



Newsletter No 1

Bathgate Park School

7 February 2020

Act kindly and gently

Respect yourself, others and the environment

Own your actions

Have a positive attitude

Always do your best

Kia ora koutou, Malo e lelei, Talofa, Bula, Ola, Namastee, Kamusta, Bonjour, Ni hau, Greetings to you all.

What a fantastic start to the year! The first week has flown by and already been made memorable. A very warm welcome to all students and families to the 2020 school year. A special welcome to those families and children joining our school community for the first time.

We began the school year, on the first day, with a wonderful Mihi Whakatau, where the existing BGP students welcomed our new additions – staff, students and families into the BGP community. We then held a Whanau House Orientation week where the students, in their houses, have had a chance to compete and challenge themselves. They even had a chance to do a tug of war against the teachers. Photos of this can be found on the face book page.

A few updates:

Lauren Latimer is on secondment this year to the Otago University. She is taking part in leading the Accelerated Literacy Learning project to schools in Otago and Southland. We wish her well and know that her knowledge and experience will be valued.

Lisa Yorke will be acting Deputy Principal for 2020. The permanent Deputy Principal job will be advertised mid-year with it commencing in 2021.

Sheralyn Weepers will be joining the Senior Management Team for 2020.

Becky Hamilton, joins us in a fixed term role as co-SENCo alongside myself, as well as a Friday class teacher for Tawhirimatea. Becky will also provide management release to Whaea Lisa in Tawhaki.

Welcome to Andre Hansen our new Learning Support Co-Ordinator. This a role that the South Dunedin cluster has.

He will be working between BGP, Carisbrook and Sara Cohen.

Matua Tia and Whaea Virginia have both left us to take up new teaching positions. We wish them all the best. Currently Whaea Terri and Whaea Marnie are teaching in Te Rakiatea. We are also currently advertising for a permanent teacher position for Te Rakiatea.

Mrs Bell will be in classes providing the Classroom Release Time (CRT) for teachers from week 3.

Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome to you all. We look forward to working with you.

Weather

As we start the year we need to be mindful of the weather. Currently we are being subjected to very changeable weather. This means that we need to prepare children appropriately. Please make sure they have sunscreen on and a drink bottle in their bag that can be topped up to help keep them hydrated. Equally it maybe that a jacket / raincoat is needed. Please make sure you name all uniform items. Named items make their way back to their owners.

Sunhats

From next week sunhats are compulsory. Teachers are currently getting these sorted in classes.

Correct Contact Details

The start of the year is also an opportunity to make sure that we have your correct details. Added to this, the need to contact you re sickness or learning progress. In term 4 we were struggling to make contact with families due to incorrect details. **Any time, your phone or contact details change we need to know. Please phone, email or share with staff your new ones and we will update these.**

I think there is a general perception that schools are empty through January and staff return to work the same time as the students start back. Nothing is further from the truth and I want to thank all staff for all the work undertaken to ensure the school, classrooms and classroom programmes were all set to go for the new school year. Everything was ready to go on Monday. Added to this, the contributions made by all staff to the Staff Only Days held leading up to the start of school.

A huge thank you to Ray, our caretaker, for the fantastic job painting the interior corridors. He got 80% completed this set of holidays and the rest will be completed in the next holidays. Already the hallways look brighter, seem to be lighter and definitely give us that clean, crisp finish.

Thank you to families for getting stationery and uniform sorted so promptly. One of the key messages about A.R.O.H.A. already this year has been the focus on R for Respect. We have talked about how showing respect for ourselves and taking pride in ourselves is a great first step.

Making sure we are in the correct uniform, having hair tied neatly and making sure we maintain this, goes a long way to feeling and displaying this pride. Added to this we have started strong with Respect for others. We are making sure the expectations we have are being followed and that everyone is working hard to talk and speak respectfully to others and that we treat others the way we want to be treated. We will be sharing some of our understandings about this as the term progresses.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The first meeting of the year is Monday 24 February, 6.00pm, in the staffroom. Everyone welcome.

Friends of BGP Meetings & AGM

Friends of BGP are looking to have a fair / gala styled event on 1 November 2020. To make this the most successful possible we need to start organising now. On Friday 21 Feb, 1.30pm in Tangaroa there is a fair meeting for anyone interested in being involved. Whether it is sharing your ideas, experience or organisational skills – we can use your help. Join us to share ideas and find out how you can support this event.

On Friday 28 February the normal Friends of BGP meeting will take place 11.30 in the staffroom. All welcome.

AGM meeting will be Thursday 19 March 2pm in staffroom.

There will be a newsletter next week with our Calendar of Events. Newsletters will come out every 2 weeks thereafter and will be emailed to those with email addresses in our system.

