Tēnā koutou, talofa lava, bula vinaka, namaste, malo e lelei, kia orana, ni hoa, sᾱbaai-di, magandang umaga, xin chao, salam, sour sdey, kumusta , greetings

Welcome back to the new school year. We have had a number of enrolments this year and the roll is at a very healthy 229! It promises to be an exciting year with the redevelopment and our ongoing focus on Learn Create Share and digital technology to support our children’s learning. We got off to a great start this morning with a powhiri to welcome new children, staff and parents.

We welcome Sam Joyce (Rm 9) and Jane Clifford (Rm 7) to the Hornby Primary staff. We look forward to working with both Sam and Jane and learning from their previous teaching and learning experiences.

Stationery can be paid at the office – we have a $20 stationery fee this year for each child and a $50 sports fee per child, to be paid in term 2, which includes instructional swimming at the Canterbury Swim School in Term 4. **Note** – there is no voluntary donation this year. Last year the board made a decision to scrap the $50 voluntary donation.

**Class Placements**

At the end of each year, staff spend a lot of time placing children in classes for the next year. Depending on numbers, there may be more than one class option for some year groups. This year’s Year 4-6 group is one such example. Some children were placed in Rooms 11-12 (Ako Ngatahi) and some in Room 10. Obviously, 75-80 children would not fit into Rooms 11-12, therefore we are using Room 10 also for this Year 4-6 group. Both teaching spaces will be referred to as Ako Ngatahi.

Much consideration goes in to placing children; academic, social and emotional development. Teachers use their professional judgement and knowledge of each child to ensure their placement is in the best interest of each individual.

It has been brought to my attention that some parents and children have been making ill-informed remarks about Room 10 and Rooms 11-12. Comments that infer one room is ‘better’ or more ‘academically capable’ than the other. This is extremely disappointing and completely untrue. To have such comments circulating around our community is unhelpful and damages the excellent reputation the school and board has worked hard to develop over the years. Last year we received another 4-5 year ERO review cycle which is only awarded to ‘high performing’ schools. I can assure you that both classes have a mix of academic ability and there is no ‘streaming’ which may occur at some intermediates and high schools.

I strongly urge anyone who has concerns about any school matters to go through the correct school procedure:

1. contact your child’s teacher
2. contact Team Leader if unresolved
3. contact Principal if still unresolved
4. in some circumstances it may be appropriate to contact the Principal in the first instance

**Redevelopment**

The Administration Block is a week behind schedule at this stage with a completion date now set for the end of May. Plyboard roofing has been completed and the windows have been ordered.

One of the High School teaching blocks (N2) was relocated on to school grounds at the end of last term. This block will be utilised by the High School until their new teaching spaces are completed, when this happens, we will take over this building for our teaching spaces sometime in 2018-2019. Year 7 students will be occupying N2 from tomorrow. Students will be using High School facilities and will not have contact with HPS pupils during our school day.

Hornby Pasifika Early Childhood Education (ECE)

Staff are receiving the keys to the centre on 9 February and an official opening will be following soon.

**Upcoming Events**

Meet the Teacher Wednesday 15 February 5.30-6.30. Pool will be open 4.30-5.15pm.

Yr 4-6 Goal Setting meetings 21-22 February 2-6.30pm.

Nga mihi

Gary