



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
Nǐhǎo | Salut | Namaste | Bonjour | Bula Vinaka | Guten Tag | Goeie Dag | Shalom | Cào
おはよう (Ohayoou) | 안녕 Ahn Nyeong | Olá | Privat! | Xin Chào | Salam

Newsletter 1 | Term One | Week 2 | February 8, 2024 | www.ellerslie.school.nz | www.facebook.com/ellerslieschool

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Tena koutou katoa Ellerslie whānau

The school year has got off to a great start - thank you for your support at ensuring your children were ready for the school year. It was fantastic to see so many students and parents attend our transition session before school started. This provided an excellent opportunity for students to reconnect with teachers and their learning spaces. A warm welcome to all our new students and families - many from around the world. From 2024 the school embarks on a new strategic plan:

Ellerslie School Strategic Plan 2024-2026		
Our Learners	Support all learners to progress and succeed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrich our curriculum to be more relevant and engaging. • Strengthen the teaching and learning of key foundational skills. • Grow our knowledge, understanding and practise to support our diverse learners.
Our Cultures	Empower and celebrate our different ethnicities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to create culturally inclusive environments and opportunities. • Incorporate culturally responsive practices.
Our	Strengthen our	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve effectiveness and consistency of communication about learning.

Whānau	school and whānau connections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a stronger learning and wellbeing partnership. • Grow opportunities for all whānau to engage with the school
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The above will be broken down into an annual plan for 2024 which will be shared with the community at a later date. All stakeholders at Ellerslie have an excellent opportunity to help bring the strategic plan alive to ensure we achieve our goals over the next 3 years.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024

The makeup of the Senior Leadership Team remains the same for 2024. They play an integral role in leading the school to ensure everyone enjoys the experience of being at Ellerslie. The SLT closely supports all key stakeholders whether it be students, staff, current parents / caregivers and future school whānau to ensure everyone has the best opportunity to enjoy their time at school. They have a variety of roles and responsibilities with each Deputy Principal helping to oversee certain areas of the school. These are:

- **Jillian Mitchell: Rimu and Rata Teams - Years 0-2**
- **Fiona Bilsborough: Matai Team - Years 3-4**
- **Kate Giebel: Pohutukawa Team - Years 5-8**

The Senior Leadership Team can be contacted in a number of ways and enjoy hearing from parents, caregivers and students via phone through the school office: 09 5795477.

Via email:

- Nick Butler: nickb@ellerslie.school.nz
- Kate Giebel: kateg@ellerslie.school.nz
- Jillian Mitchell: jillianm@ellerslie.school.nz
- Fiona Bilsborough: fionab@ellerslie.school.nz

TEAM LEADERS

The school is fortunate to have a very experienced group of Team Leaders who have the responsibility of leading each teaching team. As well as managing their own busy teaching load, Team Leaders provide regular support and leadership for both the students and staff within the teams they are responsible for. I would like to extend our gratitude to the commitment the below leaders put into this challenging role.

- Fiona Yamamoto: Rimu Team- Years 0-1
- Joanne Pulman: Rata Team- Year 2
- Angela Fox: Matai Team- Years 3-4
- Elisa Patterson: Pohutukawa Team- Years 5-6
- Amanda Croft: Kauri Team- Years 7-8

MEET THE TEACHER EVENING - TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY

Parents and Caregivers are encouraged to attend one of the most important events in the school calendar. Meet the Teacher evening provides an excellent opportunity for parents and caregivers to come and meet your child's Guardian Teacher and Pod teachers who will be supporting your child(ren) in 2024. The format for the evening is:

6:00pm - 6:20pm: Welcome - Presiding Member and Principal

6:30pm - 7:00pm: Session 1 in Pods

7:15pm - 7:45pm: Session 2 in Pods (repeat of Session 1)

6:30pm - 8:00pm: Fundraising and Engagement Coordinator available for questions and volunteer sign ups.

As mentioned above, we will conduct two identical sessions to allow flexibility for working parents/whanau and also for families with more than one child at school. At the welcome from 6:00pm we will briefly discuss the school's strategic focus for 2024. In our learning environments teachers will introduce themselves and then explain the teaching and learning programmes for the year. While this event is not a suitable time to speak to the teacher specifically about your child, teachers are always available to speak with you at a prearranged time that suits your family and the teacher.

ATTENDANCE

At the end of last year the school's average weekly attendance rate was 90.5%. While it was pleasing to get into this high range, our target is to have at least 95% of all students attending school regularly. As we embark on the journey of 2024, it is crucial to emphasise the collective role we all play in nurturing strong habits of regular school attendance. **Studies show that missing even one day of school every two weeks can add up to missing an entire year of education by the age of 16.**



As parents and caregivers, you are invaluable partners in ensuring our students attend school consistently, setting the foundation for their future success. It is a legal requirement for all students to attend school daily, and we believe in the shared responsibility of fostering a positive learning environment. In the spirit of collaboration, we kindly ask that you inform the school if your child is to be absent for a day or a portion of the term, giving the reason for absence such as a tangi or a medical procedure.

