



Ellerslie School

EST 1877

"To be the best we can be."



Greetings | Giday | Kia Ora | Kia Orana | Malo e Lelei | Fakaalofa Lahi Atu | Talofa Lava
Nīhāo | Salut | Namaste | Bonjour | Bula Vinaka | Guten Tag | Goeie Dag | Shalom | Cào
おはよう (Ohayoou) | 안녕 Ahn Nyeong | Olá | Privet! | Xin Chào | Salam

Newsletter 2 | Term One | Week 4 | February 22, 2024 | www.ellerslie.school.nz | www.facebook.com/ellerslieschool

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Tena koutou katoa Ellerslie whānau

The school term is now well under way after a couple of short weeks with the atmosphere and culture around the school full of positivity and progress. Much has been happening both inside and outside the learning environments as the teaching and learning programmes have moved into top gear. It has been great to see a number of students going to swimming lessons each day as well as engaging in learning activities in their pods and outside. Next week the second stage of the all weather courts will be open and ready for the students to use.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to the large numbers of parents and caregivers who attended the important 'Meet the Teacher' evening last week. I hope you left feeling informed about what will be happening in your child(ren)'s learning environment in 2024.

The key messages from the school last week were:

- Attendance - the importance of children attending school everyday - our goal is to have 95% average weekly attendance in 2024.
- Fundamental skills - we will continue to implement Structured Literacy and the Code spelling programme in 2024.
- Sport and Mental Health - growing our sport and fitness programme and also ensuring everyone can access all the opportunities on offer.
- Engagement - a reminder to take up all the opportunities to engage with the school during the year as well as join the Ellerslie School Volunteer Hub.
- Communication - the school will continue to improve the flow of communication to cater better for our diverse and busy community.



Board of Ellerslie School

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ruth Goldwater who has become a selected parent representative on the Board due to a recent vacancy. Originally from Scotland, Ruth has lived in Ellerslie for 12 years and has 2 daughters at Ellerslie School. Her financial services career spans 20 years across banking, wealth management, general insurance and life insurance, in both the UK and New Zealand. Ruth is passionate about strategic planning, strategy execution and leading transformational change and is currently on the Executive Team at Fidelity Life, previously as the Chief Operating Officer and currently as the Chief Information Officer. Ruth is also a passionate volunteer with Springboard Trust, acting as a mentor to school principals undertaking the Strategic Leadership programme, supporting them to develop their school vision and 3 year strategic roadmap. Last year Ruth helped Ellerslie develop its new strategic plan.



The Board for 2024: Dipak Govind (Presiding Member), Shelley Bardsley (Staff Trustee), Nick Butler (Principal), Steph Bond, Corrina Gibbons-Hurinui, James Dench, Lou Dennis, Ruth Goldwater.

School Expectations

We would like the community to be aware of the school expectations which are reviewed and published every year. These are a set of guidelines that are designed to help to keep the school operating effectively and help ensure the students are safe and enjoy their time at school. The expectations outline the behaviours and positive citizenship expected from all students at Ellerslie School. The expectations cover themes such as before and after school expectations, mobile phones, uniforms, school attendance, school boundaries, property, use of devices and food and drink. Students and staff are aware of these expectations. The School Expectations can be read [here](#).

Walking School Bus

Thank you to everyone who came along to the re-launch of the Ellerslie School Walking School Bus on Friday. We had a number of new students sign up, along with new whanau volunteers. Leaving from the Ellerslie Village fountain at 8:30am on Mondays and Wednesdays, and from Abbotts Way every day, we welcome new families to join us. It's a fantastic way to get some early morning exercise, make friends, and not have to find a carpark near school! Students can be dropped off from 8:15am. Please contact sarahn@ellerslie.school.nz to sign up.



Pick up and Drop off

Thank you to the large majority of parents and caregivers who regularly respect our neighbours by parking, legally, at drop off and pick up times. There are a number of ways to make the drop off and pick up process work successfully for everyone.

- Walk to and from school - this could include using the walking school bus service from the village fountain
- Walk your children to the over bridge in the morning and meet them back there after 2:45pm.
- Park in the Ellerslie village and walk to school.
- Use the back school gate on Main Highway before and after school.
- Use the 2 minute drop zone before and after school - (*please remember you are not allowed to leave your car, the travelwise team will be there in the morning to assist.*).
- Pick up after 2:45pm but before 3:00pm.

PLEASE AVOID

- PARKING IN THE NEIGHBOURING BUSINESS' CAR PARKS
- PARKING OVER DRIVEWAYS
- WALKING CHILDREN ACROSS KALMIA ST -WITHOUT USING THE CROSSING
- STOPPING IN THE MIDDLE OF KALMIA ST TO PICK UP CHILDREN

Many thanks for your cooperation and support. It helps keep all the students safe, as well as maintains a positive and working relationship with our neighbours.

See you all at the School BIG Picnic - Thursday 7 March from 5:00pm.

Ngā mihi nui

Nick Butler - Principal

'To be the best we can be'



THIS WEEK AT ELLERSLIE SCHOOL

SCHOOL FOCUS

School Focus for Week 4: Be Kind - I can show a caring attitude.

