



Te Totara Primary School
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Rototuna, Hamilton 3256

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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 11th February, 2016

Kia Ora (Maori/NZ), **Hello** (English), **Bula** (Fijian), **Welkom** (South African), **Huān yíng** (Chinese-Mandarin), **Ayubowan, Vanakkam** (Sri Lankan), **Namaste** (India), **Bem-vindos** (Brazil), **Marhaba** (Arabic), **Hallo** (Dutch), **Choum Reap Sour** (Cambodia), **Geiá sou** (Greek), **Mbofe, Jambo** (Congolese), **Konnichiwa** (Japanese), **Hola** (Spanish), **Annyeonghaseyo** (South Korea) **Israel Shalom** (Hebrew)

MAJOR PROJECT- COVERED COURTS

As you would have seen from the PTA flyer that was handed out during the Meet the Teacher evening last night, the Board of Trustees and the PTA are combining their expertise in launching a major fundraising project to cover the court area beside the Ra building. This is no small task, and we will need lots of help and support so that our children can benefit from the all year round outdoor area. This is so important for physical skills as well as other outdoor learning. We see this project benefitting all our children and wider community, exciting!

From here the process is:

A combined working group from the PTA and Board and Te Totara Staff are forming to:

- Look at what the best cover should have, including options for lighting and outdoor sound system
- Visit and see other outdoor areas in action to see what works best in a school
- We will be liaising with the Ministry of Education to gain permission for the outdoor area
- Formulate a design, with costings so we know how much is needed
- Begin fundraising, including help from the community

Timeframe

This will be part of the working groups planning, it is likely to take some time to get everything in place, but it does give us a major focus to help our children

Updates

Our first working group meeting is later this term and we will keep the community updated on this initiative. Meanwhile, if you have any ideas, contacts or help, please feel free to email brians@tetotara.school.nz

MEET THE TEACHER

We enjoyed the "Meet the Teacher" evening yesterday and we hope you found it a worthwhile exercise. Our next opportunity to talk about learning with families, including our children, is on **Tuesday 22nd March & Wednesday 23rd March. On both these days school will close at 2.00pm** to ensure we have enough time to talk with families.

SAFETY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Thank you for your patience with the increased traffic flows lately, with more school age children around. The patience shown is appreciated! Next week the Principals of the three schools (Te Totara, Hamilton Christian & Rototuna Junior High) are proactively meeting with the Hamilton City Council and Police regarding this. Some points to be raised by us include:

- The crossing on Borman Road by Learning Links is a danger for pedestrians, so we are advocating a proper crossing be installed. Peak time in the morning is between 8.20am -8.40am making it almost impossible to cross without supervision
- The corner of North City Road and Borman Road is dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians, with children crossing and needs to be addressed rather quickly
- Moonlight Drive crossing near the park is a dangerous crossing

I will keep you updated on any progress in this area.

2016 SCHOOL YEAR TERM DATES

To help families with planning for 2016, here are the school year term dates.

Term	2016	Holidays during term time
Term 1	Tue 2 Feb - Fri 15 April	<u>Week 2</u> Mon 8 Feb - Waitangi Day (Monday) <u>Weeks 8 & 9 Easter</u> Fri 25 March Mon 28 March Tue 29 March
Term 2	Mon 2 May - Fri 8 July	<u>Week 6</u> Mon 6 June – Queens Birthday
Term 3	Mon 25 July - Fri 23 Sep	<u>Week 7</u> School Mid Term break Monday 29 August
Term 4	Mon 10 Oct - Fri 16 Dec	<u>Week 3</u> Mon 24 Oct - Labour day

WEETBIX TRYATHLON

WHEN: Sunday 14th February, 2016

WHERE: University Fields, Hamilton East, Waikato

Allow plenty of time on the morning of the event:

Make sure you allow plenty of time to get to the event venue (which is open **from 7am Sunday**, February 14th) and to find a car park. Please leave enough time to get through the numbering, check in and transition process before transition closes (at 8.15am). The more time you allow, the easier it will be. There will be lots of people and it will be very, very busy, so please be patient and listen to all instructions.

