



## NEWSLETTER

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## Newsletter 1

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019



## Important Dates

6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Waitangi Day – NO SCHOOL
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parent-Teacher- Child interviews
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Maidstone Park Walk and Sleepover
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Board of Trustees Meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Bike the Trail – Community event.



## From the Principal

### Kia ora and Welcome back

I would like to start this newsletter by welcoming everyone in our school community back to the Fraser Family for the start of the 2019 school year. It was wonderful to see lots of parents and whanau come along on the first day to support their children and find out the classroom placements for the year.

### Big Changes – The HUB

There are a few big changes that are occurring at school this year. One of these changes is the establishment of the Hub. This is a multifaceted space which will provide upwards of a dozen different programmes and supports for children. The Hub is located in the old year 3 room, as it provides a double sized classroom space. The Hub will be staffed fulltime and will offer our students the following:

- Breakfast Club opening from 8:00am.
- Check'n'Connect service to support students starting school in the morning.
- Calm Space for children to chill out and refocus in.
- A library.
- Early Words programme to support junior literacy.
- Social Skills sessions for targeted students.
- Gifted and Talented programmes offering various extension programmes to students.
- Independent work space for children who like a quiet place to work
- Lunchtime Hub where children can read books, play board games etc.
- As well as a number of other functions.

Teacher aides Louisa Parker, Kirsten Bray and Mary Watene will run the Hub, with Deputy Principal Phillipa Whiteman and myself (John Channer) often frequenting the space. We believe that the Hub will become a real asset to our school and support all of our children in lots of different ways.

### Big Changes – Our School Curriculum

Another really big change that will be gathering momentum over the year is our school curriculum. Our curriculum has been an ongoing development with a lot of work put into it in 2018, based on some community feedback, latest research, consultation with staff and engaging some expert consultants. At this stage our curriculum is underpinned by five draft foundational principles, which will guide almost everything that we do at Fraser Crescent School. There is a little more work required to 'tidy up' these principles, before we share and consult on them with our school community. You can expect to see further information about our exciting new curriculum a little later in the term.

### Big Changes – Positive Behaviour

One of the other big changes we are making as a school is getting involved in the Positive Behaviour For Learning programme, also known as PB4L. This is a school-wide framework which will help our school better support students to make positive choices to support their learning. Our involvement in this programme has also led to us reviewing a number of our school rules. Please see the following page for further information.

## School Rules and Expectations – The basics

At Fraser Crescent School we aren't big on having lots of rules and really encourage students to think about their own actions. In saying this, the list below covers a number of things which help to make our school a better and safer place for everyone. Please take the time to have a read of the following:

- **Classrooms** open for students at 8:30am in the morning. The Hub will be open from 8:00am as a quiet place, and will also host our Breakfast Club.
- **The Bell** rings at 8:55am which signals the start of the school day.
- **No Play Fighting** as this often gets taken too far.
- **No Toys** at school. These often get lost and broken and are often a huge distraction for students.
- **Bikes, Scooters and anything else with wheels** are to be used on the netball court only.
- **Lunchtime** – children are to stay outside and out of the corridors. Children can use the Hub to read books and play board games etc.
- **Water First** – this means that we are promoting children to drink water, as opposed to other drinks such as fizzy, or sweetened drinks. We have also changed the drink options for our lunch orders to reflect this.

## School Assemblies

Towards the end of last year we changed the way in which we were doing our assemblies. We want them to be fun and exciting, celebrating getting together, and reflective of our curriculum principles, not simply a 'certificate-fest'. As part of this change, students receiving their first Fraser Award will receive this in their hub or syndicate. When we do have assemblies, these will be advertised in advance, and hopefully something that the children will really remember.

## Walk and Sleepover – Save the date – 15<sup>th</sup> February

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February we will be having our annual Maidstone Park walk and sleepover at school. More information about this event will be sent home early next week, but basically the whole school goes for a walk to Maidstone Park and walk the track, then play at the park for a while. Once we get back to school in the afternoon, we pitch tents on the field, play games, swim in the pool, have tea, and sleep over on the field. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to start their camping experience at school. **Our younger students may require a parent to join them and stay over in their tent, and, as the children get older, it is a great way to experience being away from home for a night. We have found that children who attend the sleepover every year, are more comfortable heading away on our camps in years 4/5/6.** We do have some spare tents, sleeping bags etc, so be sure to let us know if you need anything.



## Clubs At Fraser Crescent School for 2019

*At Fraser Crescent School we offer the children a wide range of Clubs in which they can participate. These are a great way to explore new interests, meet other children and work with different teachers. Parents are welcome to come along and help out too, just ask the teacher in charge. There are no age restrictions for the Clubs, however we ask that parents monitor younger students, so they don't become too tired with so much going on. I want to thank the teaching staff for their commitment to these clubs.*

### **Art Attack – Tuesday Morning – 7:45am**

*Janine Bullard is running a before school art group called Art Attack on Tuesday mornings. This club will be held in Room 6. Children need to come via the Room 6 outside door, as the school buildings don't open until 8:30am.*

### **Eco Club – Tuesday Lunchtime**

*This lunchtime club will be run by Claire Hodge and Michelle Picard. It is an environmental club which will include a wide range of activities focussed on sustainability, gardening, etc.*

### **Coding Club – Wednesday Lunchtime**

*Claire Hodge will be running a lunchtime Coding Club for students keen to learn to code and get creative. Coding Club will be held in Room 8.*

