

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 15 March – Week 7**

This week's success key is Confidence.

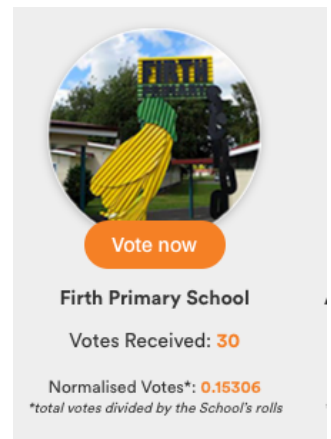
*Confidence is trying new things without fear. It is great to see the children growing in **confidence** as the term progresses.*

A special welcome to Kobie Leng Murray, Chavelle Coe and Atareta Tuhakaraina and their families who have joined us at Firth

Help our School win!

School Gen is helping schools win \$25k, or \$15k or \$10k. The number of votes we receive are divided by our school roll, so it is fair for all schools. You can all vote once every day until voting ends on 2 April.

The School-gen voting page <http://www.schoolgen.co.nz/voteforyourschool/>, search through the schools for Firth Primary and vote! If you bookmark it you can do this every day and our votes will add up.



Milk in Schools

You may have seen the advertisement on Television showing Richie McCaw flying a chopper with a large milk container. This is another competition Firth can enter.

Anyone can enter the competition by nominating a school at richiesmilkrun.co.nz – entries are open until 19 March 2018. It's really easy to enter – all you have to do is tell them why Firth Primary deserves a visit from Richie.

Zero Tolerance to Bullying Behaviour.

Our staff reviewed our behaviour management earlier in the year. If we know about any inappropriate behaviour, all staff are clear that action will be taken. The key to a zero tolerance is to **know about** the problem. We have reminded the children at assembly to speak up if they feel a victim of any inappropriate behaviour. If you have any concerns regarding your learners feeling safe at all times, please make contact with staff at school. Your children are reminded to speak up regularly! We have a few simple rules to help, which you might like to try at home.

“If it is not nice – don't say it, or do it!”

Friday Assembly this week

Our Celebration Assembly will be at 9.00am Friday morning. Sharing this week is Room 3. Next Friday 9 March- Room 10 will be sharing. We look forward to seeing you.

Year 6 Camp

Year 6 students have been issued with chocolate bars to sell to help raise funds towards their end of year camp activities.

Prize List: Bliss balls \$3.00 Chocolate Bars \$2.50.

School Gala.

Our wonderful volunteer parents are in full swing organising our school twilight gala for Friday 16 March 5-7pm. Make sure you keep that night free.. If you are able to help before, after or during the gala, please make yourself known to Tash Raupi ph 027 550 0051 or leave your name at the office. We are looking forward to a great night.

Non-Perishable Grocery Items for Raffle.

If each family could please drop a food item into the office to help us form one or two grocery hampers to raffle off for the gala. All children in the family will receive a gotcha. One year, a boy won a bike at the end of the year from his gala raffle gotcha!

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 has changed.

Unfortunately, we are still trying to contact some parents on non-existent phone numbers.

Updating our Information

In this newsletter (lemon coloured form) we ask all children have an updated form for their internet usage. You will see the form asks you for permission for your learners to attend Kapa haka. A short session for Bible in Schools is requested also. To update our full records, we ask that all Firth learners have a separate form.

If you require more than one form please enquire at the school office.

Reminder : Vulnerable Children's Act and School Expectations.

We ask any parents or caregivers who are hoping to volunteer to be a helper at our school, to call in to the office and complete a Police Vetting request form. Police Vetting can take some time to receive back. Legally you must now be Police Vetted prior to helping at our school. Forms available at the office. Unfortunately, we are now charged \$10 per police vet, and must ask all requests to pay \$10 prior to completing the check.

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. Supervision will be provided for all children requiring it.

Behaviour Management Plans

All classrooms have been busy establishing routines for the year. By now you should have seen a class plan home. (Green paper). Please make some time to discuss these.

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.

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.

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.

School Swimming Sports.

With no newsletter prior to this event, ensure you make note of this date! Our 55th annual school swimming sports takes place next **Wednesday 14 March**. The entire school will travel to the Swimsafe Matamata and participate in our swimming sports. We hope many of you can support the day. Note our next newsletter is due out the day after on Thursday 15 March.

Firth School Swimming Sports

What: Our whole school swimming sports.
When: Wednesday 14 March. (No postponement day).
Senior school (years 4-6 including all R7) from 12 noon - 2:15pm.
Junior school (years 1-3) from 1pm - 2:30pm.
Who: All our students want to show you how their swimming learning is going.
How: We will all be travelling by bus down to the Matamata Sports Centre.

Student Checklist

School Sun hat
Sunscreen
Shoes for walking between bus and the pools (Glass hazards etc.)
Plenty of food: morning tea & lunch
Drink - water bottle - Frozen ice in another bottle
Couple of towels is handy
Togs
Goggles

The senior learners will go first, ready to start their swimming races in the covered pool at 12 noon

The senior swimmers will be ready to start their races in the outdoor pool at 12:45pm.

All the juniors will be ready to start at 1:00pm using the indoor and beach pools.

If your child is unable to participate please send a note to the classroom teacher.

If anyone is able to help as a timekeeper for some of our senior races please let Mrs Griffin in the office know.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you wish to take your swimmer home direct from the pools, please inform their classroom teacher and hand their school hat to the teacher.

School Lunches

Below is our current lunch list available for students to buy for lunch.

Students are required to post their money in their class containers provided at the office, in an envelope - clearly showing name, class, items required and amount enclosed. It helps to avoid congestion in the foyer if this could be done at home.

Firth Primary School Lunch List 2018

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday | - Ham or Egg Sandwich | \$3.00 | |
| Thursday & Friday | - Ham or Egg Sandwich | \$3.00 | |
| | - Mince Pie \$3. | | Mince/Cheese Pie \$3.00 |
| | - Hawaiian Pizza \$2.50 | | Sausage Roll \$2.50 |
| | - Small Choc Cookie \$1.00 | | |
| Fridays Only | Sushi - 3 piece pack | \$4.00 | Teriyaki Chicken or Fried Prawn |
| | 6 piece pack | \$8.00 | “ “ “ |

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

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 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 |
| Friday 16 March | Firth School Gala |
| 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

Tower Run and Walk

Friday 2 March, 6 p.m.

To enter: enteronline.co.nz. or SportsWorld

United Matamata Sports Club

Junior Rugby Registrations

- UMS Clubrooms
- Wednesday 7th March 3.15 - 6.00 p.m.
 - Thursday 8th March, 5.00 - 6.30 pm.
 - Thursday 15th March, 3.15 - 5.00pm

Subs - \$20 per child (free socks and mouthguard), under 5's free

First 200 registrations (5 yrs & over) on these nights receive a FREE rugby ball and boot bag.

If you are wanting to order gear, this needs to be done on these dates.

Junior Soccer – Sign up now!

Visit <http://www.matamataswifts.com/juniors/junior-registration/> for more information and to sign up online.

In-person registration sessions will be held at the Matamata Domain Clubrooms on Thursday March 1 (6-7pm) and Saturday March 3 (12.30-2pm).

Start dates: Junior players (age 8-13) – grading is on March 11, season begins on May 5.

Mini-Kickers (age 4-7) begins on April 7.

“There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life – happiness, freedom and peace of mind – are always attained by giving them to someone else.”

– Peyton Conway March.

Have a great 2018.

James Eldridge and the team at Firth.