Our Te Totara Team

The purpose of entering a team is to encourage our Te Totara STARS to give it a go! We also have a chance to win great prizes and to have a school team photo taken at the end. Each child must have a parent or caregiver with them on the day. The School Gazebo is a good meeting place for parents and their child. There will be lots of people there on the day so it is essential that parents/guardians are responsible for their own child. **Please note that ALL PARTICIPANTS must CHECK-IN through the bar code scanning system as they enter transition or at the Admin tent. Any child not checked in by 8.15am will not be permitted to participate.**

What to take into transition checklist:

Take everything that you will need for the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon into the Transition Area and leave it with your bike.

- Official Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon T-shirt with Bib Number attached to the front
- Bike with your event number sticker attached to the handle bars
- Helmet with your event number sticker attached to the front
- Running Shoes (*please note that closed in shoes are compulsory for both the bike & run legs of the event*)
- Socks (optional)
- Towel
- Drink bottle
- Any medication you may need use of during the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon (EG: Asthma puffer)

It's a good idea to have a small plastic box so that all your items are kept together and also to make your bike stand out somehow so it will be easier for you to find during the event. For example, you could use a brightly-coloured towel on your seat or handlebars.

MILK IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME DISCONTINUED

As a school we have decided to discontinue the milk in schools programme for 2016, due to not a high uptake and challenges with interruptions to learning.

ABSENCES, CHANGE OF INFORMATION FROM LAST WEEK

If your child will be away from school then please let us know by either:

- Phoning the school on **(07) 853-0039**
- School App
- Texting the School Office on 027 207-4466 with name, details and reason for absence.

Sorry, Text messages received will NOT be acknowledged by a return text.

We would appreciate any absence messages before 9.00am.

CAR PARKING - SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

Thanks so much to almost everyone who takes care around the school, on behalf of our children, many thanks.

Some tips to make sure we have a safe school:

- Parking in Disabled car parks is not permitted at any time unless you have a current "Disabled Parking" permit on display in your vehicle. We have a number of families who legitimately require these carparks.
- We are noticing a few parents parking their cars on the cobblestones/footpath when picking up and dropping off children to and from school rather than on the driveway, particularly in front of the Administration Block.

Unfortunately, this is creating a problem with the cobblestones lifting, and the kerb cracking, so we would really appreciate your support.

Ways you can help....

- *When the weather is fine, please encourage your child/ren to scooter, bike or walk to school.*
- *Arrive at 3.12pm - less traffic, parking is easier, less stress all round.*
- *Smile and accept that a few minutes wait is better than a lifetime of misery because one of our children has been injured or something worse has happened.*

PLEASE, NO PARKING ON YELLOW LINES, ON THE GRASS VERGE BETWEEN THE FOOTPATH AND THE ROAD OR ON/OVER ANY FOOTPATHS

We have had a visit from our local Police who advised us that the Hamilton City Council, in conjunction with the NZ Police, are actively visiting schools randomly with regard to illegal parking.

They have asked us to advise our parents through the school newsletter that under **NO circumstances is there to be any parking on yellow lines, on the grass verge between the footpath and the road or over/on the footpath.** These infringements will be ticketed.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP ZONE 8.15 am – 9.00am & 2.40 pm – 3.15 pm

Please note that the drop-off zone is for you to drive in, drop-off (or pick-up) your children and depart. We ask that you do not park and leave your car as this causes a back log of vehicles, this area is designed to keep traffic flowing. You are welcome to use the carpark beside the Matariki Hall if you wish to visit your child's classroom.

