

February 3rd 2017

Welcome to 2017! It is wonderful to see our children back at school. They look happy and well rested from the holidays. We would like to welcome the following students to our school;

Katelynn Dalley, Caleb Richards, and Leah Gibson Room 1, Haedin Giles Room 2, Rawiri Keelan Room 4.

I would like to inform the parents and community of my resignation as principal of Elstow-Waihou School. I have won the position of principal of Kelvin Road School in Auckland and will be taking up my new position on the 2nd May 2017. The board are currently in the process of employing a new principal, a decision is expected to be made before the end of Term 1.

MEET THE TEACHER MEETINGS

This is an opportunity to meet the teacher of your child for 2017 and learn about how you can help your child be prepared, involved and succeed at school. Teachers will explain class routines, school, class expectations and standards of behaviour. Teachers will inform how they run their class reading, writing, mathematics and homework programmes and tips about how you can help at home. There will be an opportunity at the end of each meeting for you to ask questions about how you can best support your child's learning.

Parents are cordially invited to attend Meet the Teacher meetings held at the school on;

Tuesday 14th February (Rooms 1 and 2) at 3.15 pm in Room 2.

Wednesday 15th February (Rooms 3 and 4) at 3.15 pm in Room 4.

We really want to emphasise that we see our relationship with you and your child as a partnership of learning. Parent teacher interviews will be held in Term 2 rather than Term 1 this year. However, your child's portfolio will be available at the end of Term 1 for you and your child to get feedback about their standardised and non-standardised test results collected in Term 1.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome Rachel Smith (Teacher Aide) to Room 1. Mrs Smith is a welcome addition to our school to support the literacy, numeracy and all class activities in the Junior Room. The teachers, staff, board and I have great learning opportunities planned for your child's education this term. We are starting off the year with a Meet the Teacher afternoon for each class.

ELGREGO – YOU'VE GOT THE POWER SHOW

On the 10th March the children will be treated to a wonderful 'You've got the Power' show. This will be a fantastic show with a strong message of values and to how children can make good social choices. The show cost \$4 per student. Please pay at the school office by Friday 3rd March.

KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE PROGRAMME

Later on in the term Constable Brett Otto will be working with the staff and students to present the 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' program. This was a very successful program that we introduced to the school two years ago.

SWIMMING POOL

I would like to extend a warm thank you to Adrian Daines for looking after the school pool so well throughout the summer break.

SWIMMING / TRIATHLON / BIATHLON DATES

All swimming dates begin at 9.00 am whether held at school, in Te Aroha (Districts) or Thames (Thames Valley) competitions.

School swimming sports (held at school)..... 24th February

Districts swimming sports (held at Te Aroha College).....2nd March

Biathlon and Triathlon (held at the school) 11:00am.....3rd March

TV Swimming (held at Thames Centennial Pool)..... 14th March

TEACHER ONLY DAY – Thursday 13th April -

School will be closed for instruction, children are not to come to school.

Parents are reminded that there will be a teacher only day on the 13th April (Thursday just proceeding Good Friday – Easter). Our teachers will be working alongside all Te Aroha teachers to lift the literacy writing skills of our children in a day long workshop.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our Current Board members are: Louise Morris - Chair, Debbie Darby-Deputy Chair, Tania Horn - Secretary, Andrew Bell - Treasurer, Todd Nicholls - Property, Heather Tanner - Principal and Wendy Oliver - Teacher Representative. The first board meeting for the year will be held in the Endeavour on the 15th February starting at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend board meetings.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS – 2017 SCHOOL YEAR

ABSENTEEISM

The school must be notified of all student absences, either by note to the class teacher, by phoning the school office (07 – 884 5802) or emailing us at admin@elstow-waihou.school.nz. For safety purposes, if any child is absent and without notification Jocelyn will telephone shortly after 9.00 am. Under the 1989 Education Act *“Every Board shall, by any means it thinks appropriate, take all reasonable steps to ensure the attendance of students enrolled at its school or schools (or institution or institutions). (Section 31(3).”*

CAR PARK

At the end of each day unless travelling on the bus children are to wait in the bus shelter to be collected by their parents to then walk across the car park together. Please do not allow your child to walk/run to the car after school.

CONCERNS

Please refer to our Concerns and Complaints Policy. Please make initial contact with your classroom teacher and arrange a suitable time for discussion. If the issue is not resolved then make contact with the Principal.

CONCERNS and COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

In accordance with NAG 3, the Board of Trustee's has set in place the following procedures in regard to Personnel and Employer Responsibilities.

1. Concerns or complaints should in the first instance be discussed with the appropriate member of the school staff, by the complainant.
2. If a mutually satisfactory outcome cannot be reached then a formal meeting should be arranged with the Principal as soon as practical.
3. The Principal will attempt to resolve the issue after meeting with parties concerned. He/she will record the reason for the meeting and agreements reached in a timely manner.
4. The Principal will inform the Board Chair when parents have been contacted by the principal or a parent has contacted the principal to discuss a matter of concern.
5. If the issue remains unresolved it should be referred in writing to the Chair of the Board of Trustees for discussion at the next monthly meeting. If appropriate the Board will elect to go into committee before discussion commences. In exceptional circumstances an interim meeting may be called.
6. As a good employer the Board of Trustees will adhere to the relevant sections of the employees' Collective Employment Agreements when dealing with concerns and complaints.
7. The Board will review the issue, taking any external advice as may be appropriate, and will then provide a written final response.

Staff and/or Board of Trustees members may bring concerns in the first instance to the Principal and/or Board Chair. If the matters of concern involve a staff member s/he can access the services of the NZEI. If the matter is raised by a Board member s/he can access the services of STA.

