



PARNELL DISTRICT SCHOOL

Newsletter 2 14th February 2018

Kia Ora and welcome

Our students are straight back into their learning. I am constantly impressed with the focus and determination of our students right from the first day. Undoubtedly your child will have come home to talk about all the amazing things happening in class. We are about to begin our first inquiry for the year “designing our world”. Our students talked of their fascination with architecture and those amazing people who design the spaces we live in. From this fascination, it grew to those people who design the things we use every day, and even to those architects of the animal world. I know we all look forward to the conversations over the dinner table that this inquiry will inspire.

Reporting in an environment with no National Standards.

Throughout the election and in the new government’s first term, you will have heard a lot about education and especially National Standards. The legal requirement for schools to report against student’s achievement in relation to National Standard has been removed.

To best support you in understanding your child’s achievement in 2018, you will receive information about your child’s achievement four times. You will meet with your class teacher twice during the year. The focus of the conferences will be around setting goals and planning how we can work together to achieve positive outcomes. You will also receive two written reports throughout the year indicating how your child is achieving in relation to the New Zealand Curriculum. We will tell you about which year level your child’s achievement ‘best fits’ in reading, writing, and math.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Year 0-3	Conference (Wk7), or written report depending in your child’s anniversary of starting school	Conference (Wk 7), or written report depending in your child’s anniversary of starting school	Conference (Wk 5), or written report depending in your child’s anniversary of starting school	Conference (Wk 7), or written report depending in your child’s anniversary of starting school
Year 4-8	Wk.7 goal setting conference	Wk. 9 Written report	Wk.5 goal setting conference	Wk. 7 written report

This solution is strongly informed by the consultation we ran in 2017. We have developed this process to continue our focus on working in partnership with our families to achieve great outcomes for every student. We want to ensure our parents have a clear understanding of exactly how their child is achieving in relation to the New Zealand Curriculum.

Parent info evening and picnic.

It was such a shame that the picnic was not able to go ahead last week, but I think we were all happy to avoid the weather. **The parent info evening will go ahead rain or shine this Friday**, and below is the plan for fine weather, or if it rains. We highly value working together with our parents, and the info evening is a great time to hear about what is happening at school, and all that is coming up. It is also a great time to check in with teachers if there is anything about the start of the year programme that you're unsure of.

Fine weather	Wet weather
<p>5:30 – 7:00 – parents and students enjoy picnic on the field. Sausage sizzle, drinks, and ice blocks for sale from PTA.</p> <p>Parent Meetings:</p> <p>5:30 pm:</p> <p>Year 0-3 parents meet their teachers together in the hall, Children can accompany parents or stay on the field. Year 7/8 parents meet their teachers in the dance room. Children can stay and enjoy the games on the field supervised by school staff</p> <p>6:00 pm:</p> <p>Year 4-6 parents meet their teachers together in the hall, children can stay and enjoy games on the field</p>	<p>No picnic</p> <p>5:30 : Year 0-3 parents meet their teachers in the hall</p> <p>5:30 : Year 7/8 parents meet their teachers in the dance room</p> <p>6:00 : Year 4-6 parents meet their teachers in the Hall</p> <p><i>Note: An email will be sent by 2:30 confirming if we will proceed with the fine or wet weather plan.</i></p>

School councillor

This week we welcome Christina Houston to the Parnell Whanau. We are completely focussed on ensuring every child is able to achieve their best possible outcomes at school every day. As a school, we're aware that our children have a lot going on and additional pressures impacting their daily lives. We've decided to invest in employing a councillor who will work at school on Tuesdays. Christina is an experienced councillor who has worked extensively in schools and is an absolute asset to our team. If you think it would be helpful for your child to talk with the councillor, please contact emmaw@parnell.school.nz and she will talk you through the process.

School donations

The introduction of a councillor is another initiative we are able to offer our school community because of the generous donations of our families. Because of the phenomenal response to our school donations, our councillor can be here to support our students. This joins other initiatives like reading recovery and learning support in year 0-3, learning support in year 4-8, our permanent in school reliever meaning less disruption to our class programmes, and our class sizes that are well below those of other schools. For those of you who've not yet contributed towards your school donation, if you'd like to arrange weekly, fortnightly, or termly payments to meet the school donation request, please email Adrienneb@parnell.school.nz for more details.

Congratulations to Miss McKeen

Our own Miss McKeen from room 25 has been chosen as one of nine educators to speak at Microsoft's international educator conference in Singapore from the 12th to the 16th of March. She will be taking our use of blended learning to support student agency in class to the world as a model of how others can implement such programmes in their class. If you do have students in Room 25, you will have your goalsetting interviews the week later on the 21st and 22nd of March.

School ski team 2018

While we are all struggling in the humidity, it is time to start thinking about our school ski trip. We are proud of the achievement of our skiers for 2017, and looking forward to building on our success in 2018. If you are interested in your child trying out for the school ski team, please contact me on richardg@parnell.school.nz for more information about our training sessions at snow planet, and how the team will be selected.

