



Ngaio School Newsletter

Term 1 Wk 1

2 February 2018

Community Calendar <http://www.ngaio.school.nz/welcome>

Key Dates

Tuesday 6th February	Waitangi Day - School Closed
Thursday 8th February	Kakapo Meet the Teacher at 5:30pm, Picnic at 6.15pm Tui Picnic at 5.30pm, Meet the Teacher at 6.15pm
Friday 9th February, 9.00am	Whakatau - welcome to our new families and staff (Te Kapua - under the Cloud)
Monday 12th - Friday 15th February	School Photos - Order forms are coming home today - due back 8th Feb
Tuesday 13th February, 5.00pm	Kowhai Syndicate and Pohutukawa Syndicate Picnic and Meet the Teacher
Friday 23rd February, 11.30am	Opening of New Classroom Block
Tuesday 27th February	Northern Zone Cricket, Alex Moore Park
Wednesday 28th February, 1.40pm	New Parents Information Seminar - Staffroom
Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th March	Goal Setting Conferences - details to follow

Welcome to 2018

We've had a great start, with two teacher only days before the students joined us on Wednesday. Prior to that the teachers were in preparing their rooms and planning their programmes. I appreciate the time they took to ensure everything was ready for a smooth start to the school year.

It is with regret that I announce Jon Mackie's resignation from his position as a Senior Teacher at Ngaio School, effective from the end of Term One 2018.

We congratulate Jon on his appointment as a curriculum leader at Muritai School and acknowledge his decision to take the opportunity to work closer to home so he can contribute more easily to his family's routines.

Jon is committed to the transition of our Year 5 and 6 students and teachers into their wonderful new learning space, so we appreciate him seeing us through to the end of this term. This will also enable Jon to once again oversee the Year 6 camp, which is a highlight for our students.

We acknowledge the significant contribution Jon has made to Ngaio School over the past two years, both as Tui Syndicate Leader and as a classroom teacher. Jon is a very dedicated teacher with a wealth of experience and a teaching approach which has been highly valued by our staff and in our School community. A great many children have benefited from Jon's teaching and have been enriched by his passion, enthusiasm and interest in their education.

We wish Jon all the very best for his new position at Muritai School, and for his future career. We will inform you of arrangements for Jon's replacement in due course and will ensure there is a smooth transition.

On a happier note we welcome Abigail Smalley, Hannah Anderson and Sam Jenkins to Ngaio School. Abie is teaching year 2 in Pohutukawa syndicate, Hannah year 1 in Kowhai syndicate and Sam year 3 in Kakapo syndicate. We wish them well as they start their teaching careers and know they will be amazing, especially under the guidance of their very talented syndicate leaders; Bronwyn, Wendy and Sarah.

The teachers started the year participating in professional development led by Mary Wootton, one of the directors of Infinity Learn Limited; an educational support company. We came away really excited about this work, focusing on student perspectives about their learning to grow active, connected future focused learners. 'The National Curriculum' has as its vision that all NZ children become 'Young people who will be confident, connected, actively-involved, lifelong learners.' Teachers at Ngaio School have a role in building the capability of children being able to talk about and make some decisions for their own learning. While they already do a fantastic job in this area, this work introduces Learning Maps as a tool that supports children to be active and connected in their learning. The children will be creating their first map over the next few weeks and teachers will continue to work with Mary to support the children to use the maps to help them decide on a change they want to make that will help them achieve their goal in an area of their learning. The maps support children to have conversations about their learning, the people, places and tools and interactions that help them learn. The children will have the opportunity to reflect on their learning, add to their map, draw another map - maybe two throughout the year. The process has been shown to lift student confidence and achievement and is a fantastic tool to help conversation in the learning conferences.

Other work teachers have been engaging in over the past few years is around a 'Capabilities Approach' to learning in science. 'The Ngaio Way - A Capability Approach' fits with the school's vision to have a curriculum that has meaning for Ngaio students, connects with their wider lives and engages the support of their families, whanau and community. The assessment team have been working on this with facilitator Ally Bull and will continue embedding and extending this over the upcoming year. This approach supports teachers to foster student thinking and curiosity through questioning and providing a range of opportunities across the curriculum. There is a particular focus on developing problem solving skills (self-managing), students having regular opportunities to reflect on their learning and identify their next steps (thinking), social skills to work collaboratively with others (relating to others), modelling lifelong learning, critical thinking (questioning, analysing and evaluating), creativity and adaptability

Another big piece of work a team of teachers will be undertaking this year is in mathematics, through Massey University, developing a mathematical inquiry approach to their teaching in mathematics. We will be keeping you informed about any changes to our reporting given there are now no National Standards to report against. This will make very little change to our assessments and the knowledge the teachers have about your child's academic progress.

The school Gala is looming. Thank you to the Gala team who have already been working behind the scenes to get the planning underway. I encourage you to support their work and join in the fun however you can.

New Parents Information Afternoon - Please let anyone you know who is considering sending their child to Ngaio School.

Raewyn Watson
Tumuaki

Advice of Absence - Before 9.00am Please

If you know that your child will be late or is going to be away from school please email absences@ngaio.school.nz
You may also leave a message on the school absence line 04-939-6455. Thank you.

Sun Hats

Please ensure your child has a sunsmart hat to wear whilst outside during term 1 and term 4.

Lost Property

The lost property bins are located in the corridor adjacent to the flagpole.

School Lunches

Please check the school website for school lunch details. Lunches Unlimited on Monday and Wednesday; Sushi on Tuesday and Subway on Thursday.