

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Keep up-to-date with what is happening at Firth Primary School on our blog. Firth Newsletters are now available on our blog news:

<http://firthschoolnews.blogspot.com>

Firth Primary School Facebook page.

We have a facebook page - please 'like' our page to keep up to date with what is happening at Firth, and other important information.



Text reminder – We have an alternative to our automated absentee phone service. You may prefer to text the school when your child is absent on 027 266 0365

Reminder next Newsletter will be **Thursday 1 March – Week 5.**

This week's success key is **Organisation.**

Being organised is putting things where they belong, setting goals for yourself and planning ahead to meet those goals.

Welcome back to the 2018 school year. I hope you and your family had a great break and made the most of some family time. It was a real bonus to start a little later on 7 February and meant staff could spend more quality time together to plan for the year. This year promises to be another busy one with many exciting learning opportunities for our learners. Congratulations on the extremely positive start your children have made. Having our school again provide the start up stationery has made a positive start to the learning programme. Your children are also well organised with swimming gear. Please keep the home help going to assist our learners to enjoy their learning even more!

A special welcome to Caelum & Bryson De Kock, Dejah Cope, Ranginui Fallon Haimona, Yusra Al-Suleiman, Carlos Marunui, Ava & Indy McCullough, Kobe & Kaha Maaka, Nia May Gardiner, Mackenzie Martin, Jaxon Martin, Maatia Wilson, Charlene Wharawhara, Haami Kete-Gage & Milla Hyslop and their families who have joined us at Firth

If you do know of any soon to be 5 year olds joining us at Firth, please remind them to pre-enrol to allow us to plan for growth.

Extra Learning Support.

We are delighted to be able to provide extra staff to give our learners a boost with their learning. Mrs Gardner will provide extra reading support in the junior school and Mrs Bay will be assisting extra learning in the senior school. These programmes will be in place for the first 8 weeks.

Improve our Communication - Your email is required.

If you have an email address could you please send one to your child(ren)s class teacher(s). This way the teacher can bounce you an email to inform you of when your child will receive a certificate at Friday celebration assembly.

Please check and update your school records if your mobile number or address has changed.

Behaviour Management Plan

Please find a green insert in today's newsletter. This outlines our behaviour management plans for this year. This has again been discussed on Teacher Only Days.

Pre- Warning of an Early Finish

For those that can be supervised school will conclude at **12.15pm on Wednesday 28 March**, to allow staff to attend an NZEI stop work meeting. We will keep sending a reminder in our fortnightly newsletters.

Te Reo Maori and Kapa haka.

We are delighted to welcome Whaea Lena and Matua Stanley back to our Firth Family. All classrooms will enjoy a te reo session once a week. All children will have an opportunity to participate in Kapa haka. Seniors on Wednesday afternoons and Juniors on Thursdays. All children who identify as Maori will attend kapa haka unless a note is given to school excusing the child. Any children are welcome to attend.

Welcome back to the staff

We are very proud of our quality Firth Staff. We have top quality teachers who have again remained very stable at Firth. The staff, room numbers, year groups and email addresses this year are;

James Eldridge	Principal		principal@firth.school.nz
Jeanette Malligan	Deputy Principal	R10	jmalligan@firth.school.nz
Cherie Johnson	Assistant Principal	R5	cjohnson@firth.school.nz
Andrew Mitchell	Senior Teacher	R6	amitchell@firth.school.nz
Lesley Johnston	Teacher	R1	ljohnston@firth.school.nz
Cushla Thornton Brown	Teacher	R3	cushla@firth.school.nz
Tanya Murray	Teacher	R7	tmurray@firth.school.nz
Kellie Ackland	Teacher	R8	kackland@firth.school.nz
Margaret Barbour	Teacher	R4	mbarbour@firth.schoo.nz
Whaea Lena	Maori Language /Music	Whare Ako	
Matua Stanley	Maori Language/Dance	All classrooms	
Lesley Gardner	Reading Recovery		lgardner@firth.school.nz
Sharyn Merry	RT Literacy	R12	smerry@xtra.co.nz
Rose Craig	Release Teacher		
Serena Pilmore-Evans	Release Teacher		
Karen Taylor	ORRS/Release Teacher		

Support Staff

Diane Griffin	Executive Officer		office@firth.school.nz
Amberlee Dean	Librarian / Lunches/ Teacher Asst.		adean@firth.school.nz
Deb Wells	Teacher Assistant		
Sharon Lawrence	Teacher Assistant		
Miyuki Canuel	Teacher Assistant		
Heather Smart	Teacher Assistant		
Ashley Stewart	Teacher Assistant		
Karyn Rangituia	Teacher Assistant		
Andy Andresen	Caretaker		
Marcela Sardin-Bernardi	Cleaner		

Friday Assembly this week

Our Celebration Assembly will be at 9.00am Friday mornings. Sharing this week is Room 5. Next Friday 23 February Room 8 will be sharing. We look forward to seeing you

Friday the Arts Day - Dance for all.

All classes will spend some dance time with Matua Stanley on Fridays. Whaea Lena will again offer Ukulele and Drum lessons.

