

2011 at a Glance IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERMS 1 & 2

Assemblies are held EVERY week on Friday afternoons at 2pm. They run in a 3 week rotation starting with Full School Assembly in week 1, followed by Junior and then Senior school assemblies. **Parents are welcome to attend all of these assemblies.**

Term 1 2011

Week 3 14-18 March	Seaweed preparation-with DOC & Ngati Manuhiri
17 Feb	5pm Meet the Teacher (2 rotations 5pm/5.30pm) – see School Events
17 Feb	6pm Y6 Camp Meeting
Week 5 28 Feb – 4 March	Seaweed - celebrated with DOC & Ngati Manuhiri
Week 6 8 March	Interschool swimming
Week 8 21-25 March	Travelwise Week
Week 9 29 March	Interschool Y2/3 Tabloid Sports
31 March	New Entrant Parents Afternoon Tea

Term 2 2011

Year 4-6 Options will run in Term 2

Teacher/Parent interviews will take place at the start of Term 2.

Week 1 3-5 April	ERO Review Team in the school
Week 3 19 May	Interschool Rippa Rugby
Week 5 31 May 3 June	Interschool Netball Arbor Day planting in Foundation Garden & Louise Phillips Memorial Garden
Week 6 6 June	Queens Birthday weekend holiday
7-10 June	Year 6 Camp at Tongariro
Week 9 30 June	Interschool Rippa Rugby
Week 10 7 July	New Entrant Parents Afternoon Tea
8 July	Midwinter Feast
Week 11 12 July	Interschool Soccer

Mid-year Assessment Summaries will be issued at the end of Term 2

2011 at a Glance IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERMS 3&4

Assemblies are held EVERY week on Friday afternoons at 2pm. They run in a 3 week rotation starting with Full School Assembly in week 1, followed by Junior and then Senior school assemblies. **Parents are welcome to attend all of these assemblies.**

Term 3 2011

Snells Beach Idol & Cabaret Evening planned – Date to be advised	
Selective Parent/Teacher interviews held at the start of Term 3.	
Week 2 11 August	Scandrett Park – Our Piece of the Park Planting Day
Week 4 24 August	Interschool Cross Country
Week 8 20 September	Interschool Hockey
Week 9 29 September	New Entrant Parents Afternoon
Week 10 4 October	Interschool Speeches

Term 4 2011

Year 4-6 Options will run in Term 4

Week 1 Monday 24 October	Labour Day Holiday
Week 5 22 November	Interschool Athletics
Week 6 1-2 December	Y5 Camp at Mangawhai Beach

Final school reports issued in the last week.

End of Year events:	Monitors Outing, Junior Christmas Assembly, Year 6 Graduation, Carols in the Park, Awards Ceremony
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Dates all to be confirmed.

NOTE:

Snells Beach School sporting events will be run in the weeks prior to the interschool events where appropriate. Please keep watch on the school diary published in each newsletter for these dates.

Term Dates 2011

Term 1	2 Feb - 15 April
Term 2	2 May – 15 July
Term 3	1 August – 7 October
Term 4	25 October – 15 December

Easter & Anzac Day fall in the Term 1 holiday break



From the Principal

Kia ora, Mauri and greetings to our school families

A big welcome to 2011! We welcome a number of new families to the school and start with a roll of 196 – very close to the 200 that we predicted for the start of this year. We also welcome for the first time several new staff members – **Mrs Rietta Young, Mrs Pauline Watkin, Ms Fiona Clarkson and Mrs Jo Dawson.** Please make them welcome!

We are looking forward to another exciting year ahead as we enter our third year as a school. There will be a number of pressures and changes that come forward as a result of our increased size, but these will all bring new opportunities too.

The children have settled well into new classes for the year and I was very pleased with the calm and happy start we had on Wednesday. Once again, with unpredictable enrolment numbers while we grow it is inevitable that we have had to create some composite or mixed year level classes across the school. We have also done this to ensure that class numbers stay as low as possible.

This is common practice in all schools. Being in a composite class does not mean a child is any more capable or less capable than any other. All classes are grouped for mixed ability, but there are a number of other factors that are also taken into account. **Please be assured that very careful consideration is given to the makeup of every class in the school.** As there seems to be some confusion about this, I have included further information in this newsletter that may provide clarification (see **Education Information for Parents**).

Thank you to those parents who have supported us by ordering their children's stationery promptly this week. The children's stationery requirements are our "Tools of Trade." Teachers cannot operate without the correct, good quality materials for the children to work with, and we put a great deal of time and effort into sourcing these. We also provide these to you at cost. We do not make money on our packs, so we do appreciate your support of our professional needs.

This year as our learning context for the year we are focusing on our motto "Learning for Life" – specifically the LIFE aspects of growing, learning, belonging, working and enjoying. Our Living Value focus for this term is LOVE.

For more information about important events and an overview of the year, please see the separate section of this newsletter. Hoping to see you soon at our **Meet the Teacher evening,**

Regards
Jill Corkin, Principal

If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies. ~Author Unknown

School Diary

Week 2: 7-11 February
Friday 11th 2pm - Junior School Assembly. *All welcome.*

Week 3: 14-18 February
Thursday 17th 4.30pm - BOT Sausage Sizzle begins
5pm-5.25pm - Meet the Teacher session 1
5.35pm - 6pm - Meet the Teacher session 2
6pm - Year 6 Camp meeting in the staffroom
Friday 18th 2pm - Senior School Assembly. *All welcome.*

Week 4: 21-25 February
Wednesday 23rd 5pm - BOT meeting
Friday 25th 2pm - Full school assembly. *All welcome.*

Welcome to:

Jabez Dymond-Tiumalu, Kauri 1
Kyron Smith, Kauri 1
Emmerson Cowan, Kauri 1
Scarlet Hughes, Kauri 1
Lakshmi Ranju, Kauri 1
Lilli Shadbolt, Kauri 1
Sapphire Vuletich, Kauri 1
Nartis Brennan-Gunbie, Kauri 2
Conner Quirk, Manawa 1
Erin Cope, Manawa 1
Ethan Rieff, Puriri 1
Caleb Beardsley, Puriri 2
Mackenzie Hitchcock, Puriri 2
Taliea Burdett-Rhodes, Nikau 2
Aleicha Burdett-Rhodes, Nikau 2
Zhanie Burdett-Rhodes, Nikau 1
Hannah Roberts, Nikau 1

Education Information for Parents

Composite Classes

From time to time it is necessary to create mixed year level classes. There are some schools in NZ who operate composites across the whole school for philosophical reasons. At Snells Beach School, the need for composite classes is at the moment driven primarily by student numbers at each year level and staffing levels. Each child is considered individually where we have the luxury of a choice of class placement and a huge range of factors are considered; age, a mixture of abilities, social interactions with other children, fit with the teacher, size of the class, balance of boys and girls, whether or not they have been in a composite class the previous year and any other specific information we may have on the child. This is easier with children we know, and not so easy with new children to the school. At the end of the day, decisions have to be made, and we do our best to balance all of these factors for all children.

The Curriculum and Composite Classes

The NZ Curriculum no longer specifies a course of study for each curriculum. It is designed as a 'seamless' curriculum and teachers are expected to work the children at the level they are capable of learning at. That is why we can have mixed ability classes. In any one class, there may be children working across two levels (or more) of the curriculum, at the level appropriate to their ability. In very isolated cases where a child may be working well ahead or behind and is the only one at this level in the class, he or she may be 'cross-grouped' and work for literacy or numeracy with another class altogether. These are decisions we are continually assessing and making to meet each child's individual needs.