Road patrol volunteers needed

We have amazing students ready who are already in action keeping our students safe crossing the road to school. If you are able to help by supervising road patrol before school or after school, please email dang@parnell.school.nz to get more information.

PAT testing

You will be aware that students in Years 3-8 are involved in Progress and Achievement Testing (PAT) in weeks 3 and 4. For Year 3 this involves students completing a listening comprehension test and a mathematics test. In addition to these, Year 4-8 will also complete reading comprehension, reading vocabulary and punctuation and grammar tests.

It is important that for them to do the best they can. We use this data to help us get to know your child's learning needs and abilities, so we do want to see them do the best they can. We find it helps if they are well rested and feeling calm. Results from these will be discussed at the week seven goalsetting conferences.

Kind Regards

Richard George

Important dates coming up in the next two weeks:

Friday 16th – Room 11 lead assembly

Sunday the 18th – Weetbix kiwi kids tryathalon

Thursday 22nd – Mufti day and sausage sizzle

Friday 23rd – Room 27 lead assembly

Welcome to Room 9!

We are a brand new Year 1 class and we have really enjoyed our first two weeks at Parnell – getting to know our new school and its routines and are doing some superstar work in between. Take a look at some of the fun activities we have got up to 😊



Together as a class we made a list of 'Our Promises' for this year and each signed it using our handprints. It is displayed in our classroom for everyone to see.



In Maths, Room 9 have been busy recognising numbers 0-30 and are using our 100 square everyday to practice. We have also chosen activities that help us work on our one-to-one matching, following and creating patterns as well as sorting and classifying objects.

We showed problem solving skills by using the 100 square to help identify the missing number



ROOM 24

Creative Writing

She was finally a teenager. Isabella was sneaking out to parties hoping that she wouldn't get caught. However her dreams didn't become a reality, although she only went to one. She learnt from the baddest of the baddest to be bad; she dyed her hair to the colour ... PINK! She would steal, hurt and just be as bad as she could be by this stage her parents had died and she thought she could do what she wanted but nooo her best friend exclaimed. However, she did it what she wanted anyway. By the time she was 18, she decided to change her name to ...ladybird. She finally decided to change her actions and become a great business women but first the boring bit..... university, ugh.

- By Milla 'Millsy' Price

Yay! "we found a park," I shouted. "Now where is Specsavers?" I said. "It's just over there in that building," my mum exclaimed. "All the way over there? that's so far away," I muttered under my breath, so my mum didn't hear. So we proceeded to the building that they told us they were in BUT!.. They weren't there so mum called them

and they said in a sweet and insistent voice, "oh yeah, sorry we are not actually in that part of the mall we're a couple doors down." "Ok thank you," my mum lied because really... she was frustrated. After walking down a few shops we found it. I WALKED IN AND ALL I SAW WERE ...

... glasses and big machines. I got soooooo scared, until I saw the small machines, that me calm down a little. Then a lady came over and said "take a seat Ccchhaarrllliizzzee" so I took a seat. All she did was, get my name and date of birth. I was super calm until she said "now come over here to the eye scanner." After she explained what to do and we did it, my eyes started to get watery and started to sting. Noooooowwww she said to go to the bigger machine and I had to do it again.

We were all done I thought until another lady came over and said to come into the optometrist's room. Later after everything was done the optometrists explained why I need glasses. She next said to come and chose the ones want. I chose them and took them to the counter to purchase them. She said it will take about 10 days. Then my mum and I walked to the car and went home.

- By Charlize 'Chacha' Kerr



PARNELL DISTRICT SCHOOL

PTA Notices

2017 PTA Fundraising

An enormous THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our PTA activities last year. Together we raised a brilliant \$87K for our school. Those funds paid for the new Sports Turf in the Apex, plus we have funds set aside for the new play equipment that will be installed in the Senior Playground this year! We achieved this by running Bake Sales, Friday Cafes, Disco, Quiz & Auction Night, Mufti Day & Sausage Sizzles, Fun Run and Wine Fundraisers. Every little bit makes a huge difference so thank you to all the fantastic people who volunteered their time over the year. Your efforts are very much appreciated by our school community.

First PTA Meeting

The first PTA meeting will be held this **Thursday, February 15th at 7pm** in the **staffroom**. Everyone is welcome to attend, especially any new parents! We will be planning activities for 2018 so please come along and join in. There are lots of fun things going on at our school and being part of the PTA is a great way to make friends and contribute to our school community.

Twilight Fete

We are planning a Twilight Fete which will be held on **Saturday, April 7**, and need lots of help to make this a success. If you have any fun ideas or would like to volunteer some time, please email parnellsschoolpta@gmail.com, or come along to the PTA meeting this Thursday night at 7pm in the staffroom.

Mufti Day & Sausage Sizzle

The first Mufti Day & Sausage Sizzle of this year will be held next **Thursday, February 22nd**. This means your child is allowed to come to school on this day in clothing other than their school uniform. We have two mufti days each school term and this is a PTA fundraising activity. The children pay a gold coin donation for this privilege. Barbecued sausages (including halal), drinks and muffins are for sale on mufti days for \$2 each.