



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 10TH MARCH, 2022

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
principal@tetotara.school.nz

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), Mbote, Jambo (Congoese), Konnichiwa (Japanese), Hola (Spanish), Annyeonghaseyo (South Korea) Israel Shalom (Hebrew)

Kia ora o te whanau

Welcome to Week 6 of Term 1.

We certainly are seeing 'a change in the air' coming with the arrival of autumn, my favourite time of year. The mornings are a little cooler with clear, still skies and warm sunny days. It is such a pleasure to be outside welcoming our learners each morning as they arrive at school. The students have lovely manners and greet the staff as they come in. Thank you for encouraging this delightful social courtesy with your children.



For your information in terms of the Covid 19 Omicron outbreak at Te Totara we are doing quite well at the moment, everything considered. We had 89 students away yesterday out of our current roll of 682 which means we have 87% of the roll at school. Over the past ten days we are maintaining between 86-89% of the roll onsite, which is quite remarkable given where some schools are at. I am notifying the Ministry of Education of about 8 new cases per day, on average. These are spread right across the school.

The total case number in the school is 'ever changing' between those returning from their Covid positive isolation period and those new cases popping up. Our current students who are absent consist of some positive Covid 19 cases, some household contacts isolating, general sickness at this time, chickenpox doing the rounds and a few families who have had their children at home for some time, out of concern for an immunocompromised person.

From what I am told by our families the Covid 19 Omicron infection generally starts with a high temperature followed by some symptoms. The child can be a little unwell for a few days and then 'bounces back' to full health. This is a similar pattern to other childhood illnesses. There are also some children who are without any symptoms at all.

I am very pleased that our Public Health measures seem to be supporting us very well in staying open for learning and safe, particularly those of excellent ventilation in our rooms, great hygiene practises, fantastic mask wearing by our students and staff - well done team, and the minimisation of numbers at break periods, which is disruptive however does mitigate risk and the spread of the virus.

The Ministry of Health have announced a reduction to the number of days required to self-isolate with Covid 19 and for household contacts. This drops from 10 days to 7 days from 11:59pm on Friday 11 March 2022. This change will take effect at Te Totara from next Monday 14th March, 2022.

We certainly are all suffering from 'Covid fatigue' now after 6 weeks of this term with restrictions and the 4 weeks at the end of last year, however we do need to continue to push through it. Together we can do it.

Anne

ART EXHIBITION

Our Art Exhibition is due to take place at the end of this term after having to postpone it in 2021. Traditionally the exhibition is open to parents and whanau to come and view over a couple of days after school. Sadly, due to COVID restrictions, our Exhibition will look a little different this year.

The exhibition of each class's artwork will go ahead with displays in the pod areas. These displays are always amazing and bring a lot of joy to those who view them. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at ways to share the art exhibition displays with our families and whanau. We will let you know what this will be as soon as we can.

Ngā mihi

Jo Stewart

LIFE EDUCATION VAN ON SITE

The Hamilton Life Education Trust Mobile Classroom will be at our school during weeks 7, 8, 9, and 10 **(15th March - 4th April)**. The Life Educator accompanying the classroom will be working with our teachers and students on a Health Curriculum unit on Food & Nutrition.

The purpose of this unit is to explore the importance of eating a well balanced diet to maintain body health and energy. The Yr 0-1 students will explore the topic Food for Energy, Year 2 children will be learning about Healthy Food for Energy and the Year 3-6 classes will look at Understanding Healthy Food Choices.

The Life Education Mobile Classroom uses the latest technology and innovative resources to present the information to the students in an exciting and magical way. The Life Educator, Amy Lake, is a registered teacher with specialist training who uses positive activity-based techniques when working with the students. All classes will have 2 sessions in the mobile classroom. Amy will also have another teacher with her who is in training for the Life Education Trust.

We timetable the Life Education Mobile Classroom into our school curriculum every 3 years as we believe it has strong benefits in helping our students to build life-long skills. Harold the giraffe is an integral part of the teaching and will be here as well.