FOOD AT SCHOOL

We have children at our school who are highly allergic to dairy products and nuts and exposure to these foods could potentially be life threatening to them. We have procedures in place for 1:1 support for these children to ensure their safety. At present we will continue to carry on with our normal food eating programme, but we have to carefully plan school events/learning area celebrations etc. With this in mind, please don't be offended if any kind offers of food to the school are scrutinised. Please ensure all food containers are clearly named. We are also looking at the bringing of food to school for birthdays for the class as cakes etc may not be a healthy option due to allergies.

VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL (INCLUDING PARENTS)

If you are visiting our school for business reasons, or as a parent dropping off things to your child during school hours, please report to the School Office before entering the school grounds. In the event of an Emergency situation, we will know who is onsite at any given time.

LOST AND FOUND PROPERTY

Can you please ensure that all school uniforms are clearly named and that your family has the correct clothing. We have our Yellow Lost & Found property box down outside our purple block Earth for Parents and Children to view daily.



SWIMMING CLASS LESSONS 2016

We are very lucky to be able to continue our school swimming programme in 2016. This is a vital part of our Te Totara Health and Physical Education curriculum. Our school pool is in fabulous condition with a new heat pump programmed for 30 degrees. We will be operating our 'in school' swimming programme from February to May and September to December each year. Our children will continue to learn from qualified instructors with a programme which includes aqua education, survival skills and swimming stroke work. Lessons will be held with small numbers of children in the classes which research shows is 'best practise' learning, your child will receive a block course of 2 weeks of swimming lessons for a very reasonable fee of \$60 per year. The fee will go towards employing our qualified swim instructors and the ongoing costs of keeping our school pool running. These costs are also subsidised by our curriculum budgets to ensure they are affordable for all. These fees can be paid over the year in instalments by automatic payment if you would like to. The students swimming progress will be monitored and you will receive a certificate of your child's ongoing progress and achievements. Any further queries please contact Anne Fraser, Curriculum Manager at Te Totara School

SWIM SCHOOL LESSONS AFTER SCHOOL AT TE TOTARA, LIMITED SPACES LEFT

We have had a great response to our Swim School lessons which will start next week after school on Tuesday's and Wednesday's. Sorry to everyone who has missed out this time, I do have your contact details and I will keep in touch with other swim school offers.

These are additional to your child's in school class lessons and a great way to boost your child's confidence in the water. **Get in quick, we have 3 spaces left, Tuesday 5.30pm for level 4+ swimmer and Wednesday 5.30pm for a level 2 swimmer.**

This would be a 7-week block course, starting Tuesday 16th February 2016.

Fees are \$101.50 per child to be paid at the School Office and lessons are 25 minutes each week.

Parents are reminded please to stay on site for your child's swim school lesson as per our swim School terms and conditions.

If your child/ren attends our ASC, arrangements can be made for your child to attend these lessons. A copy of our terms and conditions is available on our school website or from our School Office.

We will also be offering a one week block course of swimming lessons in the April school holidays, Week 1, 18-22 April 2016, Fees \$75 or Week 2, 26-29 April 2016, Fees \$60. (This is a 4 day week)

Get in quick as spaces are limited for these block courses.

Please e-mail Celeste if you would be interested in making a booking with your child's name and swimming level at celestem@tetotara.school.nz

SPRAYING AT SCHOOL

Our school will be sprayed for spiders, bugs etc on **Saturday 13th February 2016**, it would be advisable to stay away from the school over this weekend please.

TE TOTARA SCHOOL HOUSES

- Te Totara School has four houses, all named in line with our STARS theme and space expeditions: **"Apollo, Challenger, Discovery & Mercury"**
- Children are placed in houses when they enrol and arrive at school. New Entrants with family members already at school will be placed in the same house.
- We are able to use the houses for different school events and happenings eg. Athletic Sports.
- Houses provide our children with leadership responsibilities and provide good natured competition.
- There are colours for each house (see below)
- There are Lead Teachers looking after each house

HOUSE	COLOURS
Apollo	Yellow
Challenger	Blue
Discovery	Green
Mercury	Red

FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

This week's assembly will be held **Friday 12th February, 2016** in the Matariki Hall at 2.00pm. This week Matawhero, Neptune, Ra and Milky Way children will attend assembly. This week we will be welcoming our new children to Te Totara in our assembly. Everyone is welcome.

