



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH, 2022

Te Totara Primary School
PO Box 28134
Rotoruna, Hamilton 3256

31 Hector Drive
Rotoruna 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 (Congolese), Konnichiwa (Japanese), Hola (Spanish), Annyeonghaseyo (South Korea) Israel Shalom (Hebrew)

Kia ora o te whanau,

Welcome to Week 9 of our 11 week term. It certainly has felt like a long term as we have navigated the changing landscape of fully operating with a pandemic around us.

Happily I can say that the outbreak within our school is trending downwards.

We are only seeing 2-3 cases a day, compared to 10-15 a couple of weeks ago.

Yesterday we had 87% of our school roll present which is the highest it has been for over a month.

The staff were generally impacted a little later than our students, however that is also improving with many staff returning from isolation, it is great to see the team back together again.



Just some important points from last weeks newsletter for you to be aware of:

Despite any changes in the Covid colour level that may be announced next week we will maintain the following guidelines until Term 2.

- Medical-grade masks remain a requirement for staff working indoors with children **and masks for our Years 3-6 students in the classrooms.**
- For all New Zealanders, including school settings, masks will not be required outdoors. We will continue to encourage all to wear masks as long as Omicron is present.
- Parents will still be asked to **drop children at school gates until the end of this term.** We are mindful that a second wave is still possible and do want to limit the spread as much as possible through maintaining a cautious approach.
- Over the next two weeks we will be making decisions about how we will be moving forward with our school guidelines in Term 2. Those guidelines will be communicated to you in the **newsletter of Thursday 7th April, 2022.**

Thank you for your assistance with our early closure at 2.00pm yesterday and today. It is much appreciated by our teaching staff as they either phone or Zoom call our families for Learning Plan discussions. If you haven't already arranged a time with your child's teacher please don't hesitate to contact them to set up a time to chat before the end of this term.

STAFF CHANGES

Next week we are farewelling Ian Hunter, our Caretaker for the past 8 years. Ian's wonderful sense of humour and natural ease with the staff and children alike will be sorely missed. He has been an outstanding worker for the school, particularly in recent years with the liaison with all our building projects. Ian is moving into the next phase of his life, a well-deserved retirement. We wish him all the best and certainly hope he will stay in touch with us.

John Bremner, our Assistant Caretaker is moving into the Caretaker role, he is certainly ready for the role through a great transition process. We have made an appointment to the Assistant Caretakers job.

We have employed Pete Lawrence and he starts next Monday 4 April, 2022. Pete comes from a background in the grocery trade. He is now semi-retired and has been looking for a job like this. He is a keen D.I.Y. person with renovation skills. He will also be great in the gardening/landscaping area.



TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID19

A reminder.... If your child tests positive for Covid 19, please email our Anne Fraser at principal@tetotara.school.nz immediately or send a notification via our School App.



Please include the following information:

- 1) *Name of child/ren and class number/s*
- 2) *Date of positive Covid test*
- 3) *Date Covid symptoms first began (if different than covid test date)*
- 4) *The last day they attended school*

NEW LOST PROPERTY BIN LOCATION

With parents still being unable to come into the school grounds due to Covid restrictions, we have relocated the Lost Property Bin to the end of the school car park, right down the end past the staff car park by the Caretakers Shed and Sports Shed. You are welcome to walk down and rummage through this. It makes it so much easier to find your child's clothing if it is NAMED clearly.



OUT-OF-ZONE ENROLMENTS FOR 2022

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available on our school website 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 emailed to: receptionist@tetotara.school.nz.

Parents of students who live within the home zone should also apply by this date to assist the school to plan appropriately for next year. Students who live in the home zone are entitled to enrol at the school. An OUTZ Application Form and the order of priority for OUTZ applications can be found on our school website www.tetotara.school.nz under "Enrolment".

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 with 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

Superstars TBA
Thunders TBA

DATES COMING UP

Thurs 31 March	Learning Plan Phone/Zoom Calls - School Finishes at 2.00pm
Thurs 31 March	BOT Meeting at 6.30pm
14 Mar - 4 Apr	Life Education Van on site
Thurs 14 April	END OF TERM 1, 2022 @ 3.00pm
Mon 2 May	TERM 2, BEGINS
Week of 9 May	Art Exhibition (format to be confirmed)
Thurs 26 May	BOT Meeting at 6.30pm
Fri 3 June	Teacher Only Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
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

TE TOTARA PTA NEWS

EMAIL: pta@tetotara.school.nz www.facebook.com/TTPTA

Please 'like' our Facebook page to ensure you keep in the news loop: www.facebook.com/TTPTA

MANY THANKS

The PTA committee would like to extend a huge **thank you to Caretaker Ian** who is retiring today. Ian has worked hard behind the scenes for the PTA over the years and has helped in the success of our events. We wish you all the best while you adjust to a much quieter life.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

Should you wish to support the PTA while we are unable to run fundraising events you can purchase an Entertainment Membership. Memberships run for 12 months from the date of activation and are packed full of valuable 2 for 1 and up to 50% off offers.

Currently when you purchase a Single City Membership, you can choose between a BONUS \$10 Macpac or \$10 Supercheap Auto eGift Card. Purchase a Multi City Membership and you can choose between a BONUS \$30 Macpac or \$30 Supercheap Auto eGift Card.

Purchase your Membership using the following link and 20% of the purchase price will go back to Te Totara Primary School PTA.

<https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/15502m5>

 Entertainment



NEW PTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEED 2022

Both Shelley Bishop (Chairperson) and Rilesh Patel (Treasurer) informed the PTA at our last meeting, via Zoom, on the 16th March that they will be stepping down from their positions. This means the PTA is on the lookout for a new Chairperson and Treasurer.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PTA?

Are you interested in joining the PTA? If so, keep an eye on this newsletter to find out when the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held, (usually mid-year). All parents/caregivers are invited along to find out about the PTA and what it does for our children at Te Totara. The PTA is in need of some new members this coming year, so please have a think about how you can help our school and how the PTA contributes to our school community.

What is the PTA?

PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association. It's a group of parents and families associated with Te Totara Primary School whose aim it is to bring the school children and school community together, to fundraise and coordinate fun activities for the children and community.

What kind of skills are required to be part of the PTA?

The PTA requires a diverse range of skills. Some examples include:

Organisation and planning skills

Communication or written skills

Physical lifting or transporting purchases for events to the school.

All kinds of skills are welcome and needed to make the PTA successful. This helps share responsibilities and load across more people.

What are the perks of being part of the PTA?

Meet other parents and make new connections and friends

Gain a great insight into the workings of the School

Seeing the smiling faces of the children at Events

What happens at the AGM?

The AGM is where the Committee decides who will be on the Executive Team for the following year (Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Communications Officer). These people liaise with the school around how the money will be spent e.g. new playground, tennis court roof etc and also that the school community are kept informed about PTA events, like Discos and Fun Runs.

What can I do to help?

You can take on an executive role, attend meetings as a committee member or help out at events, such as selling drinks at Disco's, Ice-block Days or to help plan other fun fundraising events.

The PTA would love to meet you, find out what you have to offer to help the school community come together and have some fun.

How much time is involved?

As much or as little as you are able to give to the PTA. If you take on an executive position, you will be required to attend the majority of the meetings (approx 8 x one hour meetings per year). The PTA also needs plenty of people to help at events.

Your PTA committee: *Shelley, Julyan, Rilesh, Kerry & Kerri*

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.**

FIRST CREDIT UNION COLOURING COMPETITION

For more information about the colouring in competition, including T&Cs please visit:

<https://www.firstcreditunion.co.nz/about/promotions/>

