



AWHITU

DISTRICT SCHOOL

Empowering students to care, adapt and succeed with PRIDE

31 January 2019

Welcome back to 2019

How quickly the time goes, it's February already, and school has started for another year!

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Mrs Megan Allen, as the new principal at Awhitu District School. I have lived on the peninsula for 21 years, with my husband John and three children. All of our children have left the nest and are living scattered around the country.

Awhitu School has started the year with close to 100 students, supported by five awesome teachers, including two new teachers:

Whaea Elaine Kauta'i	Yr 2/3 Teacher and DP
Miss Jessica Sweeney	NE/Yr1 Teacher
Whaea Sandy Newman	Yr 4/5 Teacher
Ms Sharon Scott	Yr 6/7 Teacher
Whaea Ariana Gordon-Glassford	Yr 7/8 Teacher

We are privileged again to have Mrs Nona King as the Office Manager, Lisa Pritchard as the Accounts Administrator/Teacher Aide, Tania Torpy returning as a Teacher Aide, Jacqui Waldegrave as the School Sports Coach and Lyn Smith keeping our resources in order.

Our grounds and buildings are being kept in great shape by Anau Kauta'i and everything is kept spic and span by our cleaner, Wanida Khiawsing.

This term will be busy as usual with Swimming Sports coming up, Goal Setting Conferences, and of course the annual Easter Auction preparations will begin. This year much of the school's focus will be on Wellbeing, the Environment and Sustainability. We live in a beautiful, unique part of Aotearoa, with a wealth of learning opportunities on our doorstep.

Mark on your calendars Wednesday 13th February from 5pm until 6.15pm for a "Welcome Back Picnic", and a Beach Buddy Day on Thursday 21st February. More information about these events will be sent home soon.

School elections will be held to elect the school leaders for our school on the 7th February and senior students will be invited to apply for positions as School Service Monitors.

From next Monday the 4th February, the school timetable will change, however the school start time of 8.30am and the finishing time of 2.30pm will not change. We are going to have 3 blocks before lunch and shorten the afternoon block to one hour. This gives more time in the morning when students are more receptive to learning. The new bell times will be:

Block 1	8.30am-9.45am
1 st snack break /play	9.45am-10am
Block 2	10am-11.15am
2 nd snack break /play	11.15am-11.30am
Block 3	11.30am-12.45pm
Lunch break	12.45pm-1.30pm
Block 4	1.30pm-2.30pm

Just a few reminders:

- Hats need to be worn when outside
- Please bring your swimming togs every day and name all clothing and swimming togs/towels
- Please remember that only pool key holders are allowed access to the pool out of school hours, and under 16 year olds must be supervised by an adult
- A stationery list should arrive home with this newsletter with the stationery requirements for your children
- Technology for Yr7/8's will start next Friday 8th February

Myself and all the team at Awhitu School, are looking forward to a great start to 2019.
Keep safe, and take care.

Ngā mihi nui,
Megan Allen
Principal

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