DATES COMING UP

Wed 17 Feb	PTA Meeting @ 7.30pm in Staff Lounge
Tues 15 March	Cluster Swimming
Tues 22 March	Learning Plan Discussions School Finishes at 2.00pm
Wed 23 March	Learning Plan Discussions School Finishes at 2.00pm
Fri 25 March	Easter Friday, school closed
Mon 28 March	Easter Monday, school closed
Tues 29 March	Easter Tuesday, school closed
Mon 11 – Wed 13 April	Camp for Milky Way
Wed 13 - Fri 15 April	Camp for Marama
Fri 15 April	TERM 1, 2016 FINISHES @ 3.00pm

Kind regards,

Brian Sheedy
Principal

TE TOTARA PTA

On behalf of Te Totara Primary Parent Teacher Association (PTA), we'd like to welcome all children, families and caregivers to Te Totara for the 2016 school year



WHAT DOES THE PTA DO?

- We plan and organise fundraising to purchase equipment, materials and improve facilities that benefit the whole school and all the children
- We organise social events for the parents/caregivers of the Te Totara children
- We provide a link between the children, their families and the school

WHAT WE'VE ORGANISED UP UNTIL NOW

School Gala's; Quiz Nights; Entertainment Books; Sausage Sizzles; Pizza Lunches; Ice Block Fridays; Coffee Van @ the Library; Social Evenings at the Christmas Heirloom Company and the Good Neighbour Bar & Restaurant; the infamous School Disco; Kids Artwork for the diaries, calendars etc; Car Boot Sale; Chocolate selling; hosted a talk about 'Mathematics at Te Totara'

Contributed funds towards shade sails, sandpits and the school swimming pool

Provided the popular soccer/rugby posts on the back school field

Plus lots more!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR'S

- ✚ Our first PTA meeting for the year is on **Wednesday 17th February @ 7:30pm in the Te Totara Staff Lounge**
- ✚ Movie Night! The date will be advised on the PTA Facebook page and in the school newsletter
- ✚ In conjunction with the Board of Trustees, we are also about to embark on a joint project to raise money to cover and provide lighting for the school tennis court area. This would allow the courts to be used year round, both at break times for the children, after school for sports practices and by other members of our school community.

WHO ARE WE?

There is an Executive Committee consisting of Nicky Sayers (Chairperson), Anna Smart (Deputy Chairperson), Jackie Smith (Secretary), Andrea Larsen (Treasurer) and Jasmine Cobby (Communications Officer). Brian Sheedy (Principal), Jennie Brook-Watt (Assistant Principal) and another teacher or two often join us. We also have a small group of awesome parents/caregivers that come along to our meetings and/or provide support when needed.

WHAT WE WISH / NEED FROM YOU

- We would like to see more parents come along to our PTA meetings; we have 532+ families at Te Totara Primary and we average 10-12 people at our friendly and relaxed meetings. At least 1-2 parent representatives from each pod would be fantastic.
- Given the diversity of cultures at our school, we would love to see a reflection of that diversity at our PTA meetings as well.
- We would appreciate it if you would make the effort to support any social evenings/events we organise – it's a great way to meet new people! It takes the same amount of effort for us to organise these, irrespective of whether one person turns up or 20 people - so come along and have some fun!
- If you choose not to come along to meetings, but you're willing to promise 3-5 hours per year (*of which there are 8760 hours in a year!*) helping where required, then please email us with your contact details at tetotara.pta@gmail.com. We really appreciate it, and will contact you when we need a hand.
- If we ask for helpers, please don't assume 'someone else will do it' - many hands make light work. Unfortunately, in the past we have been on the verge of having to cancel activities/events due to the lack of support from our families.

