



PARNELL DISTRICT SCHOOL

Newsletter 1

February 2nd 2022

Kia Ora Whanau,

Welcome back! It seems like a long time since the playgrounds have been alive with all our children having fun. I appreciate the support of our community in our first two days of school. Our staff are committed to making the most of every learning minute we can after some disruption over 2020 and 2021. To have everyone at school, we have some minor changes to our organisation to keep everyone safe.

Masks in class

Mask wearing has been mandated for children in schools. To help our children know when to wear a mask and when they don't need one, please refer to our 'Do I Need A Mask' flow map. Teachers will also be working with this flow map in class to ensure the safe, consistent use of masks by our learners.

Parents, we'll see you back soon

We know parents are keen to get in and visit classes, see the amazing learning students have been doing, and get to know their new teachers. For now, we ask all parents to remain off-site while children are at school. We look forward to welcoming all parents back on site when conditions allow. If you need to pick your children up throughout the day, let the office know via email so they can be ready for collection.

Keep those hands clean

Good hand hygiene is essential for all our learners. The Senior Leadership team will meet you at the gate with hand sanitiser each morning. Soap, water and hand towels are available in all classes. We recommend children regularly wash their hands throughout the day.

No Assemblies for now

Whole school assemblies and our class presentations are on pause for now. We know how important our assemblies and the performance opportunities they provide are, so we hope to see them back soon.

Inquiry Term 1 – What are they learning?

Students' learning at Parnell District School is always taught through an integrated learning model. This means deliberate teaching of Literacy, Math, and the broad curriculum happen through integrated inquiries. Below we outline the inquiry focus for term one.

Mini inquiry – Creating Our Culture

Every year, we begin with our school-wide mini inquiry, 'Creating Our Culture'. This is about establishing the learning culture of our class, team and school. Children will be establishing

the learning routines that will be paramount in learning throughout 2022. This inquiry focuses on the health curriculum. As is appropriate for their year level, children explore the curriculum concepts of:

- *relationships with others*
- *interpersonal skills*
- *identity, sensitivity and respect*

Term One Inquiry – Let's play!

Through the lens of design thinking and the technology curriculum, we'll explore how play has changed through time. In addition to the significant focus on the technology curriculum, children will be exploring the movement skills and motor concepts aspects of the Health and Physical Education. Expect children to be talking about the role play holds in all our lives, the different role play can have through time and cultures, the importance of regular physical activity. We also look forward to children using the design thinking model to design, test and develop new games and ways to keep ourselves and others active.

School Donations 2022

The 2022 school donation remains unchanged at \$480 per child. Additional to this is the activity contribution of \$40 per child and a athletics contribution of \$21 per child. Your school donation is vital in Parnell District School's ability to deliver the high quality, broad curriculum every student enjoys. Through parental donations, the school can provide:

- Additional programmes like Opportunities for Excellence (OE), Friday Fizz and our focus weeks
- Additional teachers to maintain our low class numbers and ensure more teaching time for every learner
- A counsellor available to Parnell District School students one day a week

To maintain our investment in these initiatives, we need the support of our community.

Activity contributions fund extra-curricular and co-curricular trips and learning experiences for children. Trips out of the school and guests coming into classes and the school are funded through this contribution.

Mathletics (or Mathseeds in year 0-3) is an online teaching tool to support the development of math skills. Students work with this programme in class and in their home learning practice. We re-introduced this programme in 2020, and it has been an important support for our learners through online learning. While the school covers most of the cost for the programme, we encourage parents to contribute so we can retain this valuable addition to our programme.

You can contribute towards your donation by paying at the office or through online banking. If you'd like to arrange to make regular payments through the year towards your donation, you can set up an automatic payment or talk to our admin team about options.

Your donation is tax-deductible, or you can use the tax gift programme to donate the tax rebate back to the school. You can find more information about tax gift at www.taxgift.co.nz or join the programme using [this link](#).

Welcome to our new staff!

We welcome four excellent new teachers to our team for 2022. If your children are in their class, I'm sure many wonderful stories have made it home, so let's put a face to the names!



Congratulations to Mr Kaho

Congratulations are in order for Mr Kaho. He has been offered a role lecturing in the AUT Faculty of Education. The Board of Trustees has granted leave for 2022 for Mr Kaho to take up his new role working with final year teaching and masters students. While we wish Mr Kaho well in his new adventure, we look forward to his return in 2023.

Important Dates: Term One

We love helping our community plan ahead with our yearly planners. With the uncertainty that we've experienced over the last two years, we've decided to give the dates to you one term at a time. Below are the important dates for term one. This week, children will also bring home an A4 version of the term one calendar.

07/02	<i>Waitangi day (observed) no school</i>
08/02	<i>Week two</i>
14/02	<i>Week three PAT testing for years 3-8</i>
21/02	<i>Week four Term 1 inquiry begins – 'Let's Play!'</i>
23/02	<i>No uniform day – Whacky hair day! (gold coin donation)</i>
28/02	<i>Week five</i>
07/03	<i>Week six</i>
09/03	<i>New Entrant transition visit day for new students</i>
14/03	<i>Week seven New Entrants begin today!</i>
16/03	<i>New parents breakfast</i>
18/03	<i>Red Nose Day! Cure Kids fundraiser</i>
21/03	<i>Week eight</i>
23/03	<i>Te Arawa Bake Sale</i>
28/03	<i>Week nine</i>
03/04	<i>Daylight Savings – Turn clocks back 1 hour</i>
04/04	<i>Week 10</i>
06/04	<i>New Entrant transition visit day for new students</i>
11/04	<i>Week eleven</i>
13/04	<i>Burger Fuel Burger day</i>
14/04	<i>Last day of term Te Arawa Assembly</i>

NB.

Current Covid Protection Framework settings mean that no Eastern Bays or Bay Suburbs inter-school sports can occur for term one.