



P: 03 3127842
 F: 03 3127841
 E: admin@waikuku.school.nz
 E: principal@waikuku.school.nz

2 February 2012

www.waikuku.school.nz

Dear Parents,

Coming up.....

1			1 February First Day back	2 Newsletter	3 Term Planner out
2	6 February School Closed Waitangi Day	7 Technology starts for Year 7 and 8 pupils	8 Meet the teacher	9 Bark spreading at 5:30 BOT meeting TBC	10 Fun Day Friday starts
3	13 February PTA Coffee morning at Flat White Café at 915	14 Swimming Sports at Dudley Pool 12:30-2:30	15 Beach Ed – Senior	16 Beach Ed - Junior	17 FDF Pool Party and BBQ

It is always great to get back into it and catch up with children (and parents).

A huge welcome to our new pupils and families...

Rm1: Jack, Hebe, Harry, Taryn; Rm2: Tom, Pippa, Charlie, Sam, Jordan, Amy; Rm3: Caitlin; Rm4: Louis, Katie, Paris; Rm6: Ocearn; Rm8: Toni, Loui, Willem, Kalem.

Coming events:

- Technology starts next Tuesday for Room 8. They need to be at school at 8:45 to catch the bus to go to Kaiapoi Borough.
- Meet the teacher meetings are popular and give parents an ideal opportunity to hear from the teacher what the programme and expectations are for each class. Meeting times for each room are _____ →
- BOT meeting (date is to be confirmed)
- PTA have a coffee morning each term for anyone who just wants to have good coffee in great company! Ideal for new Mums (or Dads) to meet a few locals. PTA Coffee morning at Flat White Café at 9:15
- Our school Swimming Sports is at Dudley Pool on the 14th Feb, 12:30. The Juniors and Seniors will be splashing and dashing in a effort to a/ impress Mum and Dad, b/ qualify for the zone swimming champs for those 9 and older.
- In Week 3, we will be heading down to Waikuku Beach to participate in the Surf Life Saving Beach Education Programme. Rooms 4,6 and 8 will be going on Wednesday 15th February and Rooms 1,2 and 3 will be going on Thursday 16th February. All info came home on a notice yesterday.
- Phew! Action packed start to the new year.

Meet the Teacher meetings Wed 8th Feb

Room 1 3:15 Sandra
 Room 8 3:15 Ali
 Room 2 3:30 Jemma
 Room 3 3:45 Viv
 Room 4 4:00 Jo
 Room 6 4:15 Claire

Parents "to do" list.

- Return Stationery lists so we can get books for your child
- Name togs and Uniform please
- Beach Education notice back. We need some volunteers - Can you help splash around with a bunch of great kids?
- Make sure Corinda has your correct email so we can email newsletters to you.
- PLEASE be prepared to help out moving some bark next week.
- Be aware that 'meet the teacher' meetings are next week
- Pool Party is 17th Feb at 5pm so families can meet and chat.
- Does your child want to be in the school Football teams? It is a Monday evening interschool competition

News and views

2012 will be a huge year in the life of this school. Our roll continues to grow. Last year we ended with 136 children and then lost all our wonderful Year 8's and some other families that moved. We begin this year with 137 already. Be assured that the Board of Trustees, myself and Infinity are working hard behind the scenes to get the Ministry to recognize the exceptional circumstances and growth Waikuku School is in and as such need a special, and URGENT plan. Infinity's view is that a relocation is the best option. Our future will be confirmed by the Ministry (staying or relocating to Pegasus) by July.

A huge thank you to our caretaker Taane who has put in many hours above and beyond the call of duty to get our school looking great for the start of the year. The Swimming Pool is up and running again and keys for school families are available from Corinda. Please ensure that children have togs each day. It is recommended that children wear a rash vest during swimming for sunburn protection.

Last year we employed Tania, our swimming instructor to improve our children's swimming skills. Your school donations paid for this. School donations are only \$10 per term (\$1 a week) and make such a difference – thank you for your support.

Uniform is now compulsory. Details are on the school website. Please ensure your child has the correct shirt and polo fleece which are available from the office. Get it now and pay it off if that is easier – just see Corinda or myself and we will sort it. Same with stationery. It is essential that children get their books by the end of the week. If money is tight then see Corinda and we can sort payments out too.

As you may be aware the bark level in the playground is pretty shabby and urgently needs a top up. We have had quotes from different companies and can get a great price from Woodend Landscape Supplies. They deliver it and we need to spread it. We could have got a company to supply and spread it but this was nearly \$3000 more expensive. We need to have a good old fashioned school working bee where families come along with a wheelbarrow and fork and spend an hour moving bark. We are looking at 5:30 Thursday 9th Feb. I will put on 'refreshments' for the adults and children who help. **Please help out.**

There can be a financial strain at the beginning of the year with school costs for families. Please be aware that we are happy to receive payments over time but we need to be aware that this is what you are doing. Children have to have stationery and a uniform.

Beginning of the year costs ☹

- Stationery
- School Donation
- Uniform
 - Shirts \$32, Polo Fleece \$42 from the school office
 - Culottes, shorts, bucket hats from Postie Plus
- Beach Education

We are aware that things are tight for so many. PLEASE let Corinda or Roger know if you want to spread the payments and we can organize this BUT you do need to let us know.

School Bank Account number for Internet Banking 030674 0063403 00

Food for thought:

Over the past 4 years we have been building the school up making it a great place to be for pupils, staff and parents. A school with a great culture is not something that just happens, staff, BOT, parents and children have accepted the need for change and done something about it. Our focus has been culture and justifiably so but now we need to move onward and upward.

Over the holidays Roger started more professional development with teachers about raising achievement levels. Waikuku School has a unique environment and feel. We are relaxed, pupil friendly, parent friendly and very proudly promote that we are 'the place to be'. We need to remain true to all of this because it is who we are and what our school community have helped work towards. We want our school to be known for its results as well as its holistic approach and attitude. The second stage of our school's journey is about to begin. Any thoughts please email me.... principal@waikuku.school.nz

THE PTA

Last year was a huge year for the PTA. The PTA continues to be a forum to have your views or concerns heard. Our main goal is to be part of the growth of the school and to work closely with the teachers and Board of Trustees. We all bring different elements into the group and many different cultures also.

Our purpose is to advance education by:

- Encouraging greater family involvement at School
- Providing a link between the pupils, parents/caregivers and the School
- Bringing parents/caregivers and teachers together in social or informative activities
- Raising funds to provide improved facilities and opportunities for members of the School community
- Carrying out other activities consistent with the Charitable objectives of the organisation

PTA is a good way to become knowledgeable about what is going on within your school and to become involved with a great group of people. If you think you may have something to contribute – be it a skill, time or a view then keep an eye out for dates and messages. Also look around <http://waikuku.ultranet.school.nz/WebSpace/60/>

The PTA recently raised over \$2,000 from its last big FUNdraiser - a quiz night held at the Woodend Rugby Clubrooms. What a great effort. Thank you to everyone involved.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday February 21st 7pm in the staffroom (agenda circulated to interested parties – email Corinda at School with your contact details)

FINAL CALL FOR SUNSCREEN

Remember also there are now limited supplies of sunscreen (only roll ons now available). \$6. Much cheaper than purchasing from the supermarket and easy for kids to apply.