

MANGAWHAI BEACH SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER



Mangawhai

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# Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

*Life Long Learners making a positive difference*

## **ACTING PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX**

*Powhiri ki te wiki hou - welcome to a new week at MBS.*

This week it is my pleasure to announce to you our classroom teachers and support staff for 2016.

### **Senior Leaders**

Aaron Kemp- Principal  
Paula Bygrave- Deputy Principal

### **Junior Syndicate (Years 1 & 2)**

Heather Lymburn - New Entrants  
Sonya Smith- Year 1- Team Leader  
Michelle Dempsey – Year 1 & 2  
Chaehee Park- Year 2

### **Senior Syndicate (Years 5 & 6)**

Susan Butler- Year 5 & 6- Team Leader  
Kirsten Burr- Year 5 & 6  
Jaimee Browne- Year 5 & 6  
Rebecca Low- Year 5 & 6

### **Middle Syndicate (Years 3 & 4)**

Teck Wee – Year 3 & 4 – Team Leader  
Ashlee Radovan- Years 3 & 4  
Andie Gore – Years 3 & 4  
Maree Vaile- Years 3 & 4

### **Intermediate Syndicate (Years 7 & 8)**

Anna Stockman- Year 7 & 8- Team Leader  
Ben Bradley- Year 7 & 8  
Nigel Rogers – Year 7 & 8

Lance Coker will be teaching at all levels and will be doing a specialist PE programme in the afternoons. This will be class based so all students will get exposure to his expertise at their year level.

We also have Natalie Richards (Whaia Natalie) who supports the delivery of Te Reo, Kapahaka, and Tikanga Maori at MBS and Hira Wynyard who runs the Sports development squad.

### **Support Staff for 2016**

The following are our support staff that support learning in our classrooms.

Suzie Renall, Wendy Parker, Lorna Wakefield, Janet Hampson, Katie Brooks, Mariska Glover, and Gabbie Spiro.

**Class placements for 2016** - Aha – yes that time of year again when we start making up classes for 2016. Now I know this is really important to you all and I want you to know that it is also very important to us and we take a lot of time deliberating over all the aspects involved in placing students in the best class for them. We take into account levels of achievement, special learning needs, behaviour needs, personalities, teacher strengths and student interests, girl to boy ratios, year level ratios, new students to the school, social groupings - both within year levels and across year levels, and also roll growth. As you can see it is quite complicated and we make many drafts before we decide we have the right mix of kids with the right teacher. Now if any of you would like to discuss anything to do with this please email me or phone the school and we can have a chat. If you have a teacher request then we are happy to consider your reasons for this but we will make the final decision based on all our knowledge and expertise.

**Gifted and Talented nominations**- With this newsletter you should receive a parent nomination form. I explained about this in last week's newsletter but if you are unclear about what to do please email me and I can fill you in.

**Uniforms** - Well done on getting the hats organised. I know they are not the most fashionable but they do protect ears, necks, and noses from the sun. Some of the children have very creative ways of wearing them which teachers are discouraging and some students think carrying it in their hand is also ok, but we always have some teething problems at the beginning of hat season. It is really important that your child has their hat everyday as they need them when they participate in PE sessions outside as well as break times. If we can get them into the habit now of wearing a hat in summer, then their chances of this carrying on into adulthood are better and obviously better health outcomes.

**New Parents to MBS** - Welcome to you all and I hope you and your children have settled in. This Thursday at 10.00am we are having a new parents meeting. Please feel free to come along and have a coffee and an informal chat with me and meet other new parents. We have this in our school staffroom. I can answer questions and clarify anything for you. NO question is a silly question. It is amazing what we take for granted when we have become part of the furniture. If any other parents wish to come and meet and support our new parents I would love to see you too. Pre-schoolers and babies are welcome.

**Reports** - We are trialling a different report form this term. It is a follow on from our Student Led Conferences where students can also have a voice in reporting their progress to you. This time they get to write about their learning. Teachers will also comment and indicate where your child is at in terms of National Standards and the effort they are putting in. There will also be photos of your child on it. Please feel free to be honest with your feedback on these as they are for you.

**Past Pupils** - On Friday Dave Glover, Board Chairman, and I represented MBS at the Otamatea High School Senior Prize giving. Did you know that the Head boy, Head girl, Deputy Head girl, and Deputy Head boy in 2015 were X- MBS students? Not only that the Dux and Proxime Accessit were both X- MBS pupils as well. Pretty outstanding to have all those leadership and academic positions held by students from our community. There are six schools that contribute to Otamatea.

