

13 May 2021

Principal's Pen

Dear parents/caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you and your children had a nice break. I hope everyone is keeping well.

We now have our Kauri team classes in temporary accommodation until the refurbishment of the old Kauri block is complete. This means that we now cannot use the school hall and the library. We have made some adjustments so classes can still access books from the library. We even managed a mihi whakatau for our new little and big people last Wednesday! This was held on the Tiger Turf Courts and the Whaikōrero for both sides was led by Dayton Maiava and Deacon Clayton who both did an awesome job.

The Kauri block walkway is fenced off during the Kauri block refurbishment but apart from that the large majority of work is being carried out inside, so there has so far been very little impact on the school. Work is now progressing well after the asbestos sheeting underneath the block was removed by asbestos experts on Saturday and Sunday.

SMART watches have become more popular in recent times and there are a number of children wearing them to school. Our school procedure for mobile phones is that children bringing them to school must deliver them to the office before the 8.55am bell and pick them up when the bell rings at 2.55pm. We provide your children access to digital devices at school and do not operate a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy at school. To that end the issue around SMART watches has been thought through and the following procedure will be adopted from Monday 17 May.

All children wearing SMART watches to school can only wear these during the day if the following steps are taken by parents (you):

- a. All SMART watches must be capable of being placed into 'school mode' during 8.55am and 2.55pm
- b. All SMART watches worn to school must be placed in 'school mode' (or similar feature depending on make of the watch) and not be able to be taken out of 'school mode' during school hours by your child
- c. Any SMART watch that is not in, or is not able to be placed in school mode, must be handed in at the office as per the procedure for mobile phones
- d. Any SMART watches found not to be in 'school mode' and are capable of sending or receiving any kind of communication, or are used for receiving or making calls, will be taken to the office to be picked up by a parent.

If you all help to make this work, then it will be fine for all children to wear their watches to school and help them understand the importance of keeping everyone safe. I would like to especially thank those parents who provided information regarding 'school mode'. I have researched this with Netsafe and believe our new procedures around these devices give your children, their peers and our staff the protection they deserve. If you have any questions please ask us.

If you have been on the field lately you will see the start of work on a pump track for our school. This project has been led by the board and is supported by FONS. The board has managed to secure a grant to partly cover the pump track and the remainder will be funded through fundraising dependent on whether we are successful with getting funding from the School Investment Package (SIP) funding that the Government made available to schools in late 2019. This money is allocated to projects and to date has funded the installation of heat pumps in the hall, sandpits, field playground area drainage, new pool cover and structure cover, concrete path leading to the hall and still to be completed shade structure over the Year 1 & 2 playground.

SIP funding has also been tagged to the Kauri refurbishment that is currently underway and any SIP funding left over after that will hopefully go towards offsetting the pump track. This will be an awesome asset for your children to use at school. More to come on this as the project continues.

We have recently ordered some new digital devices to enable all your children to have more efficient and effective access to digital learning. The board, with support of FONS, has agreed for the school to purchase 60 Chrome Books and 130 iPads to be utilised across the school and supplement our aging devices. The commitment to support this initiative is greatly appreciated by us all.

With cooler weather now upon us please don't forget to send your children to school with enough warm clothing should the weather turn bad.

Kind regards

Andy Brown - Principal
andrewb@northcoteprimary.school.nz

Upcoming Dates

Upcoming dates are published on the homepage of the school website and on the Calendar section of the School App.

Term 1 2021

Friday 14 May - Book week parade 915am - Tiger Turf

Wednesday 2 June - New parents meeting 915am - Staffroom

Thursday 3 June - Board meeting 6pm

Friday 4 June - Teacher only day - school closed to students

Monday 7 June - Queens Birthday - school closed

NPS School App

Don't miss out on what is happening at school. Download the school app and set up the correct notifications for class and team to suit you and your child/ren. Go to the App Store and search 'SchoolAppNZ'. Once downloaded search for Northcote Primary School. This is the one place to find out everything going on at and about our school.



Lost Property

Lost property is currently located outside the school office in the covered walkway. There are already a number of items after only one week. Please can clothing and shoes be named so it makes it easier for items to be returned.

Sports News

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

MULTI-SPORT PROGRAMME

Programmes run weekly on one day a week for one hour.

This term we will focus on the following sports:

- ✓ Netball (2 Weeks)
- ✓ Basketball (2 Weeks)
- ✓ Rugby (2 Weeks)
- ✓ Hockey (1 Week)

This weekly programme gives children skills and confidence in a fun and enjoyable environment. It also encourages their enthusiasm for sport and the life skills that such involvement brings – giving them confidence to join sports clubs and teams in the future.

For year 0 – 4 students.

\$89.25 FOR 7 WEEKS!

Mairangi Bay School – Mon	Forrest School – Wed
Browns Bay School – Mon	Verran Primary – Wed
Northcote Primary – Mon	Marlborough Primary – Thu
Glamorgan School – Tue	Torbay School – Thu
Campbells Bay School – Tue	Willow Park School – Thu
Murrays Bay School – Wed	Sunnybrae Normal School – Fri
Takapuna School – Wed	Kauri Park School – Fri

All sessions start at 3:05pm and finish at 4:05pm.

Visit our website for start date for each school and more information.

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