



MAROMAKU SCHOOL NEWS



Play-based Learning

Our students have been discovering how to build strong structures and how to make play dough decorations. The tuakana-teina relationships have been fantastic in developing the children's confidence and helping them to take risks.



Welcome To Our New Principal

Tēnā koutou katoa
Ko Tangihua te Maunga
Ko Wairoa te Awa
Ko Te Parawhau te Hapu
Ko Ngati Ingarangi tōku Iwi
Ko Mangapai tōku Kainga noho
Ko Mark tōku hoa rangatira
Ko Grace rātou ko Abigail ko Miriam āku tamāhine
Ko Paula Ashcroft ahau
Nō Kemureti Ingarangi ahau
Tēnā koutou tēnā koutou tēnā koutou katoa

Hi, My name is Paula Ashcroft. I am very excited to be joining your community as Principal of Maromaku Primary school. I have 3 grown up daughters and have been married to my husband Mark, for 31 years. Education plays an important part of our lives right now. Two of my daughters are currently studying at university and my husband is also a Principal of a Primary School. As a family, we love to travel and explore. Our biggest adventure was moving to New Zealand 14 years ago.

I have worked at an area school for the last 9 years and enjoy the many aspects of being at a country school. I look forward to celebrating the uniqueness of a rural school, whilst also taking advantage of STEAM, technology and best teaching practices to enable our children to be lifelong learners. I look forward to promoting some of these activities, such as Calf Club Day, sports tournaments, camps and trips.

I love being an educator and leader, working with our future generations and helping them to be the best they can be. I believe that children flourish when they are happy and feel safe. I work hard to build a culture where children can thrive and whanau are involved in their child's education. I look forward to meeting you all over the next few months and working alongside the staff and community as I build on the great work that is already being done at Maromaku Primary School, and bring my own unique talents and skills.

A Word From Whaea Janet

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our first Term One newsletter. It has been a very busy start to the year as the two classes are building their routines and developing our school learning community.

Thank you to all the parents who gave us feedback in our survey at the end of last year. It is great to know that our community and our teachers are thinking along the same lines. Many of you will notice that we have made some significant changes including changing our spaces and enhancing our learning programmes. The teachers are super excited about our new programmes and we are looking forward to sharing these with you when we meet at our initial interviews for the year.

Covid-19 restrictions are still impacting on the school, so please, if you need to talk to the teachers, text us or email us so that we can arrange a time to meet. We ask all parents to keep an eye on your children and if they are showing any symptoms of Covid-19, please keep them at home and get them tested. If Covid-19 is diagnosed in your household, please keep your children at home. If your child has been diagnosed with Covid-19, make sure they have a negative test result before they return back to school. Thank you all for your assistance in keeping us all safe.

The school will not shut due to Covid-19 unless we are unable to run the school due to staff shortage. If we have an uncontrollable outbreak in our community, we will communicate with everyone and make a decision based on the information at the time.

During the holidays, teachers had a very worthwhile day in Auckland, learning about how we can integrate



our structured literacy programme into a play-based programme. We came away with lots of ideas and enthusiasm to deliver some exciting learning to our students.

This term, the students are learning about themselves and their communities by considering what makes our community great. They will be discovering how they can contribute to our school community and they are coming up with innovative ideas. Following on from this learning, they are also investigating animal and insect communities and comparing them to our own. We are planning a visit to the beach for 'Sea Week' when we will be looking at 'Communities in the Sea'. (See the information in this newsletter).

We look forward to creating a great little school community where everyone will be happy to learn and play. Thank you to parents and whanau for your support and encouragement.

Ka kite

Whaea Janet



Below: Kereru students are enjoying the muffins that they made.



Whaea Jenna's Update

Tena koutou katoa,

We are now well into the swing of Term 1 and what we hope will be a fun and challenging year to grow and learn together.

As you know, the juniors have moved to the old Room 3 space this year. We are really enjoying having such a light, bright room with more space to spread out and we are making the most of our covered shade area and deck for messy play times.

Thank you to all our wonderful parents, caregivers and whanau who have helped make this happen by moving old furniture in the holidays and helping set up the new class.

Along with the physical change of room is a fresh name for our class.

We wanted to come up with a new name for ourselves that reflected our new classroom and amazing junior learners. We chose 'Tui' because of the bird's special association with confidence and harmony, attributes we would like to foster this year in our class too.

Thank you also for all the support sending along items to school with your children. We've already had recycling, all sorts of boxes, birds nests, chrysalis, a pumpkin, a cat visit, tadpoles and more!

I really welcome sharing interesting bits and bobs from home, especially if it's something your child has been really captivated by, or something that relates to what we are learning in class. If you ever have something in mind that your child would like to share please contact me so I can plan how to incorporate this into our learning.

All of these items support a rich learning environment and are amazing for extending our tamariki's oral language, as inspiration for writing, STEAM inquiry and more.

We are also still on the lookout for more loose parts for outdoor play. If you or anyone you know has untreated wood planks, tyres, old wheelbarrows, trolleys, spades, rounds of wood or anything that can be moved and played with in lots of different ways we would gladly accept them. We are hoping to build up a great stock of lots of different parts that our children can use during playtime and lunchtime.

In order to communicate easily with you all I will be starting up a private Facebook page just for parents and caregivers. This will be different from our public page and have more information about what we are learning, activities coming up and will be a place to celebrate what your children are achieving. Look out for my invite this week and if you have any questions about this, please call or make a time to come and see me at school.

A bit of housekeeping...