The classroom's air conditioning system meets/exceeds the standards for a new-build classroom and the class can function well with the doors open to allow for ventilation.

I am sure there will be lots of discussion at home about what the children are learning in the Life Education classroom.

It is always a wonderful, positive experience for our children.

Ngā mihi

Jo Stewart

UNWELL CHILDREN WHO NEED TO GO HOME

Our Administration team and teaching staff act in the very best interests of your child and their well-being is paramount. When children arrive at the School Office, and depending on the situation, most of the children are offered a rest in our Wellness Room and re-assessed before a phone call home; often they return to their classroom.

We understand many of our families have work commitments however, if you are phoned by the school to collect your child from school due to illness, it would be appreciated if you could arrange for their collection as soon as possible. **For the privacy of other students, the School Office staff will collect your child from the Wellness Room when you arrive.**

If your child is sick, please keep them at home until they are well. If your child has diarrhoea or vomiting we ask that they do not return to school unless they are well and have had **no further diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours prior to returning – these bugs can be highly contagious.**

Thank you for your assistance.

My child is feeling unwell (e.g. cough, headache, sore throat etc). Can I still send them to school?

Because these are all symptoms of Covid, please **do not** send your child to school. While these may be the normal bugs/sniffles that occur, we encourage you to get your child tested.



OUT-OF-ZONE ENROLMENTS PERIOD FOR 2022

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available on our school website by clicking the following link: www.tetotara.school.nz

The Board has determined the following places are likely to be available to out-of-zone students from 2022 onwards. Enrolment period: **1st July - 15th December, 2022:**

20 places for Year 0 students (*whose 5th Birthday falls within the above enrolment period*)

5 places for Year 2 students

1 place for a Year 3 student

6 places for Year 5 students

The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone.

For students seeking enrolment within the above enrolment period, the deadline for receipt of out-of-zone applications is **3.00pm on Monday 25th April, 2022** and should be addressed to:

Te Totara Primary School, PO Box 28134, Hamilton 3256

Parents of students who live within the home zone should also apply by this date to assist the school to plan appropriately for this year. Students who live in the home zone are entitled to enrol at the school.

Applications from out-of-zone students will be processed in the following order of priority:

- a) **First priority** must be given to students who have been accepted for enrolment in a special programmes) run by the school and approved by the Secretary of Education*.
** This priority is not applicable at this school because the school does not run a special programme approved by the Ministry of Education*
- b) **Second priority** must be given to any applicant who is the sibling of a current student of the school.
- c) **Third priority** must be given to any applicant who is the sibling of a former student of the school.
- d) **Fourth priority** must be given to any applicant who is a child of a former student of the school.
- e) **Fifth priority** must be given to any applicant who is either a child of an employee of the Board of the school, or a child of a member of the Board of the school.
- f) **Sixth priority** must be given to all other applicants.

If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot supervised by a Justice of the Peace, a Practising Lawyer or a Police Officer in accordance under Section 11G (1) of the Education Act 1989.

If a ballot for out-of-zone is required, it will be held on **Monday 9th May, 2022**. Parents will be informed of the outcome by **Wednesday 11th May, 2022**.

TE TOTARA SPORTS PLAYER OF THE DAY

If you are a Coach or Manager, please email the POD to stephy@tetotara.school.nz.

CRICKET

Te Totara Green Caleb Adams

DATES COMING UP

Thurs 31 March	BOT Meeting at 6.30pm
14 Mar - 4 Apr	Life Education Van on site
Tues 12 April	Art Exhibition (<i>format to be confirmed</i>)
Thurs 14 April	END OF TERM 1, 2022 @ 3.00pm
Mon 2 May	TERM 2, BEGINS
Thurs 26 May	BOT Meeting at 6.30pm
Mon 6 June	Queens Birthday Public Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED
Fri 24 June	Matariki Celebration Public Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED
Fri 8 July	TERM 2, ENDS @ 3.00pm

Anne Fraser
Principal