



Manurewa West Primary School

School Newsletter
Number One
8th February 2019

www.manurewawest.school.nz

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Dear Parents/Caregivers
Tena koutou katoa
Nga mihi arohanui ki a koe me to whanau

2019
New Year
New Beginnings
Time for Change...

It is with great excitement that I write this first newsletter as Principal of Manurewa West Primary School. I am honoured and feel privileged to lead such a richly diverse school with an established legacy of high expectation. I have been involved in the field of education for more than 29 years and have worked across the Primary and Intermediate sector as a classroom teacher, with the last 10 years being in Senior Educational Leadership roles. I am excited and eager to continue to work with you as a partner in education, to build strong relationships with students, whanau/families, staff and our wonderful school community. As Principal, it is important to me that everyone who steps through our doors - students, staff, parents/whanau and visitors - feel welcome and a sense of belonging!

It has been a fantastic start to 2019, despite the very hot and humid weather which we are currently experiencing. A warm welcome back to all our students, staff and whanau/families and a very special welcome to new students, staff and whanau/families to Manurewa West Primary School.

It has been heartening to see the bright smiles and hear the cheerful greetings from both children and families/whanau over the last few days as they arrived back at school, quickly settling into new classrooms and back to school routine. I am also extremely grateful for our hard working staff and very pleased that despite the teacher shortage facing so many schools, Manurewa West Primary School is fully staffed. Not only are we fully staffed with highly skilled teaching staff, we have also employed additional teaching and support staff, to meet our strategic goal of raising student achievement for all students through integration and inclusion, a strong focus on culture and engagement, strengthening community engagement and partnerships and being future focussed in our school curriculum delivery.

"Te reo Māori is a language of Aotearoa, and we as educators, as people in our profession, need to make sure that we are doing our bit to keep it alive. It needs to start in our schools, all of our kids should be learning Māori. All our teachers should have some proficiency in Māori, and as scary as it is, we need to give it a go, because our kids deserve that this beautiful language is preserved for the future", - Janelle Riki-Waaka - "Nourishing Te Reo Māori in our schools". We are on this journey. In addition to increasing our Maori Bi-Cultural classes to 3 classes this year, all classes will be taught Te Reo once a week by a specialist Te Reo teacher. Our first Samoan Bi-Cultural class - Y5/6 has started this year as well.

We have lots of other new developments and exciting learning opportunities which will take shape during the course of the year. A very warm welcome to new staff: Amy Cunningham, teacher in Room 15 Year 3/4, Rachel Sayer teacher in Room 20 Year 3/4, Jessica Codling, teacher in Room 6 Year 1, Mariata Brooking, who will be teaching Te Reo across the school and assisting with classroom release in Rooms 23 and 24, Trent Rosewarne - PE and Sports Coach, Learning Assistants - Miimetua Apai, Rosemary Mata'afa, Rachel Thompson, Trent Walker, Kopano Simanu - Kiwi Can Leader and Rick Eastham - groundsman.

You will receive information and regular reminders about activities planned for the term and upcoming events and areas of focus in student learning.

Best wishes for 2019

School Hats

Once again we remind parents that Term 1 is a compulsory school hat term. Students not wearing a school hat will be restricted to playing in the designated shaded areas only. School hats can be purchased from the school office for \$15.00.

Upcoming Event - "Fun Meet the Parent/Teacher Evening"

Our annual school picnic dinner will be held on Wednesday 20th February at 5:30pm. This will be followed by cultural games and family activities at 6:00pm. Before the activities start we will meet at the fale where Mrs Naidoo, the Principal will welcome you, introduce the staff and direct the children to their teams and activities. Bring your picnic tea or fish and chips along with your children and join us for an evening of fun. We look forward to your participation.

Sun screen

All class teachers have been provided with a pump bottle of sunscreen the children can use at any time. Please encourage and show your children how to apply sun screen so they do so independently.

Hydrate!

Children are encouraged to carry their own drink bottle with water to have in class, so they stay hydrated throughout the day. **No fizzy drinks or sugary drinks at school, thank you.**



Clothing

Children are expected to wear light clothing to school this term due to the heat. No singlets to be worn, t-shirts and tops that give protection to the back of the neck and shoulders and sandals/jandals are highly recommended. We discourage children from wearing long pants and jeans. Footwear must be worn to and from school. Please label clothing with your child's name and check the lost property bin regularly for lost items of clothing/footwear.

Stationery

Thank you to families/whanau who have purchased the required stationery for your child/ren, it is very much appreciated that your child/ren are well organised and prepared for learning. For those children who haven't yet brought stationery to school, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible, so that you can get your learning in your work books underway.

Absences

If your child/ren are going to be away from school, please do one of the following **BEFORE 9:00am** each morning:

- call the school (266-8631), and leave a message on the answer phone
- use the Absence submission template on the MWPS School App
- send an email to admin@manurewawest.school.nz
- use the Absence submission form on the school website

Please clearly state your child/ren's name, Room number and reason why they are absent.

Late to School

If your child is late to school, please ensure that they report to the office immediately on arrival to sign in and collect a late card to give to their teacher. These are issued at the office window, entry is through the side door to the left of the main entrance.

First Aid Workshop

As part of the Manurewa West Primary School Health and PE curriculum, all students take part in a First Aid workshop. This week we had Sue from St John come in and run two different workshops, 'Emergency Smart' for our year 1 & 2 students, and 'Prevention Ready' for our year 3/4 students, learning basic first aid and how to keep themselves safe. Over the next few weeks, our Year 5/6 students will become qualified 'people savers' in a full First Aid course run by the Red Cross. These workshops equip our students with the skills they need to keep themselves and their family safe in an emergency. We would like to thank St John and the Red Cross for their very valuable time!

SCHOOL WEBSITE/APP

Don't forget to subscribe to our official School App which can be downloaded free on any smart phone/ tablet. This App takes you to the school website where you can have easy access to:

- ◆ Report absences
- ◆ Update personal information e.g. change of phone number/address.
- ◆ View Notifications from school e.g. trips/school closures/school events/school newsletter.

"Education breeds confidence; confidence breeds hope; hope breeds peace" - Confucius.

Nga Mihi Nui

Kogie Naidoo
Principal