



AWHITU DISTRICT SCHOOL



Empowering students to care, adapt and succeed with PRIDE

No 1: Wednesday 7th February 2024

School Phones: 092351005 or txt: 0275247338

Happy new year everyone. How quickly the time goes. It's February already, and school is back for another year! I hope everyone had a great holiday break and were able to enjoy time with friends, whanau and family. Our team here at Awhitu District School is feeling refreshed and ready to go for the 2024 year.

Over the holidays, the school has had some buildings painted, including the school pool changing rooms, the caretaker shed complex and the main classroom and office block. These now look smart and refreshed.

A big, warm welcome to our new students, Indy, Ryder, Alena, Nika and Annabelle and their families to Awhitu District School. We hope you will enjoy your time here.

2024 Teaching Staff

Megan Allen	Principal principal@awhиту.school.nz
Debra Torpey	Rm 1, Takahe (Yr 6 - 8) debrat@awhиту.school.nz
Jessica Sweeney	Rm 2, Mokomoko (Yr 6 - 8) jessicas@awhиту.school.nz
Jenny Williams	Rm 3, Honu (Yr 3) jennyw@awhиту.school.nz
Deby Andrews	Rm 4, Kiwi (Yr 0 - 2) debya@awhиту.school.nz
Elaine Kauta'i	Rm 6, Toroa (Yr 4/5) elainek@awhиту.school.nz

Mrs Sharde Dodd will be teaching one day per fortnight in Rm 4.

Support Staff

Nona King: Admin/Office Manager
Lisa Pritchard: Accounts Manager/Teacher-Aide
Tania Torpey: Teacher-Aide/ Librarian
Tilly Ter Beek: Teacher-Aide
Anau Kauta'i: Caretaker
Wanida Khiawsing: Cleaner

The Awhitu District School Board

Presiding Chair: Cheney McGlynn
Principal: Megan Allen
Staff Rep: Lisa Pritchard
Members: Kerry Torpey
Michael Oldfield
Leigh Maffey

There are many exciting things happening this year, starting with a visit to the Howick Historical Village for our Yr 1 - 5 students, on Tuesday 13th February. We will be having our annual "Welcome Back Picnic" on Thursday 15th February at 5.00pm - 6.00pm. Bring along a picnic dinner or takeaways, play some games and catch up with friends and teachers. Students will be designing a "Welcome Garden" at the main entrance to the school and there are Junior and Senior School Swimming Sports coming up too. More information on this will be coming home soon.

Kapa Haka will be continuing with Matua T, Wynn Goodwin will be providing Te Ao Maori sessions and Laura Torpey will be delivering science lessons "Little Labs" to all our tamariki through-out the year as well.

Parent Conferences: These will be held in Week 3, on Wednesday 21st February, 3pm - 7pm.

Hats: In Term 1 and 4, all students are required to wear hats when outside. If your child doesn't have one, they will stay on the deck in the shade during break times.

Technology classes at View road School for the Yr 7 & 8's begin next Friday, 16th February. Please read the letter sent home with your child today.

School Lunches: Available on Monday and Fridays only.

PIES - Steak&Cheese, Mince&Cheese, \$3.50
SAUSAGE ROLLS - Original OR Cheese \$3.50
GLUTEN FREE Pie - \$7.00
Mouse Trap - Spaghetti, Ham, Cheese \$2.00
Ham Salad Bun - \$4.50
Chicken Salad Bun - \$4.80
Large Cookie \$3.20
Small Cookie \$1.80
Snack Pack \$4.00
Fruit \$1.20
Yoghurt Pouch - Chocolate OR BERRIES-Strawberry etc. \$1.80

FRIDAY LUNCH ONLY - Fish & Chips \$5.00, Nuggets & Chips \$4.00, Hot Dog \$3.00, Hot Chips \$3.00, Lasagne Topper \$3.20, Chicken Burger - \$4.50.



If there is a change to the usual way your child goes home in the afternoon, please contact the school office before 2pm, by phone or text. Please do not email a notification of change after 1pm, as the email may not be read in time. If the school is not informed, the student will be sent home as normal.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school office by phone, txt or use the free school app. If we aren't notified of an absence, the student is marked as being truant by the Ministry of Education.

Our school app is : The Skool Loop App. It is important to download this to be kept informed of school information and events.

- The free school app you will love! Communicate immediately and effectively with your school smartphone app.
- Streamlines all of your school communications to your school community.
- send newsletters, instant messages, notices, school events etc to the school parents in one quick convenient, easy way!
- The Skool Loop App is fully functional and absolutely free to schools. Please make sure you turn the app on when you download it onto your phone.

School newsletters and notices are published on the school website and on the Skool Loop App every fortnight. A hard copy is not usually sent home, however a hard copy of this initial newsletter will be sent home with the eldest child of each school family. If you do require a hard copy all the time, please inform Nona. Copies are also available in the school office. Notices are also posted on the school Facebook page.

Thank you to everyone who has purchased their children's stationery so far this year. That's great and it allows teachers to get classroom programmes underway promptly. If you have any problems please contact your child's teacher.

If you need to contact the office, please phone Nona on 092351005, txt 0275247338 or email: admin@awhitu.school.nz Please inform the school of any changes to your emergency contact number, email address and home address.

The Supakidz and TOPZ programme run by Suzy Kirkaldy will begin after school on Monday 26th February.

Sue Coulston is the itinerant music teacher that comes to Awhitu District School every Monday morning. If you would like your child to have guitar, ukulele, singing lessons or music therapy, please phone her on 0210321081, or email: singularity.voice.coach@gmail.com Website: www.nzmsmcounties.co.nz These are private lessons and not funded by the school.

The new coalition government has banned students from using mobile phones at school. If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school, it **MUST** be handed into the office before school and collected after school. These phones must be kept in the student's bag when they travel on the school bus and are not to be used on the school bus.

The school timetable this year is as follows: School begins at 8.20am and finishes at 2.25pm. Please have your child/ren to school by 8.15am each morning, ready to start school at 8.20am.

Block 1: 8.20am - 10.00am
Morning Break: 10.00am - 10.20am
Block 2: 10.25am - 12.00pm
Lunch Break: Eating: 12.00pm - 12.15pm Play: 12.15pm - 12.55pm
Block 3: 1.00pm - 2.25pm

Dates to remember		
Week 2	Tuesday 13th February	Jnr trip to Howick Historic Village
Week 2	Thursday 15th February	Welcome Back Picnic 5.00pm - 6.00pm
Week 3	Wednesday 21st February	Parent Conferences
Week 4	Monday 26th February	Supakidz/Topz after school programmes begin
Week 4	Tuesday 27th February	Senior School Swimming Sports Day
Week 5	Thursday 7th March	Waiuku Group Day Swimming Competitions
Week 6	To Be Confirmed	Franklin Zone Swimming Competitions
Week 6	Tuesday 12th March	Junior School Swimming Sports Day
Week 8	Friday 29th March	Good Friday
Week 9/10	Monday 1st April and Tuesday 2nd April	Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday holidays
Week 10	Friday 12th April	End of Term 1
Week 1 (Term 2)	Monday 29th April	Term 2 Starts

Yr 7/8 Term 1 Technology Dates	Friday: 16/2/24, 1/3/24, 15/3/23, 12/4/24
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Nga mihi nui from the team at Awhitu District School