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Newsletter November 4th 2020

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Kia ora te whanau

PRINCIPALS BLURB

Welcome to week 4. Jeanette Malligan will be retiring at the end of this year. After 40 years at Firth Primary School, Jeanette has taught many students and students of past students. Her commitment and dedication to Education and to Firth Primary School will be acknowledged on Friday 11th December 2020 at an assembly at The Matamata College Hall commencing at 2pm. Please feel free to join us for this occasion. This will be followed by an afternoon tea from 3.30 pm - 6.00 pm, for invited guests. This term we are focussing on the value of RESPECT, respect for ourselves, respect for each other and respect for our environment. Continue to ask your child what this means for you as a whanau, so that our values are aligned and we are working in partnership.

Welcome:

A special welcome to Veroley Maaka and her family who have joined us at Firth. Welcome to the Firth Whanau.

Yummy Sticker Collecting

We are still collecting Yummy stickers. They can be found on all types of fruit, not just the apples. This will assist us to win free sports gear again at the end of 2020.

Bell Times

We are trialling a change in bell times to allow more fluidity with teaching and learning. I can assure you that students are still having the same amount of time to eat. The only major change is that the brain breaks during the day are determined by the students and teachers of each class.

9.00 am school begins

11.00 am morning tea - students play

11.30 am students sit and eat

11.45 am students in class

1.00 pm lunch break - students play

1.30 pm students eat lunch

1.45 pm students in class

2.50 pm school ends

Uniforms

We have secured our new uniform design. Thank you to the parents who have already given feedback about the new design . Our sports uniforms have been kindly sponsored by the Firth Community Group and Wilcox and sons. This week we will be sending out a survey to gage whanau support for moving to a compulsory uniform next year. This will strengthen our identity within the school and school community.



Pet and Flower Show

This will be held on Friday 4 December. Information sheets have been distributed to students today. Further information will be available from classroom teachers. Two sections are compulsory and we encourage children to participate in as many as possible.

Firth Primary School Athletics

On Tuesday 17th November, we will be running our annual athletics day. Senior students will be competing in athletics at Matamata College commencing at 10.00 a.m. and Junior school students will be competing in athletic sports on our Firth Field, commencing at 10.30 am - 1.00 pm.

Teacher Only Day Info.

Monday 16th November is a teacher only day at Firth Primary School. Staff will be carrying out a day of professional learning and completing student progress and achievement reports. School is not open for instruction, students must stay home.

Turf project and out of bounds area.

The turf will be coming next week while we are at camp. The safety fencing contractors will be in school on Friday 6th November preparing the area for the laying of our turf on Monday 9th November. Please be aware that this area will be cordoned off and out of bounds for all our students, whanau and community while this work is being carried out. I can guarantee that a robust safety plan is in place to ensure that our students remain safe while the contractors install our long awaited turf.

Year 6 Camp

Next week our year 6 students will be attending camp. Thank you to those parents who have given up a week's annual leave to accompany our students. Camp would not be possible without you. Please ensure all campers are here at school by 8.30am on Monday 9 November. Mrs Johnson, Mrs Murray and Miss Ryan will also be going to camp. The rest of our staff and students will be here at school. We hope all of you who are going to camp, have a wonderful time. We look forward to hearing about the wonderful experiences that will be had by all.

Vision and Hearing Checks

Our Vision and Hearing Technician will be visiting our school next Monday 9th November approx.11a.m. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing defects. Which children are routinely checked?

- * Catch up screening for children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their
B4 School Check.
- * Children absent from previous visit require retests or follow up.
- * New Immigrants.

If there is a genuine concern, parents and teachers may request a vision or hearing check. NB parents must consent to this.

The Vision Hearing Technician will notify parents of all test results and enter results on MOE database (Enrol). If any parents/caregivers do not want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for a vision or hearing defect, they should let the school know.



Important Term Dates 2020

LAST DAY OF TERM 4 - Wednesday 16th December 1.00 pm

Year 6 Camp - **9th November - 13th November**

Turf being installed - 9th November - 13th November

Teacher Only day - Monday 16th November

School Athletics Sports - **Tuesday 17th November**

- Juniors 10.30am - 1.00pm
- Seniors 10.00 am - 2.50 pm

Corinthians Cup - **Tuesday 24th November** - 1.30 pm

Matamata Int. Open day **Tuesday 24th November** - year 6 only
9 am

Pet and flower show - **Friday 4th December**

Interschool Athletics - **Thursday 26th November**

Farewell for Mrs Malligan - **Friday 11th December**

End of year concert and prize giving - **Monday 14th 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. Firth Primary School Facebook page. We have a facebook page - please 'like' our page to keep up to date with what's happening.

Kia kaha, Nga mihi

Michelle Ryan

Principal