We understand that sometimes challenges may arise in ensuring your child's regular attendance. If you find yourself facing difficulties at home, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Ellerslie School is dedicated to supporting your child's attendance, and we are committed to building a culture that celebrates excellent attendance and supporting you to achieve this. Our goal is to continue to foster a school community that works collaboratively to ensure students are present, engaged, and making progress in their education through regular attendance. Together, we can create an environment where every day at Ellerslie School matters. Thank you for your ongoing support in making our school a place where students thrive and excel.

LEARNING DISCUSSIONS AT HOME

Talking about the school day at home can be very helpful to both children and parents. Here are some useful questions that might help to get conversation happening:

1. *Can you tell me about the best part of your day?*
2. *What was the hardest thing you had to do?*
3. *Who did you play with at break times?*
4. *Did anyone do anything funny?*
5. *What did you talk about or learn today?*
6. *What was the most interesting thing your teacher said today?*

Remember, like adults, sometimes children just don't feel like talking at certain times. You will know what is best for your child. This could be at the dinner table, in the car, while playing a game or just before they go to sleep. For more ways to support your children please refer to the Ministry of Education [website](#).

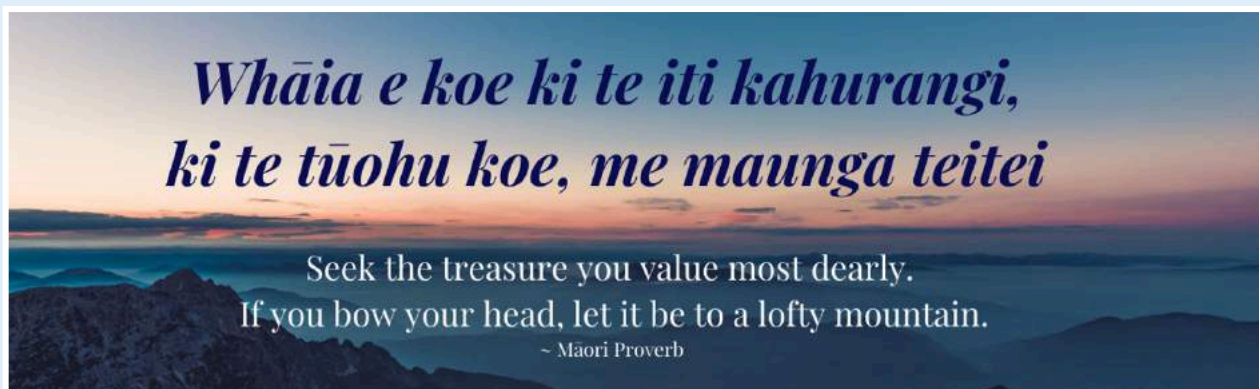
HEALTH WATCH 1.0 How does sleep affect your learning?

One of the most important things parents and caregivers can do to help their child(rens) learning is to try and ensure they get a good night's sleep. I know for many families this can be a struggle particularly in the summer months. Sleep research from the last 20 years indicates that sleep does more than simply give students the energy they need to learn and progress at school. Sleep actually helps students learn, memorise, retain, recall, and use their new knowledge to come up with creative and innovative solutions. On the Health NZ website it states: *Getting enough quality sleep helps support healthy brain function and maintains your physical health. For children and teenagers, sleep is important for their growth and development. The amount of sleep you need will depend on your age. Most adults need about 7 to 9 hours of sleep each night. Babies and toddlers will need about 11 to 17 hours of sleep. Not getting enough sleep can affect how you think, behave and get on with other people. Ongoing poor sleep can affect your mental health and increase your risk of some health conditions.*

For more information please click [here](#).

Looking forward to catching up next week at Meet the Teacher evening.

Ngā mihi nui
Nick Butler - Principal
'To be the best we can be'



THIS WEEK AT ELLERSLIE SCHOOL

SCHOOL FOCUS

School Focus for Week 2: Teacher's Choice related to the 5Bs

School Focus for Week 3: Be Respectful - I can use my manners.

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

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

A reminder of the whole school timetable:

8.30am Bell	Learning areas are open for all students.
Block 1	8:50am - 10:00am
Brain Break	10:00am-10:10am
Block 2	10:10am - 11:20am
Morning Tea Break	11:20am - 11:40am
Block 3	11:40am - 12:50pm
Lunch Break	12:50pm - 1:35pm
Block 4	1:35pm - 2:45pm
2:45pm	School finishes for all students.

JUMP INTO FRIDAY AT ELLERSLIE SCHOOL

On Friday 09 February, 16 February and 01 March we will be holding our "Jump into Friday" activities after school from 2:45pm-4:00pm in the Ellerslie School playground. All families are welcome to join in the fun.

