enrollment at Teacher College has reduced by as much as 40% since 2010. To make matters worse, 80% of teachers who graduate leave the profession within 3 years of completing their degrees due to the increasing demands and pressures they are subjected to. As a result, schools are struggling to find and retain teachers. This puts immense pressure on us, as we strive to provide the best possible education for all our tamariki, while lacking time, support and resources.

As part of the negotiation, NZEI called for the Ministry to:

- Fix the teacher-shortage crisis by making teaching a more attractive profession for young people. This could be achieved by eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy to reduce teachers' workload, provide more support for teachers, and increase salaries to make teaching more competitive with other professions.

- Address the lack of funding for schools by significantly increasing support for leaders, classroom teachers, and teachers working with students with additional learning needs. We want to free teachers to teach, and leaders to concentrate on quality teaching and learning programmes.

Unfortunately, at the end of the negotiation rounds the Ministry made an offer that failed to recognise the seriousness of this crisis, and that we believe would perpetuate it rather than fix it. In response to this unsatisfactory offer, the teachers' union has decided to go on strike to support our claims of the seriousness of these issues, and the urgency needed to address them. The strike will take place on Wednesday 15th of August, and for this reason, the Board has decided to close the school on that day. There will not be any staff at the school on the day, so please make sure you arrange alternative care for your child/children.

As part of the strike activities, we are organising a protest outside our school at 8:30am on Wednesday 15 August, and would like to invite you to join us. The protest will finish at around 9:15am, and we will then go to Queen Street to join the main protest.

Thank you very much for your understanding, and look forward to counting on your support on the day.

Kind regards

Mr Piantelli

Swanson School Principal



Upcoming Events

August 9

Whanau Hui 5:30-7pm.

August 10

Mufti day / Sausage sizzle.

August 14

Totara parents camp meeting.

August 15

School closed, NZEI union strike.

August 16

Kowhai Stardome trip.

August 17

Whole school cross country.

August 21

Koromiko parents camp meeting.

August 29

School photos.

September 12

Fundraising discos, during the day.

Thank You...

To all our parents for supporting teachers as we go on strike on Wednesday the 15th of August.

To all those who helped support the Word-a-thon fundraiser for our camp fundraising. Thank you Mr Fraser for all your hard work on this, you are awesome!

School photos...

This year we are using the "Photo Life" company for our school photos. All children will be having a class photo and an individual photo taken.

If you wish to purchase class or individual photos then a form will be sent out to fill in. If you want your children to have sibling photos together then you can request a form from the office. More information will come out in the next few weeks.

Mufti day and sausage sizzle...

We will be having a mufti day and sausage sizzle to support the Totara camp. Friday 10th August. Gold coin donation for mufti and \$2 a sausage for sausage sizzle.

Totara and Koromiko camp meetings...

We are holding meetings for the parents of students going to Totara or Koromiko camp this year. Parents will learn a bit more about what is happening at camp, the ins and outs of how it's all working, funds, travel, gear needed and safety.

Totara meeting is Tuesday 14th August 6pm.

Koromiko meeting is Tuesday 21st August 6pm.

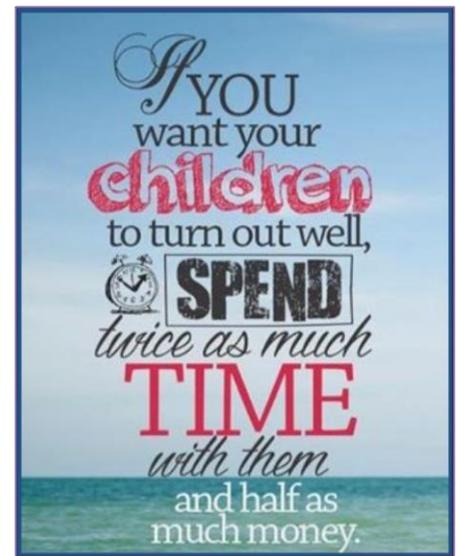
Cross country...

We will be running our school cross country on Friday 17th August. Races will start from midday and we will work our way from year 1-year 8. Parents are more than welcome to come along for the afternoon to support their children. Students can come to school in mufti for the day and represent their house colour.

Fundraising Discos...

We have daytime discos happening again this term. These discos will be run by the Footsteps Dance Company. They are coming in a week earlier to teach all classes some dance moves and then running discos for all of our whanau the following week.

Discos will be on Wednesday 12th September and all funds raised will help support the Totara camp. \$2 entry and snacks available for purchase on the day.



In the Community

Daffodil day...

31st August. Daffodils available for purchase from the school office.

Parent consent for EOTC activities...

We are still collecting forms from parents for our new system of permission for EOTC Activities (Education Outside The Class) at school. If you need a new form please contact your child's classroom teacher and they will send one home with your child.

Camp payment reminder:

You can pay off your child's camp at the school office. Eftpos is available. Remember whatever your child raised for the Word-a-thon fundraiser comes off their own camp cost. You can check the total remaining cost from your class teacher.

School Contact

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