- Please can you make sure your child has a drink bottle of water every day!
- Please support your child to bring their swimming togs everyday. We aim to swim every afternoon that it's warm for the rest of this term.
- We have an opportunity to eat a 'brainfood' snack in the morning after fitness and in the afternoon after swimming. Please could you pack an extra small, healthy snack if possible for this. (a packet of raisins, a small piece of fruit, cheese and crackers, nuts etc is ideal) 'Brainfood' is just a quick snack to keep our juniors' energy up in that gap before morning tea and home time and it makes a huge difference to their focus for learning!
- Tui tamariki are now bringing home a reader each night. If it works for your whanau, please support your child with their literacy by listening to them read aloud and helping them remember to bring their book and book bag to school every day. They will keep the week's collection of reading books in their book bag all week to encourage lots of reading mileage. Friday's reading will be in their Shared Reading book (a poem, song, instruction) to come back to school Monday please.
- We are having a big focus this term on learning ALL the letter names and SOUNDS, especially lower case/little letters. There will be incentives in class in the coming weeks to learn these 'off by heart'. I will send home a copy of the alphabet chart and blend chart we are using that could go on the fridge or wall so that your child has lots of exposure to these.

Thank you all for your support. Please let me know if there is anything you would like to discuss or if you have any questions about your child's learning.

Nga mihi,

Jenna



Swimming Pool

Our swimming pool is still available for families to use. We have had some issues with the pool turning green after the recent storms, but that has now been resolved. Please make sure the pool area is looked after and that the pool is being used safely. We will let you know when the pool will be closed and for families to return keys.



Class Names



Rimu Pod has changed their name to 'Tui' and Totara Pod has changed to 'Kereru'. Our community of learners looked at the characteristics of different native birds and decided which bird would best represent their class.

Whaea Janet's Family Wedding

Thank you to everyone who has sent kind wishes to our whanau on the occasion of my son's and daughter-in-law's wedding. It was a wonderful event for us all and we were thankful that we had a break in the weather. The students have been very keen to see photos so I am sharing a couple of photos for all to see.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Whaea Vicki and Freedom Ryder on their recent wedding which was held at Opononi on the 22nd February.



Public Health Nurses in Schools

The Public Health Nursing Team has been requested to support the Covid Response with a focus on vaccinating in our main centres to increase the number of Covid Boosters and initial vaccinations available. Unfortunately this means that we are unable to return to our usual work in schools as we had hoped for the start of Term 1. Due to the current threat of Omicron we cannot be confident in how long we will be needed in the Covid Response.

We are hopeful that we will be able to run the School Based Vaccination programmes for our Year 7 and 8s however this will, at best, be delayed.

If you have any health concerns for children in your school, please in the first instance make contact with the child's parent/guardian and refer them to their general practitioner (GP), or for more urgent concerns to the hospital.

- If you have care and protection concerns about a child, please call Oranga Tamariki on 0508 326 459 for advice and to discuss making a report of concern.
- For urgent enquiries regarding children with health concerns where you are unable to make contact with whānau or they are not engaging with their GP, please contact Claire Forrest, Clinical Nurse manager for the public health nursing team Claire.Forrest@northlanddhb.org.nz

Email Contacts for our School

Principal - principal@maromaku.school.nz

Whaea Janet - janet@maromaku.school.nz

Whaea Jenna - jenna@maromaku.school.nz

Whaea Kelly - office@maromaku.school.nz



Kelly's Office Hours

Kelly is working in the school office on Monday to Thursday from 9:00 am until 12am.



Important Dates

Community Helpers Meeting - 8 March 1:00pm

Permission Notices back to school - 9 March

Beach Trip - Friday 11 March

Parent / Teacher Interviews - 28 - 30 March

End of Term 1 - 14 April

Start of Term 2 - 2 May

Beach Trip to Ngahau Bay

We are planning a beach trip to Ngahau Bay (just past Teal Bay) for the whole school on Friday 11 March. We would like to do this trip as part of Sea Week and to let the children explore a beach community that has not been overly populated by humans. At this stage, the weather forecast is promising but if we have bad weather, we will postpone the trip until Tuesday 15 March.

Please complete the permission form attached and return it to school tomorrow. We cannot take children if we do not get your permission.

The children will need to take:

1. A substantial lunch and morning tea
2. Their swimming togs and a towel
3. A bucket and spade (if they have one)
4. A plastic bag
5. Their school sun hats
6. A sweatshirt
7. Sunblock (The school will also be taking this but if your child is sensitive to sunblock, it would pay for them to bring their own.)

Please note: There will be some restrictions and rules on the day to ensure the children's safety. Please discuss this with your children as it is important that they can follow the instructions and guidance from the teachers.

We would love to have some parent help to transport the children there and back and to support the teachers in supervising the children throughout the day. Covid -19 restrictions will apply, however, for parent helpers. There is a section of gravel road that we will need to travel over but this will only be for a few minutes. If you can help, please complete the attached form and return it to school tomorrow.



Ngahau Bay Beach Visit Permission Slip

(Please return this permission slip to school on Wednesday)

I give permission for my child _____ to attend the Beach Day with Maromaku School on Friday 11 March 2022.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ngahau Bay Beach Visit - Parent Helper Slip

(Please return this Parent Helper slip to school on Wednesday)

- I am able to provide transport to and from Ngahau Bay on Friday 11 March 2022 and I am willing to help supervise children.
- I have a current Drivers Licence Licence Number _____
- My car has a current warrant of fitness and it is currently registered.
- I have my Covid-19 Vaccine Pass

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____