



Principal's Newsletter Term 1 2021

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa. A very warm welcome to Term 1 2021!

This new year marks the start of new beginnings as I step into the role of the school's Principal and we see our Year 7 students begin the next phase of their educational journey.

The teachers have been busy planning an exciting year ahead and as the term unfolds, we will keep you informed of the events we have planned for our students.

The essence of my vision for the school is that we create a safe and inclusive school culture where all students excel academically, socially and emotionally and our leaders of the future are inspired to contribute, through the collaborative efforts of students, staff and the school community.

"Whanaungatanga" (relationships) will be central to that vision, as it will be by building positive relationships, that we share experiences and work together to provide our learning community with a sense of belonging. Our students will be at the heart of all decision making.

Wairau, as we know, means "abundant waters". To me these waters are our people. Therefore, throughout the year, your ideas and opinions will be sought and valued, as your contributions will help in shaping the direction of the school.

As your new Principal, I am excited about having been given this wonderful opportunity to lead and reignite interest in our school. My goal is to make Wairau the best it can be for the community we serve.

Over the coming weeks, I look forward to engaging with you and getting to know your tamariki (your children) as they settle into school life and routines. On **18 February**, I hope you will join us for our "Meet the Teacher" evening so that you have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and myself, as the new Principal.

At the start of the school year you will find a number of letters are sent home. We urge you to read these as they will contain important information about events that are taking place in the weeks ahead. In week two there will be a school newsletter that is sent home, however, the following dates will provide you with some essential information.

Term Dates 2021

Term 1	3 February – 16 April	Term 2	3 May – 9 July
Term 3	26 July – 1 October	Term 4	18 October – 15 December

Up and Coming Events

- **Monday 8 February** - Waitangi Day Observed - Public Holiday
- **Wednesday 10 February** - Whole school trip - Parnell Baths Picnic Day
- **Thursday 18 February** - Meet the Teacher evening at 7pm
- **Wednesday 24 February** - Teacher only Day (for up and coming Teacher Only Days we will endeavour to provide you with at least a term's notice)

Our **sporting calendar** gets underway very quickly so please keep an eye out for all of our sporting events, especially where your child is involved.

Some General Reminders:

- The **school day** starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.00pm - students can be in classes from 8.30am. Please make sure that your child is on time for school and that they know their arrangements for arriving in the morning and leaving in the afternoon.
- **School payments / donations must be made** through our preferred payment method of **Kindo**, by Eftpos or online banking using our school bank account details –
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COVID 19 Update:

Currently New Zealand remains at Alert level 1 and everyone is doing the right thing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, so we're pleased to say it's business as usual. The key message remains the same for all of us - to remain calm and do our best to protect ourselves.

We continue to have a large amount of control over how we can prevent the spread of COVID. We will:

- Display QR code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App - please scan these when you come into school
- Keep our visitor register, attendance register and timetables up to date
- Monitor for illness and ask anyone who is unwell to remain at home or to go home
- Encourage people with relevant symptoms to seek medical advice through Healthline or their GP and get tested for COVID if recommended to do so
- Reinforce the importance of good hand washing and drying
- Reinforce good cough and sneeze etiquette

I can also reassure you that we will continue to regularly clean all parts of our school.

I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Ngā mihi



Yolanda East
Principal
Wairau Intermediate School
yolandae@wairau.school.nz