



WAIMATE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL



14th March 2019

Tena Koutou Katoa
Nga Mihi Mahana- (Warm greetings)

NEW STUDENT

This week's new student is Colbie Lane. Colbie tells me she loves the adventure playground especially the slide. She likes writing because she likes making letters. Colbie knows two words she can use, "two and look". They will make some interesting stories for her. I watched Colbie making puzzles, she told me that she really likes using puzzles and the toys in Takahe. Welcome to Centennial Colbie.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Thanks you to everyone who played a part in the very successful time that we had last week. The teachers have done a wonderful job of creating new and amazing experiences for their students. They have researched and planned for safety and a challenging adventure. These have come off without a hitch. Teachers aides, you have had your timetables upended yet again and I have not heard a word of complaint. Thank you for adapting and stepping in to help us run the week. Parents, thanks for being the taxi drivers and the unpaid supervision for our students. We really appreciate your involvement in these school activities. I was lucky enough to spend a lot of time out of the office last week visiting most groups at some stage through the week. Everyone I saw was having a wonderful week getting to know their new teachers and experiencing the incredible outdoors in and around Waimate.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPRESENTATIVES

Are you interested in becoming a Board of Trustees member for Centennial School? Come and have a chat with me or ring Greg Clarkson the Chairperson of the Board. 0278360423.

The next Board meeting for Centennial is on the 13th May. Please come along and see how we operate.

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS

At lunch time on Tuesday the 19th March Lorraine Cousins will be at school to deliver Bible in Schools' lessons to those students who have opted for it. It is not too late for your child to enrol in these sessions. If we find that this time is not suitable Lorraine is considering an out of school time that might work better. We will be monitoring attendance over the first few weeks of the programme to get a feel for this.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast club is up and running again this year. Now that our 'Education outside the Classroom' week is over students can come back to the breakfast club each morning. Breakfast begins at 8:15 and finishes in time for students to get into class by the start of school. All students are welcome to attend. Thanks to our local milkman and Kidscan for providing the milk and weetbix.

Anyone that had an airbed at the sleepover at school during Outdoor Education Week may want to check that they have the plug as one was left at school.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Maths Professional Development Launch 20th March
- Teacher Industrial Action 21st March
- Road Safety and Safe Walking March
- Keeping ourselves Safe April
- Home and School Lunch 12th April
- Last day of term four 12th April

A highlight at Hook Beach last week, the children got to see an Orca with her calf



COMMUNICATION - To text or not to text

In the last ten years e-mail, facebook and texting have become commonplace among the community. I think these methods of communication are fantastic for getting the latest messages or information. Everyone has a phone in their hand or pocket and instantly they can be aware to what is going on.

There are problems with this type of communication though. Sometimes the message is written in haste and sent before we stop to think about the consequences. When the message comes from a bystander it only contains what they know about the incident sometimes not even what actually happened gets through. Occasionally the message only gets to some of the people who need to know about it. Sometimes we say things on line that we would not say to another person's face. The anonymity of the media gives us courage that can be misplaced and result in us saying something we might regret.

Several times this year facebook messages and texts have been sent between parents from Centennial school that contain information about students and events that occurred at school. We believe there is the potential here to make the situation worse rather than better. Because the school was not aware of what the message said or that it had been sent we are unable to do anything to resolve the issue. Dealing with others face to face is an important skill that we need to model to our children and teach them how to do successfully. I suggest that when parents become aware of something happening at school they contact the teacher first. If this is not possible, come directly to me in the office and I will make sure the adults who need to know find out in the appropriate manner. Please do not text, email or facebook message other parents to complain about their children's behaviour.

I would like to reassure you all that when we find out about issues in the playground or classroom we will inquire into it carefully and in ways that restore harm that was done. After this is done I like to speak directly to everyone who was involved to check that we don't need to do anything else.

PAID UNION MEETINGS

This year, we'll continue to make the message loud and clear - It's Time, time to lead, teach and learn.

This means freeing teachers to teach so every child receives the personal attention they need to learn and thrive. It means freeing principals to focus on leading and it means ensuring we have enough teachers by attracting more people to teaching, by respecting them as professionals and paying them properly.

Our students come to school to learn all the skills and abilities that they'll need to grow up healthy, happy and productive in the 21st century. Our nation can afford to ensure every child receives the education they need to succeed in life and for every educator to be trusted and resourced to make that a reality.

On March the 21st some teachers/kaiako from Waimate schools will attend meetings in either Timaru or Oamaru during school time. There will be as little disruption as possible for families/whanau and Centennial school will remain open for instruction all day.

Waimate District Librarian, Ann Hume's book for this week

A serious topic this time: "It's My Body, a Book about Body Privacy" provides an accessible and age-appropriate way for parents, carers and educators to explain to children why body privacy is important and how to speak up if they feel uncomfortable.

This brightly coloured, illustrated title explains to children about body privacy and why private parts should be kept private. Children will learn that their body belongs to them and they can say no if they don't want anyone to touch their body. They discover what is inappropriate, and be encouraged to speak up if they are uncomfortable with how other people treat them. It also covers the topic of secrets and when you shouldn't keep a secret. The book looks at respecting each others boundaries and becoming aware that some children, particularly those with autism or anxiety, may find hugging or any kind of touch, unbearable. It also covers bullying, such as pinching or kicking, and shows children the best way to speak out to help stop these things happening. Written by Louise Spilsbury, the text explains body privacy simply and clearly without scaremongering.

Our family/whanau e-mail address is _____

Please Return: I have received and read this newsletter () (tick)

Family name _____

MINIBALL

The season will start on the 3rd May and finishes on Friday the 5th July. Cost is \$35 per player, registrations close on the 5th April. If you don't have enough players for a team send individual names along and they will be put in a team

Dana Paul - Miniball secretary

Play Based Learning



SCHOLASTIC

Book Club LOOP
for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:

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