

Te Totara Primary School  
PO Box 28134  
Rototuna, Hamilton 3256

31 Hector Drive  
Rototuna North, Hamilton 3210  
Ph: (07) 853-0039  
[www.tetotara.school.nz](http://www.tetotara.school.nz)  
[principal@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:principal@tetotara.school.nz)

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY, 2013

WEEK 2

**Kia Ora (Maori/NZ), 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)**

*You may have noticed that we have updated our welcomes above to better reflect the wonderful backgrounds of our families. We have endeavoured to get all our different welcomes correct, but if you have one we have missed or one that needs updating, then please let me know and I will update our list ☺*

### WOW!

We are just delighted with the way in which our school year has started, programmes are underway, children have their stationery and bring lots of smiles!

We now have more children (537) at school than at the end of last year (532).

### SCHOOL ASSEMBLY EACH FRIDAY 2.15PM, IT'S HOT!

This is a great opportunity for our school to join together to share and celebrate. It is usual for a class to share their learning and we generally finish around 3.00pm.

However, with the warmer weather, we have noticed that Matariki (Hall) gets rather hot, so we will be starting the sharing in Week 7. Start time will remain at 2.15pm.

### MEET THE TEACHER

#### THURSDAY 14TH FEBRUARY, 2013

Please come along and meet your child's teacher, where you will have an outline of the class programmes, studies and general information. Each session will be for around 25 minutes and we have staggered the times for teams to help those with more than one child at school and with traffic congestion.

Times are:

**5.40pm Marama, Milky Way, Orion**  
**6.10pm Matawhero, Earth**  
**6.40pm Ra**

### UNIFORM UPDATE

You are now probably aware that the school uniform supplier, EmbroidMe has gone into liquidation, not a nice thing to happen for all. Fortunately, the Liquidator has been helpful with those who have pre-ordered, but if families have any difficulties please contact me, I am happy to advocate for families affected.

### What is happening now?

We are finalising a list of criteria for a request for proposal to go out to suppliers, among things we are considering are:

- Static display at school for sizing purposes
- On-line ordering system to make it easy for parents to purchase
- Quality garments that last
- A continuation of the current uniform theme, so that families can still use existing garments

We will get this out shortly and I will keep you updated on progress, especially the timeframes. Meanwhile, please don't fret over the uniform - just send your child to school in appropriate school clothing.

### SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Come and see our 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform in the School Office for a great sale of uniforms all at \$5 per item. We have white polos, red fleeces, black trousers and shoes. Be in quick!

Other uniform items sold privately will be posted on the noticeboard in the School Office.

### NOVOPAY

This is the pay system provided by the Ministry of Education along with Talent2 for school staff. In the media you may have seen information on this and perhaps wondered what the effect is on Te Totara. We have indeed have had some interesting challenges with the system, with staff being underpaid, overpaid and information not being processed.

This has resulted in considerable time spent on trying to ensure that everyone gets paid the right amount and on time. My thanks go to Wendy Bulloch, our School Executive Officer, who has worked above and beyond to help everyone.

Our school staff have been amazingly patient and have continued to focus on the children, to them my sincere thanks!

Our school Board of Trustees have been fantastic and in every case of underpayment, we have ensured that our staff have been paid by the school and we will seek reimbursement from the Ministry of Education.

We will continue to ensure that our people are looked after; it is likely that there will be more challenges regarding this in the future.

## SHARING OUR LEARNING

With the arrival of iPads in our school our teachers are keen to use this technology to share our students' learning with the community. In some cases this may involve uploading videos to YouTube and featuring them on our website or in a class blog. Children's full names will never accompany the clips. If you have any concerns about this please contact me – [principal@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:principal@tetotara.school.nz)

## SCHOOL DONATION

*We certainly appreciate the fantastic support we are receiving for the school voluntary donation, it is appreciated and the funding will be used for resources for the children.*

If you wish to pay your voluntary School Donation, we are happy to accept payment by cash, cheque, internet banking or EFT-POS at the School Office. The Board of Trustees has set payment at:

\$100.00 for the first family member  
\$50.00 for each subsequent child

Please check with the School Office as the voluntary School Donation is adjusted depending on which term your child/ren started school.

*A GST receipt will be issued. A % of your donation may be claimed as a tax rebate using a "Rebate Claim Form" – please refer to Inland Revenue for further details.*

## MATHLETICS, TO HELP LEARNING

As this programme has been so successful in previous years, we are excited to be able to provide you with a subscription to Mathletics for **\$20 per child** for a year (usually a one-year subscription costs \$99 per child). Subscribing to Mathletics will entitle students to 24-hour web access both at home and in school.

