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## Newsletter February 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

[www.firth.school.nz](http://www.firth.school.nz)

Kia ora te whanau

### PRINCIPALS BLURB

Nau mai haere mai, te kura o Firth, welcome to Firth Primary School. I am privileged to have been appointed as your new Principal. I am looking forward to leading our school with its many talented students and staff. I would like to extend a big thank you to all of our whanau and staff for making me feel so welcome and already I feel part of the Firth whanau. I have met many of you, however if we have not yet had a korero, please feel free to come and introduce yourself to me. We are off to a great start with all our students settling into learning and many of them have already been sharing with me their aspirations and goals for 2020. Together we can achieve great things. We are very privileged to have an Olympic swimming coach teaching our students swimming this term. We would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to our sponsors that have enabled this to happen, **HOBBITON** and **MATAMATA MITRE 10**. It is with community generosity that we can offer such programmes to your child free of charge. Please ensure that your child has their togs every day, to avoid disappointment in missing out on this valuable opportunity. It is so nice to our whanau gathering at the end of the day and engaging in friendly chatter. Please be mindful that learning is still happening at this time so please be aware that your voices do carry, to avoid disruption to your child's learning. We will once again be providing extension te reo maori classes for those students that opt into this programme and all our students will participate in kapahaka as part of our curriculum teaching and learning. Our school is also offering Bible in Schools for our Senior Students, if you would like your child to participate in this programme please complete the attached consent form. Unfortunately, we can only offer this to our senior students, due to the availability of teachers.

### WELCOME

Welcome back to Rylee-Jane Pou, Isaiah & Suliasi Vakalahi.

**A special welcome to our new children:** Phillipa Thomas, Lily Limmer, Carter Matehaere, Jacoby Te-Au, Skylar Simpson, Charlotte Venk, Owen Mouat, Declan & Toby Mossong, Kohan Tibbotts, Kaleb Kaa, Andre O'Grady, Te Aroha Price, Vinny Morgan, Boston Borst, Cora Andrew, Beauden Ritai, Addison Goldsbury, Addison Hepworth, Sapphire Wete, Jackson Eddy-Heathcote, Baylie-Glen Clothier, Mason Aoake, Sidhiksha Riddhi, Revanth Chandra, Aleigha Fox, Lucy Winiata and Dylan Hughes their families. We hope your time here at Firth is enjoyable.

### Welcome to our New and Returning Staff

We are very proud of our quality Firth Staff. We have three new staff to introduce. Michelle Ryan joins us as our Principal, and Mrs Sheeba Khan is teaching in Room 7 and Mr Emile Valkenborg in Room 4. If you would like to talk to your child's teacher please email them or make an appointment. Please also note that teachers often do not check their emails during learning time so will respond to you as soon as they can.

### The staff, room numbers, and email addresses this year are;

|                   |                     |     |                                                                              |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Michelle Ryan     | Principal           |     | <a href="mailto:principal@firth.school.nz">principal@firth.school.nz</a>     |
| Jeanette Malligan | Deputy Principal    | R10 | <a href="mailto:jmalligan@firth.school.nz">jmalligan@firth.school.nz</a>     |
| Cherie Johnson    | Assistant Principal | R5  | <a href="mailto:cjohnson@firth.school.nz">cjohnson@firth.school.nz</a>       |
| Lesley Johnston   | Teacher             | R1  | <a href="mailto:ljohnston@firth.school.nz">ljohnston@firth.school.nz</a>     |
| Megan Newport     | Teacher             | R2  | <a href="mailto:mnewport@firth.school.nz">mnewport@firth.school.nz</a>       |
| Emile Valkenborg  | Teacher             | R4  | <a href="mailto:evalkenborg@firth.school.nz">evalkenborg@firth.school.nz</a> |
| Tanya Murray      | Teacher             | R6  | <a href="mailto:tmurray@firth.school.nz">tmurray@firth.school.nz</a>         |
| Sheeba Khan       | Teacher             | R7  | <a href="mailto:skhan@firth.school.nz">skhan@firth.school.nz</a>             |

