

The logo for NewsSheet features a stylized green 'N' with red and white radiating lines above it, followed by the word 'NewsSheet' in a grey sans-serif font.

2 July 2024

Principal's Pen

Kia ora koutou parents,

As we head to the July mid-year break, I hope you have something nice planned with your family, whānau and friends. As a skier, I'm not feeling the love from the snow gods at present, but fingers crossed it happens before the end of the school break.

This week we farewell Franska Harris from our school. Franska started teaching at NPS at the beginning of 2016 and will be well known to many of you. Franska went on parental leave in Term 2 2023 and came back to NPS at the beginning of Term 2 this year. She has now secured a position at another school closer to where they live which will make the daily travel/childcare duties way easier. We will miss Franska but wish her, Keldon, and wee Marlo all the very best.

Make sure you book your parent/child/teacher conferences in Week 2 Term 3 on Hero. I would encourage you to bring your children to these with you as simply put, the conference is for and about them. It is a great idea to think of any questions you may have before coming along (and maybe write them down) so you don't realise afterwards there was something that you wanted to ask or discuss.

Term 2 has been very busy and interrupted by a lot of sickness as the winter chills settles in. In your Hero app you will be able to view your child's attendance at school for each term of the year. There are a range of codes that we are required to use for absences from school and some of these are classed as 'justified' and many are classed as 'unjustified'. We are not permitted to grant school term time holidays, so all occasions of school term time holidays are deemed unjustified by the Ministry of Education (MOE). Justified absences are things such as medical, external educational providers such as One Day Schools. The MOE has been directed by the Government to crack down on attendance and this has become a bit of a 'political football'. State schools have now been directed to supply weekly attendance rates to MOE and there is talk that this may be extended to daily from 2025, so we will wait and see. Attendance issues for our school is not generally speaking an issue of concern, but more so for schools where there is chronic absenteeism for long periods of time.

Last week we celebrated Matariki with an early morning event in the hall which was attended by many of you, your tamariki, and our staff. It was an awesome event, and your tamariki did you proud! The Kapa Haka group were wonderful. Your children's teachers all worked hard to make sure the interactive stations in the hall were both informative and fun. Hot soup and fry bread were a big favourite, and I am very proud of our staff who helped make this amazing early morning start run so smoothly.

As you may know Structured Literacy is now mandated for all New Zealand state schools and professional learning and development (PLD) for this is meant to kick off in Term 3 for Year 0-3 teachers. We have now applied for this and await confirmation it is approved from MOE. The providers of the PLD have not yet been accredited so we still don't know who will be providing the PLD for our staff. From Term 1 2025 this PLD will be rolled out for Year 4-6 teachers.

Property

During the holidays we will be having some internal work done in the New Block office area where our LSC and ESOL teachers work. We will also finally have our water leak damage in the admin area repaired from an event in July last year. The school buildings will also be having their annual wash and gutter cleaning carried out by contractors during the holiday break.

Community

During the holidays, our caretaker Mr Nam will be installing the speed bumps coming into the Nutsey Avenue driveway. We had hoped to get this done during school time, but the constant flow of traffic made this too difficult.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday break. We look forward to seeing all those smiling young faces back again in Term 3 which kicks off on Monday 22 July.

Kind regards

Andy Brown - Principal

Upcoming Dates

Upcoming dates are published on the homepage of the school website and on the Calendar section in Hero.

Term 2 2024

Friday 5 July - last day of term 2 2.55 pm

Term 3 2024

Monday 22 July - first day of term 3 8.55am

Monday 29 July - board meeting 6pm

Wednesday 31 July - Parent Learning Conversations 2pm -7pm - school finishes 1.30pm

Thursday 1 August - Parent Learning Conversations 3.30pm -6pm

Community News

Northcote College
Open Day
Saturday 27 July 2024
12.00 – 3.00pm

You are warmly invited to visit with your whānau to view the school and talk to staff and current students. Discover exactly what Northcote College has to offer.