Teachers are encouraging their students with this programme as it helps with important maths skills; you will also find teachers using it in their daily maths programmes.

You are welcome to pay by internet banking, cash, cheque or EFT-POS via the School Office.

An invoice will follow and a User ID and Password will be distributed to your child by the classroom teacher shortly.

If you have any questions please contact Paula Wine, Assistant Principal.

## LIBRARY NEWS, SUMMER HOLIDAY LENDING

It was great to see so many families visit the library over the holidays. We issued over 800 books to 93 students.

All books issued over the holidays are now due back so please return them as soon as possible.

## SANITARIUM WEET-BIX KIDS TRYATHLON

It is not long now until this year's Weet-Bix TRYathlon, to be held on **Sunday 17th February 2013 at the University Fields**, Hamilton East. We are excited to be entering a school team of 61 participants!

**Remember, if you have registered as part of the Te Totara school team your child's pack will arrive at school between the 8th and 13th February. Each parent/guardian will help their own child organise their bikes and gear on the day, but we will have the school marquee set up as a supportive, but casual, meeting zone. All participants receive a complimentary breakfast at the Breakfast Challenge Tent and our team will have a team photo at the end.**

**Make sure you check out the TRYTR@iner programme from Triathlon NZ to help you get ready for your big day! Now is also a good time to get your bike safety checked at your nearest Avanti store. Not only will this ensure that you are safe, it will also put you in the draw to win a fantastic Avanti Black Thunder Bike!**

**It is not too late to register for the Weetbix TRYathlon - go to [www.weetbix.co.nz](http://www.weetbix.co.nz) or call customer services on 09 531 5080.**

### A few important things:

\* Please visit the <http://tryathlon.weetbix.co.nz> to download the Race Preparation Checklist and a map of the event.

\* Make sure you allow plenty of time to get to the event (which is open from 7am on the day) and to find a car park

\* Once you arrive you will need to get through the numbering, check in your child, and talk through the transition process with your child before the transition closes (8:15 am on the day of the event).

\* If you are going to receive your event kit through the school you need to head to the Numbering Flags to have your bib number written on your arms and legs by HELP TEAM volunteers in red T shirts. You must have your bike, bib number label sheet and T shirt with you. Then you and your child need to head towards Transition where the "Check-In: Flags are to be quickly scanned in and receive your Arena Swim Cap. Remember, you must bring your bib number label sheet with bar code for scanning and t-shirt with you from your official Event Kit. Once you have checked in you will keep moving to rack your bike (with one parent/caregiver to help their child). See the Weet-bix website for the Transition checklist.

\* At approximately 12:30 pm the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon concludes and prize giving begins. You must be present at prize giving with your event number to claim any prizes. The TRANSITION area will open at the conclusion of prize giving. You should plan to be at the University Fields until approximately 1pm.

\* We will have a Te Totara Weet-Bix TRYathlon Team photo taken after the event.

\* Approximate distances for event:

7 year olds - 50m swim, 4km cycle, 1.5km run

8-10 year olds - 100m swim, 4km cycle, 1.5km run

## COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Our [community directory](#) can now be accessed on the home page of our website. The aim is to bring our community together and support one another. The cost to participate is \$10 annually and you must be a family member of a current student or staff member at the school. For more information please contact [michelles@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:michelles@tetotara.school.nz)

## PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

If you are a parent of a child with special needs you are welcome to join our group of parents for coffee and a chat. Our next gathering is on Wednesday 13th February at 9am. For further information and venue details please contact Michelle, the school librarian. You can pop in and see her in the library office or email her - [librarian@tetotara.school.nz](mailto:librarian@tetotara.school.nz)

## SCHOOL BANKING WITH FIRST CREDIT UNION

Banking can be deposited in the Credit Union Drop Box in Reception and will be collected every Wednesday morning by First Credit Union. Passbooks will be returned and will go home with students the following day (Thursday). Application Packs can be collected from the School Office.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

Scholastic Book Club orders are due back to the School Office by **9.15am Friday 15th February 2013**. **No late orders will be accepted.**

## HEALTH WAIKATO HEARING & VISION TESTING FOR STUDENTS THAT HAVE NOT COMPLETED ROUTINE TESTS

A Vision & Hearing Technician will be visiting our school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013 to complete routine tests for those students who have missed their pre-school/prior school checks. For further information, please contact Health Waikato direct on (07) 838-3565

## FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY TOMORROW

This week's assembly will be held tomorrow, **Friday 8th February 2013 at 2.15pm in the Matariki Hall**. Everyone is welcome.