|                |                         |           |                                                                          |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kellie Ackland | Teacher                 | R8        | <a href="mailto:kackland@firth.school.nz">kackland@firth.school.nz</a>   |
| Kate MacPhail  | Teacher & ORS Teacher   | R8        | <a href="mailto:kmacphail@firth.school.nz">kmacphail@firth.school.nz</a> |
| Lesley Gardner | Reading Recovery        |           | <a href="mailto:lgardner@firth.school.nz">lgardner@firth.school.nz</a>   |
| Sharyn Merry   | RT Literacy             | R12       | <a href="mailto:smerry@xtra.co.nz">smerry@xtra.co.nz</a>                 |
| Whaea Lena     | Maori Language/Kapahaka | Whare Ako |                                                                          |
| Matua Stanley  | Kapahaka                |           |                                                                          |

#### **Support Staff**

|                  |                             |                                                                    |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Diane Griffin    | Executive Officer           | <a href="mailto:office@firth.school.nz">office@firth.school.nz</a> |
| Deb Wells        | Teacher Assistant           |                                                                    |
| Heather Smart    | Teacher Assistant           |                                                                    |
| Karyn Rangitutia | Lunches / Teacher Assistant |                                                                    |
| Hollie Ross      | Teacher Assistant           |                                                                    |
| Andy Andresen    | Caretaker                   |                                                                    |
| Miriam de Goeij  | Cleaner                     |                                                                    |

### **THIS WEEK'S SUCCESS KEY IS - GETTING ALONG**

It is great to see everyone working cooperatively with each other, resolving conflict without arguments or fighting and showing tolerance towards others' differences. We are building resilience within our students to enable them to establish appropriate relationships with their peers.

### **REMINDERS**

**Absentees – if your child is going to be away for any reason or is unwell please notify the office.**

**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. Please make sure you leave a reason as to why they are absent as we are required by the ministry to record these.**

Reminder next Newsletter **Thursday 27 February - Week 4 Term 1**

#### **New enrolments**

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.

#### **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 address or mobile number has changed.**

### **NOTICES**

#### **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 sun block available for those who require it. Please ensure all children wear sun smart clothing and that they do not have any bare shoulders exposed. When swimming we encourage children to wear a rash vest please.

#### **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 if you need these.

#### **Friday Assembly this week**

Our Celebration Assembly will be at 9.00am Friday mornings. We look forward to seeing you.

#### **Firth Primary School Lunch Orders List 2020**

##### **Thursdays & Fridays only.**

Mince / Mince & Cheese / Potato Top Pies \$2.50 Pizza \$2.50 Sausage Roll \$2.50 Cookie \$1.

Please place your money in an envelope at the office, named and with your child's room number.

**There will be no Sushi available for lunch orders.**

### Ripper Rugby

Ripper Rugby Permission forms have been distributed to those students who have indicated that they are interested in playing in Term 1. Completed forms need to be returned to the school office by **Tuesday 18 February**.

### Scholastic Bookclub

Brochures were distributed Thursday. This offer closes **Thursday 27 February**.

### Get In To Football!

Get Your Friends In To Football! Do you want to have fun and keep fit with your friends? Now is the time to sign up for football again... as well as introduce your friends to the amazing game. Matamata Swifts have opened registrations for the 2020 season. Players can sign up here: <http://www.matamataswifts.com/get-in-to-football>

### Term Dates 2020

Term 1- Monday 3rd February - Thursday 9th April

Term 2 - Monday 28th April - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Term 3 - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Term 4 - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Keep up-to-date with what is happening at Firth Primary School on our Website. Firth Newsletters are now available at [www.firth.school.nz](http://www.firth.school.nz)

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.