School Focus for Week 5: Teacher's Choice related to the 5Bs.

School Focus for Week 6: Be Helpful - I give support to others.

SENIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS - TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY

On Tuesday 27 February, students in Years 5-8 can take part in the Ellerslie School Swimming Sports held at Sacred Heart College Aquatic Centre. This event is open to Year 5-8 students who can swim at least 25 metres without assistance (this is the length of a full-sized public swimming pool). Parents and whānau are welcome to attend and support this event and volunteers are also needed. If you are able to assist, please contact office@ellerslie.school.nz.



NEW PARENT INFORMATION SESSION - THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY

Here at Ellerslie School, we understand the significance of the milestone of your child beginning school at 5. As a parent, you may have many questions ranging from what happens during your child's day, to how you can support them at home. If you would like to learn more about school as a 5 year old, please come along to our information session for New Entrant parent/guardians on Thursday 29 February from 9:00am - 10:00am in our school staffroom with our Deputy Principal, Jillian Mitchell. Please contact our office to book a place at this session - email office@ellerslie.school.nz.



WHĀNAU HOUSE DAY - FRIDAY 01 MARCH

Our annual Term 1 Whānau House Day will take place on Friday 01 March. Students will participate in a variety of house activities throughout the day including lunch in house groups and a parade starting from 1:45pm. Students are encouraged to dress up in their Whānau House colours. Parents/whānau and caregivers are more than welcome (and encouraged!) to join in the fun and participate in our parade. Whānau House T-Shirts can be ordered on Kindo.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL BIG PICNIC - THURSDAY 07 MARCH

Please come and join our Ellerslie School BIG Picnic on Thursday 07 March from 5:00pm to 7:30pm - which will be held on the school field. Come along to our BIG Picnic! It's the perfect chance for catching up with friends and getting to know new families from your children's year and Guardian Groups. We can't wait to see you and your whānau there! Bring your own picnic to enjoy, or we will have the following food on offer to buy Burritos, Sushi, Sausage Sizzle, Ice Cream. We are in need of many more helpers to ensure we have enough people to sell all the delicious food we'll have, and keep children safe on the bouncy castles. Please click on the following link to see jobs/shifts available. [LINK](#)



The Ellerslie School
Big Picnic
Thursday 07 March
5:00pm - 7:30pm
at Ellerslie School

WEETBIX TRYATHLON - SUNDAY 24 MARCH

This year's Weetbix Tryathlon will be held on Sunday 24 March at Point England Reserve. The Early Bird Discount closes on 25 February 2024. Their Splash and Dash event is open for 6 year olds and Tryathlon options are open for students 7 years old and above. Ellerslie school is registered so you have the option to have your child's registration pack delivered to school. Click on this [LINK](#) for more information and to register your child/ren. Contact Sam Small if you have any questions sams@ellerslie.school.nz.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL FOOTBALL 2024

We are looking forward to another great football season this year. Registrations are now open for the Ellerslie Tamaki League. If you wish to sign up for a school team (available for age groups Under 6 years - Under 8 years) please use this link and indicate you wish to be part of a school team - [LINK](#). Key information about the season dates, fees, uniform etc. can be found [HERE](#). If you have any questions please contact Sam Small - sams@ellerslie.school.nz.

TEAM UPDATES

RIMU
(Years 0 and 1)

Kia ora Rimu Whanau. Welcome to all our new families that have joined our Ellerslie community. We look forward to being a part of your child's schooling journey. We have had a busy first few weeks at school with a lot of learning taking place. We have begun our PE programme of building our gross motor skills and for our topic this term we are learning all about ourselves. We celebrated Chinese New Year and the Year of the Dragon as part of our topic as well. Thank you to all the parents that came to our 'Meet the Teacher' evening. It was great to see you all. Remember it is still very warm and sunny outside and the children must have their hats if they are to play outside.



RATA
(Year 2)

Kia ora Rata Whanau. We have had a fantastic start to the school year, learning about ourselves and each other. The brown paper bag autobiographies are proving to be a huge hit with all our tamariki! We have also been exploring how to collaborate as part of a team and take on some simple responsibilities in our GGs too.



MATAI
(Years 3 and 4)



We have started off the term with a hiss and a roar in Matai Team. It has been wonderful getting to know our tamariki and learning all about what makes them unique through our "Cultural Identity" unit. We have enjoyed learning about the Chinese New Year and getting creative with different styles of self portrait art. A special thank you to all the whānau that attended our Meet the Teacher evening last week, it was a pleasure to meet you all. We are looking forward to our swimming lessons which begin next week, please ensure your child's belongings are clearly named. Ngā mihi!

PŌHUTUKAWA
(Years 5 and 6)



Nau mai, haere mai ki Te Kapa o Pōhutukawa i te tau 2024! Our Social Science focus for learning this term is on Cultural Identity/Diversity. We have been expressing our uniqueness and individuality through visual art (see photos above). As learners we have explored deeper thinking skills, using Bek Galloway's 'Nga Manu' framework. We know that we think best when we are positive, considerate, reflective, creative and wise. Our swimming sessions have been enjoyable. They have gotten our Level 4 and 5 swimmers ready for our Ellerslie School Swimming Sports next Tuesday 27 February 2024.



