

# Welcome back to school!



Photo taken by Leanne Roughton

Welcome to our 15 new students and 2 staff members who have joined our school community today. Eight children are from families new to our school and 5 children are from families returning to the community. Four children are five year olds who are starting school. A big welcome to you all, we are looking forward to a great year of learning. Our school roll to start the year is 155.

### **Pōwhiri – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone to a pōwhiri on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 9:00AM. Children in Discovery Three (Rooms 6 and 7) are invited to provide some kai as part of this welcoming ceremony. Providing food to guests demonstrates a hospitality (manaakitanga) and mana. A school and the people within it can be given mana by others, and we will be holding mana as a group, as a school. When new whānau are welcomed with a pōwhiri, and are well looked after and given great food, those new families will feel the thoughts, efforts and love in the food.

### **School Picnic Tea – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

We would also like to invite the community to a picnic tea at school on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 5:30PM. This picnic time will provide an opportunity for everyone to mix informally and get to know each other better. Please bring your own food, plates, etc. Our senior students will be taking a lead role in welcoming people as they arrive, introducing new families to others and organising some games for anyone who would like to get active!!

### **2016 Learning Spaces**

As many of you would have found out on arrival this morning, we have changed some classroom locations and renamed learning spaces in preparation for classroom modernisation work scheduled to start in March. As you will hopefully know, this year the board will be completing the modernisation of 6 classrooms – Junior Classrooms 1 to 4 from March to July and Senior Classrooms 7 and 8 from July to September. The BoT and teachers have been preparing for these exciting changes to the physical environment and teaching practices over the last 3 years.

The ‘classroom’ changes we have made to start the year are:

**Discovery One** consists of two learning spaces for the Years 1 and 2, in the multi-purpose room and Room 1.

**Discovery Two** consists of one large learning space for the Years 3 and 4, in the hall

**Discovery Three** consists of three learning spaces for the Years 5 and 6, in Rooms 6, 7 and 8.

**Discovery Four** consists of one learning space for the Years 7 and 8, in Room 8.

The two teachers in each of the Discovery One, Two and Three spaces will be working closely together with both planning and teaching. The children in each of these spaces will become accustomed to working together in different group arrangements and with either teacher. To help with this transition, we have grouped and assigned half of the children in each space to a ‘home’ teacher. This means that children and families wanting to make a ‘first point of contact’ will know which teacher to go to first. The teachers are very happy to answer any questions you may have about how we are working together and how we will ensure every child’s learning needs are being addressed. You are welcome to meet with me as well.

The Board approved the purchase of new furniture for the juniors, including new tables, chairs and stools, a couple of ottomans and some cookie pads (small round cushions covered in vinyl). This furniture will be arriving within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

### **2016 Staff**

This year we are pleased to welcome two new staff members – Victoria Cooper who will be teaching in Discovery Two and Anne Williams who is replacing Tina in the Office.

Principal:	Rachel Allan
Deputy Principal:	Bernard Butler
Discovery One Teachers (Years 1 and 2):	Lisa Wheeler and Catherine Lynagh
Discovery Two Teachers (Years 3 and 4):	Victoria Cooper and Bernard Butler (senior teacher, Discovery 1 and 2)
Discovery Three Teachers (Years 5 and 6):	Oli Ryks and Bev Turilli (senior teacher, Discovery 3 and 4)
Discovery Four Teacher (Years 7 and 8):	Lee Clarkson (senior teacher, lead teacher of school-wide action research project in Growth Mindset)
Y7/8 technology and CRT (classroom release teacher) for Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4:	Carol Carlson
Reading Recovery teacher:	Sally Poole
Office Administrator:	Tina Beckley (until Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February)
Office Administrator:	Anne Williams
Teacher Aide:	Rachel El Kamraoui
Caretaker:	Basil Turnbull

Please check out our website to find out more information about the staff, and of course a lot more about the school... [www.teuku.school.nz](http://www.teuku.school.nz)

### **School Newsletters**

The weekly newsletter is usually issued on a Thursday. Please let Anne ([office@teuku.school.nz](mailto:office@teuku.school.nz)) know if you would prefer to receive yours via email if you are not already on the email tree. The newsletter can also be accessed from our website ([www.teuku.school.nz](http://www.teuku.school.nz)).

### **Swimming Coaching:**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2Focus swimming coaches will be back to work in our school. Next week they will provide 5 lessons to the senior students (Discovery Three and Four); on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February they will work with the junior students (Discovery One and Two). The cost for the five lessons is: \$20.00 for first child, \$15.00 for second child and \$10.00 for third + child. Many thanks to the fundraising committee for subsidising swimming coaching.

### **School Triathlon**

We plan on running a triathlon at school again this year. It will be held later in February; more details will be sent out in next week's newsletter. Children can complete the cycling, swimming and running as individuals or in a team of three.

### **Education Outside the Classroom Programme**

Teachers will send home information and requests for help as required.

#### **TERM ONE:**

Discovery Four (Years 7 and 8): Waiotapu Forest School Camp – 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March

Discovery Two (Years 3 and 4): overnight camping at school – 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March

Discovery One (Years 1 and 2): day trip, yet to be confirmed – Term 1

#### **TERM TWO:**

Discovery Three (Years 5 and 6): Te Kauri Lodge – 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May (two classes can be accommodated in dorms)

### **Social Workers in Schools Service (SWiS)**

SWiS is a service provided at Te Uku School by Family Works Northern. The aim of SWiS is to provide support to children and their families/whānau before problems at home or school become more serious and difficult to overcome. SWiS can be accessed by anyone who has an interest in the welfare of a child at the school and can be contacted via the school office or our social worker Briony Kirk on 027-2494197. Briony is based at our school for two days per week.

### **School Closed**

The school will be closed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February; this is a public holiday due to Waitangi Day falling on a Saturday (6<sup>th</sup> February).

Nga mihi ki a koutou, **Rachel Allan**

### **Forthcoming Events**

Pōwhiri to welcome new families – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 9:00AM

School Assembly – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 9:15AM. Families are very welcome to attend school assemblies.

School Picnic Tea – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February

School Triathlon – date to be decided

Discovery Two camping at school – 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March

Discovery Four Camp – 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March