**Stay “in the loop” in 2019 with our school app!**

Events | Cancellations | Notices  
Newsletters | Permission slips  
Instant notifications | Absentees

**Simple free download:**  
In Google Play & App Store  
search ‘Skool Loop’ & choose  
our school once installed.

### COMING EVENTS - TERM 1

|                                     |                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 19 February               | Board of Trustees Meeting - Meeting Room 7p.m.                      |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February    | Fun in 1                                                            |
| Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February | Free Ear Clinic - Raungaiti Marae, Waharoa 9.30 a.m.- 2.30 p.m.     |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February  | Free ear Clinic - Pohlen House Carpark, 58 Rawhiti Avenue, Matamata |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March        | Fun in 1                                                            |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March      | Firth Swimming Sports                                               |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March     | Japanese Visitors R5/6                                              |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March       | Fun in 1                                                            |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March       | Inter-School Swimming                                               |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March       | <b>2020 Colour Fun Run</b>                                          |
| Wednesday 1st April                 | Free Ear Clinic - Raungaiti Marae, Waharoa 9.30 a.m.- 2.30 p.m.     |
| Friday 3rd April                    | Fun in 1                                                            |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April      | Parent Teacher Conferences                                          |
| Thursday 9 April                    | Free Ear Clinic - Pohlen House Carpark, 58 Rawhiti Avenue, Matamata |
| <b>Thursday 9 April</b>             | <b>Term 1 Ends</b>                                                  |



**Firth Primary Colour Fun Run**  
**When: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
**Where: Firth Primary School**  
**Time: 5pm – 8 pm**

We are asking friends, whanau and community businesses to sponsor this event. If you would like to sponsor prizes or donate to this event please email, [fpg@firth.school.nz](mailto:fpg@firth.school.nz) information.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Positive Parenting Solutions Group**



*Be the parent you have always wanted to be.* You've tried everything! Timeouts; Reward Charts; Counting to 3; Yelling; Punishment. Nothing works! You're worried that your child is anxious and don't know what to do. This group is a way forward to transforming family life. You will get step- by –step roadmaps to tackle your biggest power struggles and techniques to help you to remain calm. Contact Liz (**021490294**) or leave a message at the office to enroll with preferred day and time.

**Waikato District Health Board**

Wai Kids - Waikato Child and Youth Health. A permission form from the Matamata Oral Health Dental Clinic was distributed to all students on Tuesday. Could you please complete and return to school by the end of this week.

**Have a great week and weekend.**

**Nga mihi**

**Michelle Ryan and the team at Firth.**



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Please read, complete and sign, the form below and place it in the box in the office, or email back to [office@firth.school.nz](mailto:office@firth.school.nz), by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February and you and your child will go in the draw to win a \$50 New world voucher and a 2x family passes to Matamata pools.

### POLICY - Acceptable Use of the Internet

#### Why do we have this policy?

It outlines the correct and proper use of the Internet and Internet E-mail at all times for the protection of students, staff and the school when using the Internet.

#### How will we do it

1. The aim and purpose of the Internet connection is educational, to support research and class work.
2. Access to the Internet is a privilege and not a right. Continued use depends on respect for the rules of Firth Primary School and care of the equipment.
3. All Pupils should be wherever practical supervised by either a staff member or the administrator while using the Internet or sending E-mail. Kid safe search engines and book marked sites are preferred especially for students in years 1- 4
4. Pupils may not use the Internet or Email during break times unless supervised by an adult
5. Users may not access material that may be offensive to others. If a User wishes to search for material that may be considered objectionable, permission must first be obtained from the teacher.
6. Users at all times will respect the privacy and copyright of others. This means that the work of others must be fully acknowledged.
7. E-mail messages must be courteous.
8. The Principal / ICT Team Leader School has the right to and may at any time terminate, withdraw or limit Internet access and Internet E-mail.
9. There is to be no down-loading of software without permission of the ICT Team Leader
10. All users will sign an "acceptable use agreement."

#### Conclusion

That proper use of the Internet and other technology services occurs at Firth Primary School.

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#### Maori Language Withdrawal Consent Form.

I consent / do not consent to my child being withdrawn to attend extension Maori Language programme classes.

#### Internet Use.

I give permission / do not give permission for my child to access the internet under the conditions outlined in the Firth Primary School Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

#### Bible in Schools. – (During Years 3-6 only)

I give / do not give permission for my child to participate in the Bible in Schools Lessons.

#### Use of photos and Names on the School Website.

I give / do not give permission for my child's photo or work to appear on the website with their Christian name only.

As names are often given in full in the school newsletter and this will be posted on the website weekly we will take all care to remove surnames prior to updating the site.

My child has the following **medical conditions** that you need to be aware of.

Parent / Caregiver Signature \_\_\_\_\_