



PARNELL DISTRICT SCHOOL

Newsletter 1
31st January 2018

Kia Ora and welcome back for another action packed year at Parnell District School. It was great to see so many of our whanau joining us for goal setting conferences on Tuesday. If you missed out, there is still time to make an appointment to meet with your teacher on Thursday afternoon. You can see what times are available by logging on to schoolinterviews.co.nz using the code y686y.

You will notice some changes as you return to school for 2018. While we were proud when our October 2017 ERO visit identified *“The school is well placed to sustain its current good practices and continue to improve its performance. The board and school leaders have a strong focus on ensuring good outcomes for children. There is now a coordinated approach to educational development in the school”*, further changes are required as we continue our journey to ensure every child and family at Parnell District School have equitable access to high quality educational opportunities.

Some changes you’ll notice:

Re-organisation of our physical spaces

You will see that our physical placement of our classes has moved, where children are not segregated into specific areas, zones or year groups. You will see our children from year zero to three working in classes next door to each other in what was traditionally the Junior Block, along with three classes in the Leonard Block. Our students from year four to eight are also working in hubs where year levels work alongside each other. This structure provides an increase of formal and informal leadership opportunities for our phenomenal older students. This also addresses a 2018 charter goal of developing more cohesive practices between teams and ensuring that children build consistently on their learning as they move through the school. It is also informed by the Māori philosophy of ‘Tuakana Teina’, extending our existing practice of buddy classes while enhancing it with the reciprocal nature of the Tuakana Teina relationship.

New leadership team

As our year begins, Wendy and I are joined in the senior leadership team by Emma Williams and Dan George. Wendy Franklin-Smith continues her role in leading curriculum, assessment, and reporting. In addition to this, she supports the year four to six team. Emma Williams takes on the new role of student support, ensuring all students and teachers have the support required to excel in our learning environments. Emma also supports the year zero to three area of the school.

Dan George moves into the new role of operations, responsible for all of our many day to day events and risk management, as well as school wide events and sports for year zero to six. Dan will also support the year seven to eight team and help determine leadership opportunities for our senior students.

Improved facilities

Over the summer break, rooms one, two, and four were renovated, to ensure bright, modern learning environments for our students, funded by the Board of Trustees. In the coming months, further improvements include the installation of a new senior turf beginning construction at the end of February, new play equipment for both the Apex and the field being installed in early March. The senior turf, a full size futsal pitch and basketball hoops is funded by the Board of Trustees. Following the success of our junior turf, this new addition allows us to keep our full field and add an all-weather pitch so we increase our play spaces and PE throughout the year. Our enhanced play equipment on the field and the apex is funded through the hard work of our PTA in their 2017 and 2018 fundraising. The modernisation of the Junior Block' built in 1937 will begin in term two, a ministry funded project to enhance the learning environment of our classes.

New teachers joining the team

While Auckland is in the midst of a teacher shortage, Parnell District School welcomes six impressive new teachers to the team meaning we are fully staffed for the 2018 academic year. They are

- **Dan George**, Deputy Principal
- **Felicity Gamby**, year 0-1 teacher in room 4, and our learning leader for the year 0-3 team
- **Milleey Hall**, year 0-1 teacher in room 5
- **Louise Mann**, year 2-3 teacher in room 6
- **Lou Maguren**, year 0-1 teacher in room 12
- **Grace Hassell**, year 2-3 teacher in room 13

These teachers bring a range of expertise and knowledge to our school, and we are very happy to welcome them all to the team.

Our focus remains the same

Our focus at Parnell District School remains providing the highest quality learning programmes for our students to achieve accelerated learning for all students. We know it's our teachers working with the students they know so well that has the greatest impact on learning outcomes. We continue to ensure we have 4 days a week, 8 weeks a term minimum of uninterrupted learning time for our classes to explore our termly inquiries with their teacher.

We look forward to working together with our whanau to support our students in 2018. If you have questions about class programmes or what's happening at school, we encourage you to contact your class teacher for more information. Newsletters will resume being sent via email, the app and listed on our website fortnightly. Other notices and the links for Waipapa streaming will be sent via notifications on the school app.

Kind Regards

Richard George

Important dates coming up in the next two weeks:

Monday 5th February: Teacher only day (No school for students)

Tuesday 6th February: Waitangi day (No school for students)

Friday 9th February: Class information evening and picnic 5:30 – 7:00

(Y0-3 info session 5:30 – 6:00, Y7-8 info session 5:30 – 6:00, Y4-6 info session 6:00 – 6:30)

Monday 12th February: PAT testing begins for year 3-8 students (concludes Friday), Sister school from Cixi school visit

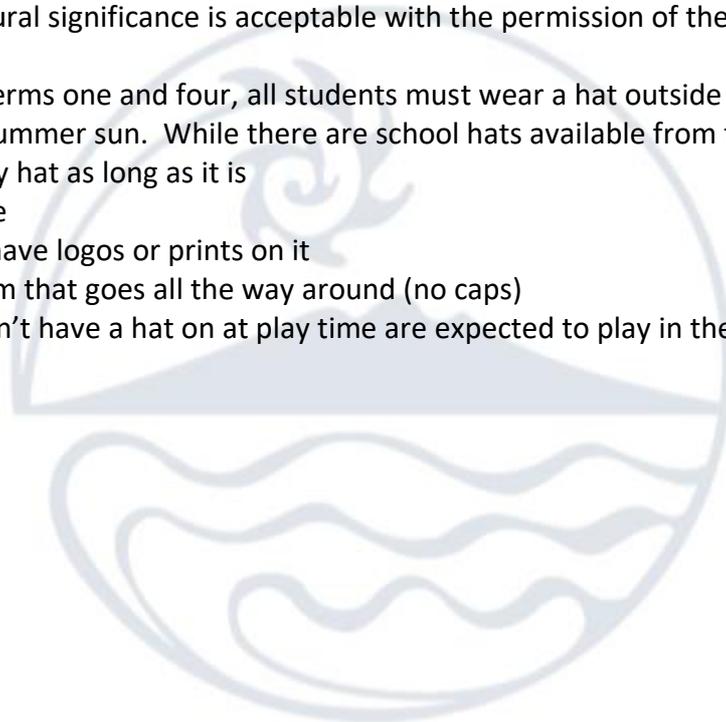
School uniform

It was great to see our students arriving back taking such pride in their uniforms. We do want to remind students and parents that children should not be wearing jewellery. It is acceptable to wear a watch, and a single stud earring in each ear if you choose. Any other jewellery of cultural significance is acceptable with the permission of the principal.

In the summer terms one and four, all students must wear a hat outside to help protect them from the summer sun. While there are school hats available from the uniform shop, you can wear any hat as long as it is

- Navy blue
- Doesn't have logos or prints on it
- Has a brim that goes all the way around (no caps)

Children who don't have a hat on at play time are expected to play in the shaded areas.



Parnell Trust will be running a School Holiday Programme on Monday the 5th February

Please contact Parnell Trust to enroll your child for the day.

This will be from 7:30am – 6:00pm at a flat rate of \$65.

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