Important Health Message from our Public Health Nurse

We have a new student who is currently taking chemotherapy and has a low immunity. This makes the student much more at risk from illnesses. We ask that you please keep your child away from school if they are sick. If your child has an illness like chicken pox, measles or shingles please let the school know this information urgently.

Our Sun Smart Policy.

Please remember we are a sun smart school. Our learners will have a Firth Hat supplied throughout the day and there is extra block available for those who require it. Please ensure all children wear sun smart clothing and we do not have any bare shoulders exposed.

When swimming we encourage children to wear a rash vest please.

Wanted - Clean old magazines and plastic bags.

Room 5 will be hosting a group of Japanese students on 6 March. We will be making poi and rakau sticks. If you have any extra supermarket bags or magazines could they please be dropped off to Room 5 over the next few weeks. Thank you in advance.

Firth Parent Group Gala - 16 March 5 - 7 p.m.

Gala preparations are underway for our Twilight Gala on Friday 16 March.

This year our Gala profits are going towards more laptops so all of our Firth Family students will benefit from this event.

Last year's profit from the Gala was used to extend our sandpit.

This will have a new shade cloth. Last year's Year 6 students designed the new sandpit of a castle, which even has a drawbridge at one end. Do go down and have a look.



To enable us to make the Gala a great success we need our Firth Families to come on board and help us out. Here are things you could help with.

- * Firewood Raffle - Raffle tickets have been sent home with the newsletter to each family to sell 5 tickets @ \$3. per ticket. This will be drawn at the Gala. Please return your butts and money to the school office.
- * Non perishable grocery items for our grocery hamper raffles are required which can be left at the school office. All children in the family will earn a gotcha for the items received.
- * Second Hand Book Sale - If you have any second hand books/puzzles in good condition that you could donate to our Gala, please drop these off to our school office.
- * Gala Cake Stall - On Wednesday 14 March we will be sending home a plastic plate to each family for a yummy cake or muffins or a slice. Please remember to label the baking e.g. chocolate cake, gluten free etc.
- * If anyone could help us with Face Painting at the Gala, please let Karyn know.
- * We also require help to run the stalls. If you are able to help us on the night, please leave your name and number with Diane in the office or phone Karyn on 027 3136912.

Headlice

Reminder - please check your child/ren's hair for signs of nits and if present please treat them. A united front will help to eradicate this common problem. We do have a supply of Kids Can treatment products.

Yummy Sticker Collecting

Thanks to all your collecting, we have just received over \$500 worth of sports equipment and yes we are still collecting Yummy stickers. They can be found on all types of fruit, not just the apples and this will assist us to win **free** sports gear again at the end of 2018.

Term Dates 2018

Term 1 – Wednesday 7 February – Friday 13 April

(Easter; Good Friday 30 March, Monday 2 April, Tuesday 3 April)

Term 2 – Monday 30 April – Friday 6 July – **TOD Friday 15 June.**

Term 3 – Monday 23 July – Friday 28 September

Term 4 – Monday 15 October – Thursday 20 December

Coming Events

Wednesday 21 February	Board of Trustees Meeting 7 p.m.
Friday 23 February	Fun in 1
Monday 5 March	Free Ear Clinic -Firth Primary School 9.30 - 2p.m.
Tuesday 6 March	Japanese Students (College) Visiting
Friday 9 March	Fun in 1
Tuesday 13 March	Japanese Students (Intermediate) Visiting
Wednesday 14 March	Firth Swimming Sports
Wednesday 21 March	Board of Trustees Meeting 7p.m.
Friday 23 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
Friday 23 March	Fun in 1
Wednesday 28 March	12.15p.m. Finish - NZEI Meeting
Friday 30 March	Good Friday
Monday 2 April	Easter Monday
Monday 3 April	Easter Tuesday
Thursday 5 April	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday 6 April	Fun in 1
Thursday 12 April	Free Ear Clinic - Matamata Primary School, Broadway - 9 30 - 2.00 p.m.
Friday 13 April	Last day for Term 1

Community Notices

Soccer Waikato Football Academy – Term 1 development programme

The Waikato Football Academy (WFA) is now taking registrations for their term 1 development programme. Matamata-based head coach, Alastair Sievewright, will oversee these sessions, which have the full support of Matamata Swifts AFC. This coaching offers great pre-season work for footballers, as well as excellent cross training for children involved in other winter sports.

WFA Programme details:

- Venue: Matamata Domain.
- Cost: \$80.
- Day & time: Tuesdays from February 27, with sessions running from 4pm to 5.15pm.
- The programme is open to girls and boys aged from 7 to 12 years of age.
- Further blocks will run through terms 2 to 4.
- For more information and to register you should visit: <http://www.matamataswifts.com/juniors/wfa/> email waikatofootballacademy@gmail.com or contact Alastair Sievewright on 021 471 021.

Music Lessons

One Voice Productions is offering the following music lessons once a week at school.

Guitar

Base

Keyboard/Piano

Ukelele

Voice

Lessons are 20 minutes to 30 minutes long.

20 minutes-\$20 per lesson

30 minutes-\$25 per lesson

If interested, please fill out the registration form at the school's office for inquiries please contact Leigh at 0221626302 or email one1voiceproductions@yahoo.co.nz

Have a great 2018.

James Eldridge and the team at Firth.