2024 SWIMMING PROGRAMME

From Week 3 to Week 8 this term, all students will take part in swimming lessons at the YMCA Panmure pool. Students will have eight 30 minute lessons across a 2 week block. Students will travel to and from the pools by bus. Permission forms and further information will be emailed out in the coming weeks, depending on when your child's swimming lessons will start. Swimming fees can be paid on Kindo.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL WALKING SCHOOL BUS - FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY

Come along at 8:00 am on Friday 16 February to join the Ellerslie School Walking School Bus! Meet by the Ellerslie Village fountain for a fun morning walking to school. If you have any queries, please contact Sarah Nuttall - sarah@ellerslie.school.nz.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE - FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY

We will be holding a second hand uniform sale on Friday 16 February from 2:45pm-3:15pm. This will be held outside on the Ellerslie School boulevard. We have a variety of sizes for sale and some stock of senior uniforms. Prices will be advised on the day. Eftpos sales preferred, and no holds or I.O.U's. Also, if you have any old uniforms you would like to donate for sale, please drop them into the office as soon as possible.

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 a parade directly after our Friday assembly, lunch in house groups (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.



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.



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.

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. Want to have a go at throwing sponges in teachers' faces? Take part in running, egg and spoon and other races? Go bananas on inflatables? Eat great food? Then 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.

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 Samantha Small if you have any questions sams@ellerslie.school.nz.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child requires the school to hold any medical equipment such as asthma inhalers or epi pens, please deliver these to the school office with a completed medical form, which can be found on the Ellerslie School website under "Forms and Info".

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

The cut off date for orders from the latest Scholastic Book issue is Tuesday 13 February. If you have any queries, please email Sharon Wilson - sharonw@ellerslie.school.nz.

CAR PARK AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Please be mindful of our school community by keeping safe in the car park and roads around school.

- The school carpark is for staff only.
- Parents/whanau are reminded to use the Kalmia Street crossing safely, at all times.
- Please do not park in the bus stop outside the school.
- Be respectful of the businesses in our community whose car parks are for their staff, customers and visitors only. This particularly applies to The Heart Foundation.
- When using the drop-off/pick-up zone outside the school, please note that this is a 2 minute area, and passengers should alight safely on the passenger's side of your vehicle.

SITUATIONS VACANT - TEACHER AIDE POSITION AT ELLERSLIE SCHOOL

Do you have...

- A love of children?
- A desire to be part of a collaborative team?
- A sense of fun and humour?
- An interest in developing new skills and passions?

Ellerslie School is seeking a passionate and enthusiastic teacher aide to join its amazing school.

We can offer you:

- A fun and genuinely supportive student, staff and whanau community;
- High levels of professional trust and freedom for creativity and innovation;
- Professional learning and career advancement;

Start date 4 March 2024. This is a fixed contract job which finishes on 18 December 2024. An application form is available by emailing Sheree Myers at shereem@ellerslie.school.nz. Applications close 12pm, 19 February 2024.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL APP

Don't forget to subscribe to our official school Ellerslie School app. This can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or iTunes for free onto any Android or iPhone device or tablet - search for "SchoolAppsNZ". Then search for "Ellerslie School". We use this channel to send out important information quickly to our community.



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

Bring your family and a picnic blanket to relax with old and new friends.

Bring a picnic or buy:
Burritos, Sushi, Samosas, Sausage Sizzle, and Ice-cream from the Ray White truck!

Other fun activities:
Bouncy Castles \$2.00
Throw wet sponges at your teachers \$2.00

See you there!

Ice cream truck sponsored by RayWhite



IMPORTANT DATES

09 FEBRUARY 2024 - JUMP INTO FRIDAY
13 FEBRUARY - 16 FEBRUARY 2024 - SWIMMING LESSONS WEEK 1 POHUTUKAWA TEAM
13 FEBRUARY 2024 - MEET THE TEACHER EVENING - from 6:00pm
16 FEBRUARY 2024 - JUMP INTO FRIDAY
16 FEBRUARY 2024 - SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE
16 FEBRUARY 2024 - ELLERSLIE SCHOOL WALKING SCHOOL BUS RELAUNCH - 8:00 am at the Ellerslie Village fountain
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) Further details to be advised
01 MARCH 2024 - WHĀNAU HOUSE DAY
01 MARCH 2024 - JUMP INTO FRIDAY
05 MARCH - 08 MARCH 2024 - SWIMMING LESSONS WEEK 2 MATAI TEAM
07 MARCH 2024 - ELLERSLIE SCHOOL BIG PICNIC
12 MARCH - 15 MARCH 2024 - SWIMMING LESSONS WEEK 1 RIMU AND RATA TEAMS
19 MARCH - 22 MARCH 2024 - SWIMMING LESSONS WEEK 2 RIMU AND RATA TEAMS
24 MARCH 2024 - WEETBIX TRYATHLON

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

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.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

We always encourage feedback both positive and anything you think we need to work on to keep making our school a great place for our learners. The Concerns and Complaints procedure encourages concerns to be resolved informally through discussions with the person concerned. If this is appropriate, please contact the relevant person directly. If this is not appropriate, the procedure provides for other avenues to resolve issues. Copies of our procedures can be found on the [school website](#).

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LOCATIONS
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ALBANY: OCT 2 & 3
CREWA: SEPT 26 & OCT 3
WESTMERE: OCT 4 & 5
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