### **Active Adventurers – Fitness Club on Friday – 7:45am**

*Active Adventurers will be running on Friday mornings starting at 7:45am each week. Children in the Active Adventurers Club play lots of high energy games, aimed at developing both fitness and general sporting skills. Please ensure that your child has had an appropriate breakfast before they attend. **Parents and caregivers are most welcome to come along and join in the fun.** The children may finish off their session with a swim in the school pool during Term 1. We usually meet on the field if fine and in the hall if wet. Active Adventurer Club trips will occur throughout the year to reward the attendance and perseverance of our students, parents & teachers. Robyn Stent, Callum Nicol and John Channer are running this club.*

### **Breakfast Club – 8:00am onwards – Everyday in the Hub**

Our Hub will be open every day from 8:00am. Children are welcome to stop by for some breakfast, or may just want to read a book or play a game. Access to the Hub is via the Hub outside doors only.

Occasionally our Clubs are cancelled, usually if the teacher running the Club is away from school. It is highly recommended that parents follow our school on Facebook, as this is the best means for us to inform every one of cancellations at short notice.



### **2019 Aquatics Programme**

The school pool is now open for our aquatics programme. The focus of this programme is to ensure that every primary school student has access to quality **swim and survive education** at school. The aim is to develop students' swimming, water safety, survival and beach safety skills, and to foster safer participation in a range of aquatic environments. We need our parents, caregivers and whānau to ensure that children come to school with their togs and a towel each day. We often open the pool at lunchtimes, so children may wish to bring their togs on days when they don't have a scheduled class swimming time.

### **Peanut Free School Reminder**

Due to a number of children at school with severe peanut allergies (potentially life-threatening), we ask that you **DO NOT GIVE** your children peanut products in their school lunches. Peanut butter and peanuts are obvious ones to avoid. We do allow products such as muesli bars, which are labelled 'may contain traces of nuts'.

### **School Stationery**

2019 Stationery lists have been sent home. Thank you to the parents/caregivers who have arranged the purchase of their child/children's stationery already. If you have yet to purchase your child's stationery, can you please do so promptly as all our classes have started their learning programmes. Stationery can be purchased through the school office; alternatively, you can purchase it elsewhere.

### **Reminder about bell times and the school driveway**

Please remember that school starts at 8:55am each morning. Children need to be here prior to this time. Morning tea is from 10:35am – 11:00am and lunchtime is from 1:00pm -1:50pm. The school entry on Redwood Street is closed each day between 8:30am - 9:00am and 2:45pm -3:15pm. This means that vehicles may not travel up or down the driveway at these times as we are working together to keep all our children safe (**the driveway will be blocked**)

### **Sun Smart Fraser - Sun Safety – Slip! Slop! Slap! And Wrap!**

We aim to be a Sun Safe School and ask that students have a sunhat at school during Term 1 & 4 each year. All children need to wear a hat in the playground at interval, lunchtime, during class PE lessons and Senior and Junior Hub sport times. Any children who don't have a hat at school will spend their play and lunchtime in the shade, under the sun shelter or in the Hub. **Please ensure that your child brings a hat to school every day or keeps one in their tote tray or bag.** We also recommend children come to school with sun block on, and even bring some to school. Some children (often girls) wear singlet tops which provide very little protection from the sun. Parents and caregivers please consider the clothing that your child is wearing to school in the first and fourth terms.

### **Consent for School Trips**

It is worthwhile noting that our Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) policy allows the school to take students on some trips without signed parental permission. Trips with minimal safety concerns usually require that the school only 'advises' parents and caregivers about the trip, rather than seeking permission. Please be aware of this in terms of checking the newsletter, SignMee or schoolbags for trip notices, etc. If you have any questions about this 'blanket consent' please don't hesitate to contact me.

### **Lost and Found – name all clothing and belongings**

Please make sure that you name all of your child's clothing and belongings such as shoes, lunchboxes, undies, togs towels etc. We will keep unnamed lost property at school for 2 weeks before donating it to charity.

### **Contact Details**

We have many occasions during the year where we need to be able to contact parents and caregivers. Can you please take a moment (phone, email or call in at the office) to check that we have your correct contact details, including home phone, mobile phone, postal address and email address?

### **Fraser Crescent School on Facebook**

We find that the use of social media is a great way to keep our community informed about things that are going on at school. It is really helpful for last minute things like cancellations and the like. We highly recommend that you follow the school on Facebook, especially if your child participates in any of our before or after school clubs.

### **SignMee**

Have you signed up for SignMee yet? This is how we will keep in touch with you this year, we will be sending out most of our school notices via SignMee so it is important you sign up! A paper copy of the sign up form has been sent out to all families today. If you need another form please ask at the office.



### **Fraser Crescent School – Home and School Fundraising Group.**

Our Home and School Association do an amazing fundraising job. This allows us to do some awesome things for all the children at Fraser Crescent School. **We need more members to help out.** It is not a big commitment. We meet once a month (usually the first Wednesday) to discuss and plan fundraising ideas and run a few events throughout the year. It's a great way to meet other parents within the school and to give back to your child's school. Over the years our Home and School have helped fund trips and buses, entertainers, sports gear, uniforms, outdoor education equipment and iPads to name a few of the projects they have supported. Keep an eye out for information about our first meeting.

Ngā mihi nui,  
John Channer  
Next Newsletter 15<sup>th</sup> February