

# FOXTON BEACH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## 22ND FEBRUARY 2023

Kia ora e te whānau.

Welcome to week 4 of term 1.

As I write this week's newsletter my thoughts (and I am sure everyone's) and aroha go out to the people of the East Coast, Tairāwhiti and the Hawkes Bay areas. The storms that ripped through these areas have left a trail of destruction that will take a number of years to get over.

It is especially difficult for me to see the town where I first taught, Te Karaka, destroyed in the middle of the night. This same township was severely damaged in Cyclone Bola in 1988 and it took years for them to get back on their feet.

We are going to work with our school leaders to carry out some fundraising so we can contribute to the appeal that is happening now. There are families that have lost absolutely everything and if we can support them in some way I feel it is our responsibility.

We have had a really strong start back this year. I have spent time in most hubs and they are working really well and the classrooms are all set up. The children are right into their learning focuses and our new students have settled in well to our school.

It was great to see how our teachers and students adjusted for Beach Education. The program changed quite a bit but our students took it in their stride and just went with it. A massive thank you to the parents who attended the day and helped with supervision. Obviously if we hadn't had a major storm we would have been in the water. My teachers would never put students in harm's way so thank you to parents who trusted us on the day with their children.

When we hold our senior swimming sports this term we are going to approach things a bit differently. Over the last few years we have seen a drop in swimming ability so what happens is children enter in one race, go to the swimming sports, do one race and then do nothing else for the rest of the day.

We have decided to trial taking down the children who are committed to swimming in an attempt to make it into a team that we take to the inter-school competition.

This is not a reflection on the teaching of swimming as I have always said that if you want children to be strong swimmers they need to be getting regular lessons or in a swimming club. When we swim at school we have 7 classes to get through so each class gets about 45 minutes in the pool. In that time they have to get changed and have lessons. Each lesson is normally less than 10 minutes. What we also find is that we have a lot of younger students who have never been in a pool and it takes 2 years for them to become confident enough to put their heads under the water.

Hamish Stuart  
Principal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

27th February	Tarānui Swimming Demonstrations, 2pm School Pool
28th February	Teacher Union meetings - <b>school closes at 12.30 pm</b>
1 March	Kotare Swimming Demonstrations, 2pm School Pool
2nd March	Senior Swimming Sports - Manawatu College Pool
3rd March	Teacher Only Day - <b>school closed</b>
6th March	Board Meeting 5.30 pm
8th March	Home & School Committee AGM 7pm, Staffroom

# Kōtare

Wow! What a start to 2023. We are in a new space and welcome a new teaching team member, Miss Saira Saussey who joins Ms V in the Kōtare space.

Team Kotare has a swimming display on Wednesday 1st March 2pm- 2.15pm. All whanau are welcome to join us at the school swimming pool. This will be weather dependent. Unfortunately there will be no postponement date for this. This will showcase some fun activities the children have been doing to build water confidence. Please keep an eye on Seesaw or Facebook for cancellation.

Please remember to keep packing the following each day....

- Water bottle
- Brainfood (fruit or vegetable)
- Book bags
- Togs and Towel in a bag.

The children go into the prize draw when they have everything they need each day.

Here are some photos of what we have been up to.....



# Tarānui

What a great first three weeks for the new Team Tāranui. It has been lovely to work with lots of eager students and meet their whanau as well.

We started our year talking about 'Filling Buckets' and how we can be a bucket filler or a bucket dipper. The students very clearly want to be bucket fillers, which is great!



Most students brought their togs everyday and have been able to cool off in the afternoons with a welcome swim. Next week on **Monday 27th February** we will be having our Swimming Display from 2 p.m. this is weather dependent. Unfortunately, there will be no postponement date for this.



Last week we took part in a Beach Education Day at the Foxton Beach Surf Life Saving Club. The students learnt about rips and how to manage them, where to swim on the beach, some ecology about our coast and first aid the lifeguards are trained to give.

We are also taking part in Cricket Skills over the next few weeks as well.

We ask that you remember to check your child's homework every week night and test their spelling and fill in their reading for the week. Homework is set to give them a chance to practice what we are doing in their literacy lessons.

# Kuaka

It's been a really busy few weeks getting set up in our new space, with our new team! It's been all go with some great learning opportunities already over the first few weeks. We've had Beach Education, and unfortunately we could only complete the theory part of this. However, there was lots to learn about being safe at the beach and marine ecology. It gave us an appreciation of all the marine life living around them, and what a special place we are based at.

We have started some cricket sessions with Horowhenua/Kapiti cricket providers, which are giving our kids a great chance to practice their cricket skills whilst having some fun.

In the classroom we're getting into our learning programmes and already seeing some great efforts put in by our tamariki. We have been working on some Treaty of Waitangi content, which is so important to learn about in an Aotearoa classroom. This week we are doing some start of year assessments which will help us, alongside our learners, to set some goals.



Please remember to keep sending togs! It might seem cold in the morning, but it heats up fast. We only get a limited amount of time in the school pool, so to have people missing out on this because they didn't bring

their togs is a real shame. We can't stress enough the importance of learning to swim, given our proximity to the beach. If for a medical reason your child can't swim, please write a note or send us a message.

To wrap up we just want to say how awesome the start of the year has been. We're seeing positive attitudes who are ready to get stuck into their learning, and we hope this will continue right through the year.

