



Learning for Life

# Newsletter

2015/02

13 February 2015



*"Snells Beach School will prepare children for successful futures and life-long learning through dynamic teaching and quality learning opportunities"*

## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER FOR THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

*With a number of new families to the school we thought it might be important to outline some key information that might be useful to understand how the school works.*

*Please do not hesitate to ask at the office if you would like more information about any of the items below, or about anything else, or make an appointment to see a member of our senior team if you have any questions or concerns.*

### School Curriculum & Beliefs

Our school motto is **Learning for Life** and our school emblem represents the pohutukawa tree alongside the sweep of Kawau Bay.

As a state school we are bound by the **New Zealand Curriculum** – a standardized document followed across New Zealand. This document is available online on the Ministry of Education's TKI Website - <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum>

Within this, we have freedom to develop a Local Curriculum Plan and have chosen to adopt an integrated inquiry approach for all learning areas. Our daily programme follows a pattern of literacy (reading, writing, speaking & listening) and mathematics instruction in the mornings, followed by an afternoon programme that is contextual, based around themes from our Local Curriculum Plan. Children apply the skills of literacy and numeracy to this learning as well as exploring other learning areas such as: Social Sciences, Science, Technology, The Arts, Health, Te Reo Maori and other languages. Central to our inquiry approach is contextual learning in real situations, both at school and in the wider community, so we value opportunities to take the children out of the classroom into real environments.

Core elements of our programme are swimming, sport and the performing arts and our timetable may change to fit these things. Our swimming programme is held at the beach In Term 1 and also at the College pool (for years 3 & 4) in Term 3 or 4.

We also run specialist art and technology programmes on a regular basis and sport on a Friday through our Kiwisport funding.

### We are a:

- **Travelwise School** – at GOLD level and we actively encourage children to walk, bike, skateboard, scooter or bus to school and hope that parents will support this. This is in line with our environmental and healthy school focus. We are supported in this by Auckland Transport and you can find out more about Travelwise Schools at <https://at.govt.nz/cycling-walking/school-travel/travelwise>
- **Living Values School** – we actively teach and promote the 12 UNESCO Living Values of Peace, Respect, Love, Tolerance, Happiness, Responsibility, Co-operation, Humility, Honesty, Simplicity, Freedom, & Unity. You can find out more about Living Values at <http://www.livingvalues.net>. Our school behaviour management plan is in line with these values and we have a school-wide approach to this, with zero tolerance for bullying.
- **Wastewise School and Trees for Survival School** with a focus on environmental programmes – we actively encourage recycling and understanding about environmentally friendly practices. In line with our school emblem we identify with the beach and with the flora and fauna of this area. Through Trees for Survival and with the support of Rotary and Auckland Council, we raise young native plants and plant them out in the community in areas that will help clean the run off and protect the land. Through our partnership with Scandrett Regional Park we take care of and plant up sections of the park for the enjoyment of all; and at school we are actively planting and developing our own site to 'bring back the birds'.
- **ICT-Orientated School** – children will use computers, cameras, sound gear and interactive whiteboards as part of their learning, and will be expected to access and use the internet. Our website and online newspaper allows for children to publish their work and for parents to comment and give feedback. Each class will post updates on our school website so parents can keep in touch with what is happening in the classroom. To access our website go to: [www.snellsbeach.school.nz](http://www.snellsbeach.school.nz) and search for your child's class.

### Organization

We are a busy school with over 200 students and a staff of 20 onsite every day, as well as a large number of visitors, external support agencies and parents. We have to have strong organizational structures and systems to ensure that everyone is kept safe and happy. To support parents, staff and children we have:

- Policies to outline key areas of school **governance** through the Board of Trustees and **management** through the Principal and staff. There is a Complaints Policy available at the office if you would like to know the process for this.
- Bus transport to and from school for entitled (and by arrangements non-entitled) children (refer to last week's newsletter) run by the Mahurangi Transport Network of Schools.
- A Homework Club and after school sports and activity programme 5 days a week, run by local business *Make a Difference Through Sport* at a very low cost.
- A free Breakfast Club 4 days a week (Mon-Thurs) which is open to everybody and the free Fonterra Milk in Schools Programme that provides milk at morning tea time to all children.
- Uniform shop run by a volunteer parent on Wednesdays, before and after school.

*We try and keep rules and regulations to a minimum, and where they do exist they are primarily for the safety of students and the smooth running of our school. We ask that you respect our requests (such as signing in at the school office on arrival during the day, not parking in the drive through and stopping at the crossing) to ensure that we can run the school safely and smoothly. Thank you!*

**Jill Corkin, Principal**

## Welcome to Our New Students – we hope you enjoy your time at our school!

Vienna Ferris – Kauri 1,  
Tayler Ratcliffe – Kauri 1

As a reminder – there are **MEET THE TEACHER SESSIONS** for all parents next **TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2015** to which all parents are very welcome.

3.30-3.50pm (Junior school classes Y1-2)

4.00-4.20pm (Middle school classes Y3-4)

4.30-4.50pm (Senior school classes Y5-6)

*Please go to your child's classroom at the start time. We look forward to seeing you there.*

*Sausages & Juicies will be available from the courtyard throughout this time – please bring your gold coins to spend.*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL SURVEY

We look forward to your feedback via our Community Survey. Preferably this may be completed online, via the link on our website. Please see our school website under "Online School Newspaper".

<http://www.snellsbeach.school.nz/2014/12/16/community-survey/>

Alternatively, paper copies will be available for those who would prefer, at our school office from the 19th January 2015.

The survey will close on Monday 16th February 2015.

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** – Please provide any Lifesaving and or allergy medications that your child may need. At the end of last year we got children to take their Asthma Inhalers and allergy medicines home for the holidays. **Please, we need these returned**. We have children in need of these already.

### Stars Outside of School

**Congratulation to Elise Cheyne.** Elise placed **1<sup>st</sup>** in fancy dress as Astrid on Stormfly from the movie "How to Train a Dragon" at the Coastville Pony Club 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ribbon day on Waitangi Day.

**Congratulations to our students** for their participation in this year's Auckland Libraries Dare to Explore Summer Reading Programme. A record one third of our school population took part over this summer.

Two students, **Stratton Craig and Rachel McGuire** completed all sixty challenges in the booklet, and the library was were given permission by their families to publish their pictures on the Auckland Libraries Dare to Explore Wall of Fame. Quite an achievement. Being an Auckland wide link viewed by many, this made it even more exciting - seeing two children from Snells Beach!

### NETBALL HELP PLEASE

We have a Netball Club that participates in the local competitions on Saturdays at Wellsford. Our club needs some new people to run netball in the school. If you are keen to do this, or if you know someone who may be keen to do this, please phone:

Denise Le Bas on 021 08211841

### Mahurangi Junior Rugby Club Registration

Registration days [Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 4-7pm](#) & [Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 11am-3pm](#). All welcome - boys & girls. Ripa rugby (non-contact) for ages 4-7, tackle rugby for ages 8-13. Free rugby ball with each paid registration (fees \$75). Details at [www.mahurangirugbyclub.co.nz](http://www.mahurangirugbyclub.co.nz)



*We have done the hard work for you!*

Visit our new website [KidsLink.co.nz](http://KidsLink.co.nz) which helps schools and parents connect with local service providers who offer a range of services for children and young people in...

Learning Behaviour Physical Needs Extra-Curricular Childcare

*KidsLink is proudly supported and used by your school.*