At every stage of the process opportunities for preventing similar issues from arising in the future should be identified and, where appropriate and documented.

CYBER SAFETY

We would like to inform parents that last year senior children were using gmails other than their school gmail account. We were able to identify this breach with our Hapara system. Please ensure that your child uses their school gmail at home.

DIGITAL LEARNING (YEAR 5-8)

Because we have digital learning in the year 5-8 classes it is helpful if children have their own chromebook. We no longer have a stock of chromebooks for sale. Please see us for the correct chromebook specifications before purchasing for your child.

LATENESS

Please ensure that children are at school prior to the bell at 9.00 am, this allows time for your child to be ready for their learning and means that they are well informed with teacher instructions from the beginning of the day.

HEALTH REVIEW

After a Health and Safety review in 2016 parents will be contacted if your child has had a knock to the head from playground/class activities. This gives parents the opportunity to seek medical advice regarding your child's well-being.

HOMEWORK

All children will be expected to complete homework on a daily/weekly basis as per instruction from the class teachers. Classroom teachers will be responsible for setting and marking their student's homework programme.

MUSIC

Unfortunately this year Mrs Gregory is unable to continue with music lessons as she is completing her thesis in Mathematics. Mrs Gregory has spoken to a colleague who may be able to continue ukulele lessons from Term 2 onward. She has had difficulty in finding a suitable replacement for guitar and keyboard lessons. We will keep you posted when we know more details.

SUNSENSE

The school expects and encourages children to wear hats and sunscreen and eat lunch in the shade. During the hotter months, sporting activities are scheduled in the morning where possible. The school is fortunate to have well established trees and shade areas where children can play and eat. We encourage children to bring along their own sunscreen to reapply before/after swimming.

STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

As a school we believe that every child has the right to learn and feel safe at school. Teaching and learning should be a respectful, joyful and engaging experience. Every child has the right to learn and every child has the responsibility to ensure that the school and classes can operate in an orderly, disciplined and respectful way. The Elstow-Waihou Behaviour Management Plan clearly outlines behaviour expectations and consequences, please ask for a copy if you would like further clarification.

SWIMMING

Swimming is an essential part of the school curriculum. During the swimming season all children are expected to bring their togs to school every day and participate in group and class lessons. Should there be a reason for non-participation, please either phone or write a note to the teacher.

UNIFORM

Elstow-Waihou Uniform is compulsory for all children. The uniform consists of Maroon; polo shirt, long sleeve polar fleece sweatshirt, jacket and vest.

Students wear black; shorts, skirts, skorts, bike pants or pants – no jeans or chinos allowed. No logos or emblems. No patterns. Just plain black clothing is to be worn.

In the summer terms of 1 and 4 students are to wear a school hat. Winter footwear will consist of black, grey or white socks with black shoes or sports shoes. The school encourages students to wear a sports singlet for PE/Sports events. Hair ties and clips should be black or maroon.

The Uniform Shop is open between 8.30-9.00 am on Monday. Year 5-8 students are to have a change of clothes every day for fitness and PE. Jewellery, make-up and nail polish are not permitted at school. A slip will come home to remind parents what item of correct uniform is required by your child

MANUAL BUS

The Year 8 children start Manual this Tuesday. Please ensure that they are all prepared, wearing shoes and at school by 8:30 as the manual bus will be leaving from school earlier this year at 8:40am.

LUCKY BOOK CLUB

\$2 vouchers **can ONLY be redeemed on offer 1** – so make sure if you received some of these with your Christmas book order, you must use them on this latest offer #1. **ALSO important:** A chance for children to win 20 books for themselves and 50 for their school by ordering online on LOOP!! Be in to win.

YEAR 7 & 8 IMMUNISATION

All Year 7&8 children have been given an information sheet regarding upcoming immunisation programmes for Y7 Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough and Year 8 HPV (Human Papillomavirus). Consent forms will be sent home later in the term.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

TE AROHA SWIMMING CLUB will again be running Learn to swim Swim Safe lessons. The first assessment session is Monday February 13th at Te Aroha Primary School. Come along between 3.30-5.00pm to sign up and bring your swim suit. Lessons are for children 5 years and older who are water confident Lessons will run Monday to Friday for 2 weeks. Cost is \$50.00. For more information contact Tasha on 0276367619 or Steve on 0279116959.

PIAKO GYMNASTICS CLUB all classes start the week of 13th February. See our facebook page for timetable [piakogymnasticsclub](https://www.facebook.com/piakogymnasticsclub) Enquiries DEE 027-939-9983 piakogym@gmail.com

TE AROHA TENNIS CLUB Junior Tennis - Tennis coaching has resumed on Wednesday afternoon, from 3.30pm, at the tennis club courts. New members are welcome-\$30 for the term. Contact Clem Apted 884 4548 or Natalie Garcia 027 202 6548

WAIHOU RIDING FOR THE DISABLED FARMERS MARKET at the Waihou Tavern carpark on Sunday 12th February 9:30-1:30pm Food, Fun, Stalls, Bouncy Castle and more.

TE AROHA JUNIOR RUGBY AGM Wednesday 8 February, 7:30pm, in the GeoMetrix boardroom, 87 Whitaker Street. Anyone who would like to join the committee is most welcome to join us. Parents are also welcome to attend. Any queries can be directed to our Facebook page, or contact Andrew Gemmell (President) 027 486 6233 or Cassie Warburton (Secretary) 021 114 4002

	DATES TO REMEMBER
Feb 7th	First day of Manual Y7&8
8th	PTA AGM 7pm - Everyone welcome
14th	"Meet the teachers" Room 1 and 2
15th	"Meet the teachers" Room 3 and 4 BOT Meeting 7pm