This year we welcome Ms Waterreus, Miss Campbell, Mrs Warburton (Term 1) and Mrs Robinson to our Year 5, 6 Pōhutukawa team. As a team of twelve adults, we are working together to allow our 227 (and counting) ākonga to drive their own learning. We look forward to partnering with you in your child/ren's learning journey this year.

KAURI
(Years 7 and 8)

Kia ora koutou Kauri whānau.
 Along with our Y8 ākonga loving being back in the Pod spaces in the main building, we welcome Mrs Joseph-McGlashan and Mr Mitchell to Team 5. We also have Mrs Villalobos back in Kauri Team supporting our learners.
 We have had a busy start to our term with a huge number of applications for both School and Whānau House Leaders. The selection process was made even more challenging by the high quality of the application videos.
 We are looking forward to the Senior School Swimming Sports next Tuesday and we're busy preparing our three Softball teams for their upcoming sports day in two weeks.
 Mr Mac has managed to secure an opportunity for ten of our senior students to visit the United States Coast Guard heavy icebreaker, the Polar Star, on Friday 23 February. We look forward to them reporting back on this exciting opportunity.
 Our Leadership Programme has been launched this week and we're excited about offering a new Platinum level to provide opportunities for our amazing students who achieved their Gold level last year in Year 7.



IMPORTANT DATES

20 FEBRUARY - 23 FEBRUARY - SWIMMING LESSONS WEEK 2 POHUTUKAWA TEAM
27 FEBRUARY - 01 MARCH - SWIMMING LESSONS WEEK 1 MATAI TEAM
27 FEBRUARY 2024 - SENIOR SWIMMING SPORTS - (Years 5-8) Sacred Heart College Aquatic Centre
01 MARCH 2024 - WHĀNAU HOUSE DAY
01 MARCH 2024 - JUMP INTO FRIDAY
05 MARCH 2024 - Y7/8 E.Z. SOFTBALL
05 MARCH - 08 MARCH 2024 - SWIMMING LESSONS WEEK 2 MATAI TEAM
07 MARCH 2024 - ELLERSLIE SCHOOL BIG PICNIC
11 MARCH 2024 - Y8 TRIP to ROTOROA ISLAND
12 MARCH - 15 MARCH 2024 - SWIMMING LESSONS WEEK 1 RIMU AND RATA TEAMS
13 MARCH 2024 - Y7/8 E.Z. SWIMMING
19 MARCH - 22 MARCH 2024 - SWIMMING LESSONS WEEK 2 RIMU AND RATA TEAMS
24 MARCH 2024 - WEETBIX TRYATHLON
25 MARCH 2024 - Y7/8 E.Z. ORIENTEERING

(Dates can also be found under "Calendar" on the Ellerslie School App, and can be downloaded to your own diary.)



Jump Into Friday!
09 February
16 February
01 March

At the Ellerslie School playground
from 2:45pm - 4:00pm

A great way to catch up with other families from school,
some you know already, some new!

'Jump Jam' 3:00pm - 3:30pm =
a fun, easy & energetic dance activity by Pform NZ
for anyone who would like to join in.

Cold drinks, mini packs of cookies and crackers, and
ice blocks for sale.



REMINDERS

TERM DATES FOR 2024

Please note that the following dates for the 2024 school year have been finalised as follows:

- **Term One - Thursday 01 February to Friday 12 April** (Holidays - Waitangi Day 06 February, Good Friday 29 March, Easter Monday 01 April, Easter Tuesday 02 April)
- **Term Two - Monday 29 April to Friday 05 July** (Holidays - King's Birthday 03 June, Matariki 28 June)
- **Term Three - Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September**
- **Term Four - Monday 14 October to Wednesday 18 December** (Holiday - Labour Day 23 October)

ABSENCES

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

- call the school (579-5477), press option 1 and leave a message on the answer phone.
- use the Absence submission template on the Ellerslie School App.
- send an email to office@ellerslie.school.nz
- use the Absence submission form on the school website.

Please clearly state your child/ren's name, Guardian Group 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 slip to give to their teacher. These are issued at the **back desk** of the office, entry through the door between Miro and Rimu Pods.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is away for 5 continuous days or more, please note that you are required to either:

- Before Travel - complete an "Application for Student Extended Leave Form" - [link](#)
- Illness which is not Covid-19 related - provide a Medical Certificate.

SUNSHADE, HATS AND SUNSCREEN

We are committed to keeping our children safe in the sun and have developed Sun Safe Procedures accordingly. Children are required to wear school uniform hats when playing in the sun in Terms 1 and 4. It is essential that children have hats at school every day. We strongly encourage the wearing of hats to and from school, and also suggest the use of sunscreen. Hats can be purchased through the Argyle online website, via Kindo or at the school office.

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