



KINGSGATE SCHOOL

To know, to love, to serve. Kia mohio, kia aroha, ki te mahi.

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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Topics Covered

- School Notices and Newsletters
 - School Community BBQ thankyou
 - Keeping it Christian
 - Teachers are your first point of contact
 - Creating a plan around a concern
 - Call for secondhand uniform
 - PPTA and NZEI Trike Action
 - NZEI Potential Strike Action
 - Sport in review
 - Protecting our students online
 - Tired students and their devices
 - Pukekohe Christian School Gala
 - Teacher Only Day Reminders
 - Appointment of Team Leads
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Dear parents, caregivers and whānau.

Apologies for the slightly delayed newsletter. The last two weeks have proved to be exceptionally busy for everyone at school. Through conversations I had with many of you at the school BBQ, it sounds like this sentiment is being reflected throughout most industries at the moment. However, I'd ask that you take a quiet moment to read through this newsletter to keep yourself updated with the goings-on at school.

School Notices and Newsletters

This is a reminder that all schoolwide notices can be found on our website under the "Newsletter and Notices" tab. Schoolwide newsletters will also be sent out on Skool Loop. If you don't have this app on your phone, we encourage you to download it today. A link to school newsletters will also be placed on our school's Facebook page. There are plenty of options for you to remain up-to-date with what is occurring at school.

School Community BBQ

A big thank you to everyone who made our BBQ a success. There are some great photos of the event on our Facebook page. We were blessed with fantastic weather, good food and the kids were very well entertained by the wonderful people at Youthown. An event like this is only as good as the people attending it, so again, thank you to everyone there!

Keeping it Christian

Before I mention this topic, I know you will hear my heart and understand where this is coming from. The topic is "gossip". From the start, I want to make it clear that I'm not saying this is occurring at all, period. Instead, at the start of the year, I want to remind you of the disastrous effect gossip can have on any school community, let alone a Christian community. My prior experience as an educator has been in the state sector. I have seen too many instances where gossip and innuendo permeated the school's parent body; each was considered a standard practice of carpark conversations. Again, I'm not suggesting for an instant anyone is engaging in this practice here; instead, I'm reminding everyone that we have built a Christian culture at KingsGate where gossip, innuendo and accusation have absolutely no place. They are all worldly spirits and derive from the same ungodly forces who would dearly love to see us fail and divide an outstanding school united in and by Christ, hence the title of this section, "Keeping it Christian". As Christians, we must live by the Fruit of the Spirit and continually let love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, and self-control direct our speech and actions. The staff and Board of Trustees are absolutely committed to ensuring this remains so, and just by sending your child to KingsGate, you are also committed to ensuring this occurs.

Teachers are your first point of contact

This is a friendly reminder that your child's whānau teacher is your first point of contact for **all** questions regarding **all** aspects of your child's education. As I'm sure you can understand, there is a process that we must follow to ensure that you, your child and their teacher get the outcome desired by all, but most importantly, the outcome best for the child.

Creating a plan around a concern

Nine times out of ten, when you have a concern about something your child is experiencing at school, simply **booking a time** to chat with their whānau teacher will result in an agreement on how to resolve the issue. However, at KingsGate School, teachers and parents can ask for a formal procedure to be applied to a situation if required. The procedure is aptly named "Procedure for Teacher and Parent Concerns or Complaints Regarding Student Behaviour and Wellbeing". You can find a copy of this on our school website under the "School Information" tab.

Call for Secondhand Uniform

If you have any old school uniform that doesn't fit your child any more and want to donate it back to the school, we would love to have it. With more families joining us, it's always nice to

keep initial joining costs down to a minimum; having secondhand uniform items available goes some way to make this happen. Thanks for your generosity in advance.

PPTA Strike Action

On Thursday, the 16th of March, teachers who belong to the PPTA (Post-primary Teacher's Association) will be striking. This action will only affect our Year 9 students. Parents of our Year 9 students have been sent an email regarding this. Educators never take strike action lightly, so if you would like to know why the PPTA have decided upon this as their course of action, I would encourage you to read the article at this [link](#).

NZEI Potential Strike Action

Teachers and Area School Principals who belong to the NZEI Union (New Zealand Educational Institute) are voting between the 4th and the 8th of this month to determine whether they will embark on strike action alongside their PPTA counterparts on the 16th of March. Although both unions share similar reasons for strike action, there are differences. If you'd like to read more about the NZEI position, please read the article at this [link](#). If NZEI members go on strike, the KingsGate Board of Trustees will communicate with the school community their plan for how the school will operate on the 16th of March.

Sport in review

We have been busy at school with Ella from Counties Manukau Cricket providing excellent introductory lessons to the sport with students from years one through eight. Our Year Nine students have been developing their Turbo Touch Rugby skills, and on Tuesday, we have our first KingsGate swim team going to the North Group Swim Meet. The common factor among the visiting specialists is that they have all mentioned how much of a pleasure it is to be with our students. It's because of how our students behave and interact with each other and the respect given to our visiting instructors. Long may this culture of kindness continue at KingsGate!

Protecting our students online

With our students in years 6 through 9 needing to access the internet more regularly than those in the years below them, we have moved to partner with **Linewize** to help ensure our students are as protected as they possibly can be. However, this is no indication that those in their junior years aren't protected. N4L (Network for Learning) still provides every child at KingsGate with an incredibly high level of security while working online or accessing the internet.

Tired students and their devices

We are becoming increasingly aware of a small group of students coming to school extremely tired because they are on their devices after midnight playing online games, watching video content, or communicating with friends. Tired students cannot learn anything easily; we've all experienced that at some stage in our lives. Parents and caregivers,

we ask, for the health and well-being of your child, please **ensure they are getting the sleep they need** so that they can function properly at school.

Pukekohe Christian School Gala

We are always happy to support other schools that are Kingdom building like ourselves. So if you want to have a great time at a school gala on the 25th of March, we recommend making your way to Pukekohe Christian School to enjoy a morning of fun activities, stalls, games, auctions, and much more!

Teacher-only day reminder

A notice about upcoming teacher-only days has already been published. This note is simply a reminder to ensure that you have marked the **24th of April as a teacher-only day** in your diary or calendar. No staff will be onsite that day, so you must make alternative care arrangements for your child. The 25th of April is ANZAC Day, so our first day back at school for term two will be Wednesday, the 26th of April.

For those new to KingsGate, please also note that the **6th of June** (the day after the King's Birthday long weekend) is our traditional teacher-only day. Again, no staff will be onsite that day, so you must make alternative care arrangements for your child.

Team Lead

As the school grows, we must ensure that we are future-proofing our leadership structures. With that thought in mind, we have appointed three teachers to the position of Team Lead in years one to eight. Each teacher will lead a LIFEspace. I would like to congratulate Mrs Pointon on becoming Pūriri's Team Lead, Mrs Hegan on becoming Tōtarā's Team Lead, and Mr Kim on becoming Kahikatea's Team Lead.

In the busyness of your own life, it's important to keep up-to-date with your child's life, so I appreciate and thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Continued Blessing in Christ to you all.

Noho ora mai

Jared Stein



KingsGate School Principal