

NEWSLETTER NO. 1 - 3rd February 2021

Nau mai haere mai, Greetings | Tena Koutou | Konnichiwa | Groete | Namaste | Talofa Lava | Malo e Lelei | Ni sa bula | Fakalofa lahi atu | Kia Orana | Asalam Alykum | Ni Hao |

Welcome to 2021 - we are excited here at Whakamarama to be starting the year with a student roll of 77 children and 4 classes. We welcome 13 new students today with more to come! Teachers have been working together over the summer break and have some exciting learning programmes planned for your children. The Term 1 themes of Citizenship, Responsibility and For Our Environment will be woven into most of what we do each day. Let's look forward to 2021 with renewed energy and enthusiasm for our learning adventures ahead.

Welcome

We welcome a new face to the staff of Whakamarama School. Ms Sarah Wallace will be teaching in the library; Room 4 (we will be working on new names for our classrooms across 2021 whānau 😊). Sarah brings 15 years of experience to Whakamārama School, and not only will she be an asset to the team, but we have no doubt that our Year 3 / 4 / 5 learners will thrive in having her as their teacher - how lucky are they!

" I believe in establishing learning focused relationships with students in an environment where they feel safe to take risks, follow their passions, and take ownership of their learning. Strong routines, high expectations, and positive behaviour management strategies are essential to empowering confident and independent learners who reach their potential."



We also welcome Ms Johnstone back to our senior class R1, from her year of maternity leave. Her little girl Eden has started daycare and is absolutely loving it. Ms Johnstone will be joined by Mrs Kenny who will teach in R1 on Thursdays and Fridays.

Acting Principal

Kia ora koutou from Vicki Knell - I will be covering the Principal position this term while Natasha is away on sabbatical. I will be in school Monday to Wednesday each week and look forward to getting to know your children and to meeting many of you over the next few weeks. Brenda Williams will be acting Principal Thursday and Friday but will still also be teaching so we ask that if you need to make contact please contact Vicki - email principal@whakamarama.school.nz or phone 027 2866416.

Meet and Greet Picnic dinner

Please put Wednesday 17th Feb 5-7pm in your calendar and come along to the school 'Meet and Greet' Picnic. This is a chance to meet the teachers and BOT members - to catch up with new and returning families and have some fun together. More information will be coming - watch this space.

School Improvement Package

Whakamārama School has been lucky to receive a one-off funding opportunity to accelerate property upgrade works. The board presented a project proposal to the Ministry for playground upgrades and this was accepted. This funding is a capital injection that will accelerate upgrade works at our school that would otherwise be deferred due to a lack of available funds.

'Growing a Positive Learning Attitude'

Project works currently taking place at Whakamārama School are:

- Construction of hexagonal seating around the cherry trees at the front of the school
- Construction of a new sandpit (larger 😊)
- Replacement of decking outside the staff room and on the entrance steps leading up to the office
- Reroofing of the 'spaceship' playground
- New retaining timber cappings (edging) around the 4 playgrounds located around the school
- Replacement of plywood or timber on playground structures in desperate need
- Installation of new outdoor carpet leading up to the administration block (ramp and steps)
- Installation of outdoor carpet under the pavillion so that this can be used as a break out space for our learners



Tree Trimming

It was great to bring in Cutting Edge at the end of 2020 to trim back overgrown trees around the hard courts, kindy fence line, garden shed and flax hedge of field.

Working Bee - Corrections

It is always a pleasure to have the team from corrections come into our school prior to school starting to support a general tidy up of our grounds.

Across the year we will call out for further help with invitations to working bees to ensure our learning environment looks attractive.

Rippa Rugby

We are looking at forming teams for the Omokoroa module at Western Ave Sports Grounds on Monday evenings. We will require parent support to manage and coach teams - please consider taking this on so that we can enter teams for the season.

School Information

The parent information page on the school website has been updated to include an A-Z of the information that parents / whānau are usually wishing to know. Take the time to have a read over in preparation for 2021. We are happy for you to let us know of any other information that you think may be relevant to our families and whānau.

Visit <https://www.whakamaramaschool.com/information-for-parents.html>

Dropping Off & Picking Up - School Parking

This year with growing student and staff numbers, to keep everyone safe, we ask that parents no longer use the staff car park. Parking is available at the Whakamārama Community Centre across the road.

'Growing a Positive Learning Attitude'

A bus bay is located outside the school for pick up and drop off only. If you choose to use the bus bay for pick up at the end of the day, please remain in your vehicle and the teacher on duty will direct your child / children to you for boarding. For student safety, we ask that you avoid using the kindergarten driveway / space next to the driveway as a drop off and pick up point for your child / children. A friendly reminder that the bus bay is for pick up and drop off only.

For student safety, we ask that you also avoid using the kindergarten driveway / space next to the driveway as a drop off and pick up point for your child / children.

Use the COVID app

In line with direction from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education we ask that all parents entering the school grounds or classrooms please be vigilant with using the COVID app. We have QR codes at the front gate, office entry and on classroom doors. If you do not have the app please sign in at the school office - we thank you for your support with this.

SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD

Please keep yourself up-to-date with the school newsboard that comes out fortnightly in the newsletter or the calendar on the homepage of the school website

Friday 29th January	TEACHER ONLY DAY
Wednesday 3rd February	2021 TERM 1 STARTS
Monday 8th February	Waitangi Day - School Closed
Tuesday 9th February	BoT Meeting 6pm
Thursday 11th February	Yr 7&8 Technology Classes - Please wear school shirt & covered shoes
Wednesday 17th February	Meet & Greet Picnic 5pm
Thursday 18th February	Yr 7&8 Technology Classes - Please wear school shirt & covered shoes
Thursday 25th February	Yr 7&8 Technology Classes - Please wear school shirt & covered shoes
Tuesday 2nd March	Small School Swimming Sports *P
Thursday 4th March	Yr 7&8 Technology Classes - Please wear school shirt & covered shoes
Wednesday 10th March	BoP Girls Cricket Rainbow Cup *P
Thursday 11th March	Yr 7&8 Technology Classes - Please wear school shirt & covered shoes
Friday 12th March	Bop Girls Cricket Rainbow Cup Postponement Day
Friday 12th March	Tall Poppies Swim Sports Yr 7 & 8
Friday 2nd April	Good Friday - School Closed
Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th April	Easter Monday & Tuesday - School Closed
Monday 12th April	HPV Vaccinations
Tuesday 13th April	BoP Zone Swimming Champs
Wednesday 14th April	WBoP Swimming Champs
Friday 16th April	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 3rd May	Term 2 Starts

*P Parent support required

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:

