



# W E L C O M E T O G R E Y T O W N S C H O O L

“DREAMS COME IN A SIZE TOO BIG, SO THAT YOU CAN GROW INTO THEM!”

31 January 2019

## ***WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL 2019***

It was wonderful to see the excitement, smiles, laughter and positive energy around our school this morning as children saw their friends, staff and settled into their classroom learning. Many of our staff commented on how much some of our children had grown over the holidays. Our senior Kauri children are already starting to step up and help new children to settle in and find their way, and have been very enthusiastic beginning the first of their many leadership roles around the school.

## ***NEW CHILDREN, FAMILIES & STAFF***

A huge welcome to our new children and their families who became part of our Greytown School Learning Family today. Remember if there is anything we can do to help you settle into our school or local community, please do not hesitate to ask either your class teacher or come into the office and we will do our best to help. We welcome to our teaching team Mr. David French (Room 12 Year 7/8 Kauri Syndicate) and Ms. Sheri Wales (Room 15 Year 5/6 Kahikatea Syndicate), and the return of Mrs Tina Reynolds (Room 6 Year 3/4 Kawaka Syndicate) and Miss Yolandi Verwey (Teaching in Room 14 Monday/Tuesday and Room 10 Wednesday - Friday for our AP and DP release).

## ***NEW ROLES***

On our staff, we have had a couple of changes in leadership roles.

Mrs. Penny Hopkins is our Acting Assistant Principal as Mrs. McRae is on maternity leave for 2019.

Miss Alex Southall is our Kauri Syndicate Leader.

Miss Alison Morgan is our SENCO leader (Special Education Needs Coordinator).

Mr. Blake Walker and Miss Yolandi Verwey will be in charge of our Sports.

Mr. David French will be in charge of our STEAM programme (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths).

Mrs. Megan Wall will be working two days in the office to support Carol Ferguson. She will be helping our New Entrant team with enrolments and school visits.

## ***NEW SCHOOL DAY TIMES & BRAINFOOD BREAK***

At the end of last year with feedback from children on the structure of the day we decided to make a few changes. This enables our children to have shorter focussed blocks with regular breaks for food and play, with the purpose of maximising their learning time. Our school learning programmes are:

8.00am School grounds are open for children to come to school

8.30am Bell rings for School Patrol

8.50am School and Learning Session 1 begins. During this time children are encouraged to bring one healthy item of food into their classroom for a Brainfood break (each teacher will have a system).

10.30am Morning Tea/First Break

10.50am Learning Session 2 begins.

11.50am Read and Feed Lunch with their class. This ensures all children have something to eat, enjoy a class chapter or picture book and don't rush off to play.

12.00pm Second Break

12.30pm Learning Session 3 begins.

1.30pm Third Break

2.00pm Learning Session 4 begins.

3.00pm School Finishes

## ***WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES***

We have whole school assemblies fortnightly on Wednesdays between 2pm and 3pm. Parents and families are welcome to attend and our first one is on the 13th February 2019.

## ***SWIMMING***

Unfortunately because of circumstances outside our control we have had a delay with swimming and this will begin on Monday for all syndicates. Our school pool has sprung a leak in the drain and pipe under the pool despite a lot of hours put in by Mr. Gain to water blast, sand, repair leaks and paint it... Don't worry though because Steve is on the job and all going well with repairs and spare parts arriving today we will have it up and running on Monday. On a funny note we did have a little laugh when one of our new 5 year olds stated "You do know that you need more water than that to swim in. Did you know that I am really good so put more in."

## ***NEW WEBSITE***

Over the holidays we launched our new school website. This is still a work in progress with more information and features to be added throughout the year. We hope you find this very user-friendly and informative. You can subscribe to receive a digital copy of the newsletter, record absences, see our Facebook feed and a new feature is a school community calendar that will help with future planning of events. Please bear with us as the office staff and I learn all the new systems and ways to load information!

## ***UNIFORMS***

Thank you for getting all our kids looking SHARP in their school uniforms for the start of this year. We ask that you actively work with us to keep your child/ren's uniform in a high standard making it SHARP. This means that you need to check before you purchase to ensure that clothes meet the uniform requirements (available on our website), uniforms are regularly washed, repaired and if needed replaced. Uniforms also need to be clearly named and please check to see that these names haven't faded, as losing them costs you money. Our lost property is often overflowing with unnamed items that we cannot return or are left unclaimed. Please help us to make our uniform look SHARP all year round.