**Cultural Diversity** - It has been interesting for me to see our community change over the past 19 years. When I first came to MBS we were NZ/European with only a couple of Maori families now we have African, Australian, British, Irish, Cook islands, Filipino, German, Indian, Japanese, Latin American, Brazilian, Samoan, Chinese, Fijian, Nuiean, Dutch, Maori and NZ European. I got these off our enrolment information. If your ethnicity is not mentioned here please let us know so we can update our records. So what does this mean for us? Well I believe it means we need to become more culturally aware and responsive. Maybe a first step you can help out with would be to send in any information on significant dates that are recognised in your culture and what happens on those days. We could mark them on our school calendar for 2016 and see if we can develop some learning around them for all our students. If anyone has any other ideas I would love to hear them. Maybe we could do a cultural festival or week when we have people come in and share their traditions and foods with the children. Let me know your thoughts.

**Now I have an idea to put out there.** I hope I articulate this in the positive, supportive way it is meant. I would like to set up a school community support group. This would look like people from our community - parents, solo dads and mums, Granny's and Granddads who have some time during the week to support families of our school. Things like mentoring, checking in with phone calls to be a listening ear: Popping in for a cuppa and a chat, sharing knowledge and skills. Parenting is the hardest job any of us will ever do and it is the most important. We all have different kids, different experiences. It's not about telling people what to do or how to parent. It's not about getting information on people so you can tell everyone else in the community. It is about caring and support for people in stressful times and who have challenges that they need to talk to people about. It's about a friendly ear or face for our new parents. It's about us as a school community supporting the growth of all our kids by being there for their parents or the adults in their lives if they need us. If this sounds like something you would like to be involved with or have some ideas around I would love to hear from you.

**Lastly thank you** to those of you who have given me feedback on things you like about the school this term and things you are concerned about or have had an issue with. If you voice them to me I will do my best to address them and if I know what is working well for you then hopefully I can expand on that too. This is your school and I would like to think we are all working together to move it in the direction you see best for your kids. We will do this best through open and honest communication and sometimes robust debate. I have heard from two people who are interested in being trustees on our board and I encourage you all to think hard about this. Our next Board meeting is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 6pm in the school staffroom. We would love to see people come along and observe what goes on. We will all happily share with you the roles we fill on the Board and the commitment that is involved. I have booklets on trusteeship and the roles of a Board if anyone is interested please let me know and I will send one home with your child.

**Guy Fawkes** – Many of our families love letting off fireworks on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November however dogs, horses, livestock and even birdlife are all stressed by the noise that the fireworks make.

Some animals fret so much that they break through fencing causing injury to themselves and additional repair costs to the owners so please spare a thought for our animals over the next few days when you are lighting your fireworks.

For those that haven't attended the Tomarata pyrotechnic display before, this is well worth the drive - a carnival type atmosphere with food, music, raffles and bouncy castles followed by a spectacular light show. **Cash only - no eftpos.** Entry is \$10/adult and \$5/child.



Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about your child's learning or events which are coming up. I am also available by phoning the office or you can email me:

[pbygrave@mangawhaibeach.school.nz](mailto:pbygrave@mangawhaibeach.school.nz)

Paula Bygrave  
Acting Principal

## **ROSS MILLAR SWIM SCHOOL – LESSONS AT MANGAWHAI BEACH SCHOOL POOL**

Lessons are \$55 per week, with beginner to advanced breather classes being 20 minutes, maximum of 4 students and higher level classes ½ hour to 6 students. The dates are as follows:

December 2015 with instructor Jennimay

Lessons from 3pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

January 2016 with instructor Jordan

Lessons from 10am Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Please contact us for further information if required. We are taking bookings now so do let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending lessons.... Class numbers are limited so please enrol early.

## PARENT INFORMATION FORM

Information on this form will assist teachers to better meet your son/daughter's needs

Student's Name:	Date:			
At home my son/daughter .....	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Not yet
Enjoys learning				
Is curious, asks questions, is observant				
Learns things quickly; good memory				
Has extensive vocabulary				
Can concentrate intently on an activity for sustained periods of time				
Enjoys reading and reads a lot				
Vivid imagination/ highly creative				
Has a sense of humour				
Writes stories / poems at home / is a story-teller <small>(underline all that apply)</small>				
Organises games and activities for others				
Has personal sensitivity/ is compassionate				
Has a strong sense of his/her cultural identity				
Shows strengths in cultural language, dance or traditional culturally valued skills such as oratory <small>(underline or add all that apply)</small>				
Demonstrates a deep sense of spirituality				
Shows concern / sensitivity (empathy) towards others				
Has a strong sense of justice				
Is self-confident and is able to make age- appropriate decisions				
Is well organized, plans/uses time well				
Sets and strives to maintain personal high standards				
Is passionate about one or more areas of interest				
Is self confident /social / outgoing				
My family identifies with the following culture(s):				

Form completed by (PRINT name):

Relationship:

Mother	Father	Grandparent	Caregiver	Student
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My son/daughter's areas of strength: *intellectual, creative, social, or physical* (e.g. maths, literacy, computers, science, music, drama, sports, cultural, leadership, art/craft, technology, dance)

My son/ daughter would benefit from support in:

Out of school activities: Sports:	Clubs:	Special Tuition:	Paid Work:
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