Search for "Te Totara Primary School PTA" on Facebook and 'like' us!

The PTA Facebook page only has 272 likes..... please help us close the gap on the "Te Totara Primary School" Facebook page which currently has 1029 likes! If you're on Facebook you'll be kept up-to-date and have the opportunity to complete a questionnaire over the next month or so.

So come on Te Totara families – let's all chip in.... we'll raise some money, meet some new people and have some fun along the way

NEXT PTA MEETING:

Wednesday 17th February 2016 at 7.30pm in the staff lounge.

PTA BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Te Totara Primary School PTA Account: ASB **12 3171 0277833-00**

Please ensure your name is used as a reference.

PTA EMAIL AND FACEBOOK ADDRESSES:

tetotara.pta@gmail.com

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/Te-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Te-Totara-Primary-School-PTA/30090011661692)

[Totara-Primary-School-PTA/30090011661692](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Te-Totara-Primary-School-PTA/30090011661692)

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

We are often asked to put Community Notices in our newsletter. Due to the large number of requests, we now have a "Community Notices" section on the notice board in the School Office, where you will find more information on the notices below. Please note that this does not necessarily imply School endorsement of these notices.

YOUNG ENGINEERS – STARTING TERM 1 2016

Young Engineers is an after-school programme that is a fun and engaging. Young Engineers teaches children about the basic principles of engineering and physics using motorised Lego! Children from Year 2-Year 8 will enjoy the practical hands-on learning environment which lasts for 75mins. Young Engineers is held during the week (one session per week). Our locations are in Huntly Church Hall, Gordonton School, Hukanui School, Claudelands Migrant Centre, Waterworld Te Rapa, Hillcrest Chapel, Hautapu School and Cambridge Community Centre. To register or find out more – go online to www.youngengineers.nz or contact Ariana on [021-2424567](tel:021-2424567) or ariana@youngengineers.nz

CAN YOU PLEASE HELP?

After school care required for one week for two boys 8 and 11 yrs.

3pm - 5:15pm everyday from Monday 29th Feb - Fri 4th March. Location as suits (our place or elsewhere).

\$15 per hour negotiable. If interested please phone Rachel ph 855-7241 or 021884628, Thanks so much.

SWIM TEACHERS WANTED

Do you love water? Do you have a passion to work with children?

Have you considered a career in Swim Teaching? Flexible work hours instructing babies from 5 months/Pre Schoolers/ School aged to enjoy, gain respect and develop fundamental swimming skills.

Full training offered. For more information contact Christine.hunger@hcc.govt.nz

TAUPIRI SCHOOL GALA

It is being held at Taupiri School, Greenlane Rd, Taupiri

Date – 12th March 2016 from 10am – 3 pm

We have a special guest and we also have truck rides, truck pulling contest, raffles, games, face painting, bouncy castle, food, and stalls. We have stall sites available. For more information please contact Rachael Butler on 021 02763084.

FUNDRAISING, SHEEP MANURE AND PINE CONES

To help us fundraise to get to Hawaii to play inline hockey for NZ at the AAU Junior Olympics.

Sheep manure, approx. 15kg bags, \$8 each or 3 for \$20. Great fertilizer for your garden.

Pine cones, per sack, \$15 each or 3 for \$40.

To order contact Sandra Kivell ph 027 654 2239 or 829 7700

Or Maree Fox ph 027 682 5420 or 856 4658

(You can pick up or we can deliver for a small fee)

Thanks for your support, Jana Kivell and Madison Fox



School of CHESS

after school hours 3:30 - 5:30
and during school holidays

Azat Shayak

Russian background in chess

across the road from
Te Totara Primary School

any levels: beginners,
medium or advanced players

853 8962, 021 026 18001
azat2002@gmail.com