In summary, if a child is in the higher age level cohort of a composite class (e.g. a Year 6 in a Y5/6 composite), he will not be 'held back'. Similarly if a child is in the lower age bracket (e.g. a Year 1 in a Y1/2 composite) she will not be expected to work ahead of herself. Each child will work at the level he or she is capable of.

Class make-up at Snells Beach School in 2011 is as follows:

Kauri 1	Year 1	Miss Sarah Jolliffe
Kauri 2	Year 1	Mrs Rietta Young/Ms Pauline McDonald
Kahikatea 2	Year1/2	Mrs Pauline Watkin
Kahikatea 1	Year 2	Ms Sue Giles
Manawa 2	Year 2/3	Mr Trent Morley
Manawa 1	Year 3	Mrs Chris Mackay (Team Leader, Junior School)
Puriri 1	Year 4	Ms Fiona Clarkson/Mrs Amanda Bradshaw
Puriri 2	Year 4/5	Mrs Jo Dawson
Nikau 2	Year 5/6	Miss Kathryn Ramel (Associate Principal)
Nikau 1	Year 5/6	Mrs Kerry Gore (Team Leader, Senior School)

Mrs Bradshaw & Ms McDonald are on Royal Society Fellowships for two terms.

Our school is arranged in 2 teams – Junior School (Years 1-3) and Senior Team (Years 4-6).

As you can see from this we have had to create a number of composite classes at all levels to accommodate numbers within the staffing and physical classrooms constraints we now have. All 10 classrooms originally built are now occupied and it is likely that we will need more classrooms to start the 2012 year.

School Events

Music Tuition at Snells Beach School 2011

This year we will be continuing our relationship with R & B Music who provide music tuition on a user pays basis to students at our school. These lessons are above and beyond the music that is part of our usual school curriculum. Tuition is available in the following instruments this year:

Guitar	Mondays	with Sam Nola
Piano	Mondays	with Glenys Leigh
Sax	Mondays	with Glenys Leigh
Flute	Mondays	with Glenys Leigh
Drums	Tuesdays	with Michael Cooper

R & B Music are able to provide instruments for hire and/or purchase.

For all music tuition inquiries, **please contact Ross Browne from R & B Music directly**, not the school office:

Ross Browne

R & B Music Ltd

(09) 428-4746

021 703-146

rbmusic@maxnet.co.nz

(email is often easiest as Ross can be busy tutoring)

You are invited to

Meet the Teacher Afternoon

Thursday 17 February 5.00pm – 6.00pm

Sausage Sizzle from 4.30pm

Year 6 Camp Meeting

Thursday 17 February 6.00pm

On Wednesday 17 February we invite you to attend a 'Meet the Teacher' session in your child's classroom. This is an opportunity for the teacher to outline class programmes, discuss class routines and expectations and any organizational aspects that you need to know about. It is also an opportunity for you to meet other parents in your child's class and ask any questions of a general nature. Please note this is not an opportunity to discuss individual children.

The session will be run twice by each class teacher – **at 5.00 pm and 5.35pm** - to enable parents with multiple children to visit BOTH classes in succession. *Children are welcome – older children to play outside due to space restrictions please.*

From 4.30pm the Board of Trustees will be selling sausages to enable you and the children to grab a bite to eat and to meet them. Come and say hello, and put a name to the faces of your school trustees!

Parents of Year 6 students are invited to attend a Camp Meeting in the staffroom on the same night at 6pm. This will outline the events at camp, discuss gear needs, fundraising and give you an opportunity to sign up as parent help for camp.

Buses 2011 - IMPORTANT

Bus 11 Martins Bay/Scotts Landing – no change to these services for 2011.

Bus 8 Sandspit – no bus in the morning in 2011 for **in-zone students** (subject to current negotiations with the transport network group). Afternoon service only for in-zone students – **1 drop off point only at Muncaster Rd. Please see your separate notice about this today. No change for entitlement students from the Sandspit.**

Snells Beach School PTA

The PTA meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the staffroom.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 2 March at 7pm, and will be followed by the normal monthly meeting.