## ***ABSENCES & LATE ARRIVALS***

It is a safety and legal requirement that we follow up the absences of all children in the morning. This can interrupt your day and also as you can imagine, takes time for office staff trying to track children and parents. Please help us by emailing the office ahead of time of absences for doctors etc or by ringing and leaving a message on the absence line on the morning of the absence. You can also advise us through the school App, our new website or sending an older or responsible sibling with a note to the office when they first arrive at school. If your child is late please pop into the office on your way past so we can change them on the roll. If you are emailing their teacher of a future absence please copy this to the office email also.

## ***WINGS OVER WAIRARAPA***

We are hoping to take the whole school to the Wings Over Wairarapa School day on Friday 22nd February. We are still in the early stages of planning if this is possible due to transport costs and ensuring we can cater for children if the extreme heat continues. We will send out information as soon as possible with more information.

## ***PAYMENT SYSTEMS***

You can pay donations, activities, stationery etc in a variety of ways to make it easier. They are

- Paying cash or a cheque to the office.
- Internet banking direct to the school account with your child's name as a reference.
- Automatic Payments - We welcome you spreading these costs throughout the year by setting up an AP of an amount that suits your budget.
- Money for trips going to the class in a sealed envelope with your child's name and the purpose of the money clearly written on the front.

### ***THE ORCHARDS RETIREMENT COMPLEX***

As some of you may be aware there is going to be a new retirement complex built on Reading Street over the next few years. At present they are cutting down and removing the large pine trees behind the school in the orchard. During this time there will be limited or no access for cars so please take this into consideration at pick up and drop offs.

### ***FINALLY***

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to the fun our children will have and anticipating their many successes. We will be watching our school continue to grow from strength to strength.

*Thanks Miss O'Connor*

### **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

<b>Feb</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Waitangi Day
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Meet & Greet for Kowhai Syndicate
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Vision Screening year 7

### **Pre-Loved School Uniforms**

We have a number of used items plus some larger size of brand-new items available for sale between \$2 to \$10. They will be on display on a coat rack in the office foyer from tomorrow.

### **Code Club 2019**

Yes we will be running code club again this year. We will be continuing some of what we did last year and with some new things up our sleeves also, including minecraft mods, electric garden and anything else we can think of.

So logistics:

- Thursdays from 6:15pm to 7:15pm
- At Greytown primary school staff room
- First day will be Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Hope to see you there. Julian

### **School Lunches**

On Wednesday and Friday lunches are available to order. Fried rice or chowmein can be ordered before school in the office for delivery just before lunch. Small size is \$4.50 and large is \$5.50.

### **Snorkel Programme - Masterton Pools**

#### ***Term 1 Kids Snorkel Lessons !***

This snorkel program has been designed to teach children from the very basics of snorkeling to more advanced skills. There are 5 levels we work through, starting with the basics of using the equipment and swimming techniques, to Ocean awareness and conservation, to advanced snorkeling skills and basic rescue skills. Each group progresses through the levels and their own pace, making sure everyone is feeling competent.

The first course we ran was a huge success and we had a lot of fun!! We hope we can have a successful second intake!

<p><b><u>Juniors 5-7</u></b> 4 week course. \$110 fees include: equipment, pool fee, instructor Tuesday 6pm – 1 hour <b>20 spots available</b> First Intake 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – 26<sup>th</sup> Feb Second Intake 5<sup>th</sup> March – 26<sup>th</sup> March</p>	<p><b><u>Intermediate 8-10</u></b> 6 week course. \$130 fees include: equipment, pool fee, instructor Wednesday 6pm – 1 hour 10 Spots available Wednesday 7pm -1 hour 10 Spots available Course runs 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – 13<sup>th</sup> March</p>	<p><b><u>Advanced 11-13</u></b> 8 week course. \$150 fees include: equipment, pool fee, instructor Thursday 6pm – 1 hour <b>10 spots available</b> Course runs 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – 25<sup>th</sup> March</p>
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Contact [annie.o2snorkel@gmail.com](mailto:annie.o2snorkel@gmail.com) to make a booking.  
Get in quick, spaces are filling up fast!!