**Brian Sheedy**  
Principal

Te Totara Primary School

## DATES COMING UP

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Wed 13 Feb</b>   | Whanau Group Meeting 12.35pm  |
| <b>Thu 14 Feb</b>   | Meet the Teacher Evening<br>5.40pm Marama, Milky Way, Orion<br>6.10pm Matawhero, Earth<br>6.40pm Ra |
| <b>Sun 17 Feb</b>   | Weet-bix TRYathlon  |
| <b>Thu 21 Feb</b>   | PTA meet 7.30pm   |
| <b>Thu 28 Feb</b>   | BOT meet 6.30pm   |
| <b>Mon 18 March</b> | ERO at school this week   |
| <b>Fri 29 March</b> | School Closed - Good Friday   |
| <b>Mon 1 April</b>  | School Closed - Easter Monday   |
| <b>Tue 2 April</b>  | School Closed - Easter Tuesday  |
| <b>Thu 4 Apr</b>    | School's 5th Birthday Walkathon   |
| <b>Fri 5 April</b>  | Balloons over Waikato Visit<br>Routine N/E Hearing & Vision Testing                                 |
| <b>Fri 19 Aril</b>  | School Closes for Term 1 @ 3.00pm   |

## TE TOTARA PTA



### NEXT MEETING DATE:

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2013**

Everyone is welcome, in the staff Lounge at Te Totara School.

### ICE BLOCK FRIDAYS

**Starting Friday 8th February**, we will be holding Ice Block Fridays again. Lemonade Popsicles will be available for sale at a cost of **\$1.50 each** outside the Matariki Hall after eating for learning has finished at 12.35pm. Children who would like to purchase an ice-block need to bring \$1.50 in a sealed plastic bag/container in their lunch box and after the bell rings at 12.35pm they will take their money over to Matariki Hall and purchase their ice block. Parents, please ensure your child has the correct amount as no change will be given. All proceeds will go towards fundraising for our children.

Parents - If you are available to help with the selling of the Ice Blocks on any of the Fridays (approx ½ hour of your time), please e-mail [tracy.jessep@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.jessep@gmail.com) or text Tracy on 021 755 385.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Te-Totara-Primary-School-PTA/30090011661692>



Growing and Learning Together

# 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.

## CHILDREN'S DAY CARNIVAL

Garden Place Hamilton, Free Event. Saturday 23rd  
February 2013 10am-3pm.  
Check out [www.summeringardenplace.co.nz](http://www.summeringardenplace.co.nz)

## HAMILTON ROLLER SKATING CLUB, MELVILLE PARK

Free skating session Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013  
7pm-9pm, Contact Kathy Moody ph 8552523 or  
Pearl Best ph 8474527

## KING OF THE RING MARTIAL ARTS

Mixed Martial Arts training for fitness enthusiasts from  
all walks of life to experience an all-in-one effective,  
fun-filled solution to lose body fat, build muscle, get  
fit while learning self-defence by training in the most  
formidable fighting systems in the world. Contact:  
Marc Lee on 0275022682. Website: [www.king-of-the-ring.com](http://www.king-of-the-ring.com)

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY, FREE AND LOTS OF FUN!

Sport Waikato is pleased to offer another Sport  
opportunity initiative designed to provide sporting  
opportunities for children and young people with  
disabilities and their families. For further information  
contact Maioro Barton ph 027 308 1486 or email  
[offerschool@sportwaikato.org.nz](mailto:offerschool@sportwaikato.org.nz)

## HAMILTON NORTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Registrations are available online again this year  
visit [www.hamiltonnorthfootball.org.nz](http://www.hamiltonnorthfootball.org.nz) for the link to  
register to play football/soccer for the 2013 season.  
All inquiries to Nicole Mills  
[secretary@hamiltonnorthfootball.org.nz](mailto:secretary@hamiltonnorthfootball.org.nz) or 0800 4  
SOCCER

## DYNAMIC SPEECH CLASSES FOR KIDS

Phone 027 248 2888, [www.chatterbox.net.nz](http://www.chatterbox.net.nz)

## SPEECH AND DRAMA LESSONS

Develop confidence! Drama, public speaking,  
poetry, reading aloud, improvisation skills, voice  
quality and projection and many other skills  
covered. Competitions and exams available. Ages  
7-15. \$13-17 per one hour lesson. Contact Laura  
Watson A.S.B. [0220896158](tel:0220896158) or [078563303](tel:078563303) or  
[lauraw09@gmail.com](mailto:lauraw09@gmail.com)