



Ngaio School Newsletter
Number 21
15 December 2017

Community Calendar <http://www.ngaio.school.nz/welcome>

Dear Parents and Caregivers

What a whirlwind term it has been! Thank you for being so welcoming and patient as I get to know you all. I've managed to get to some of the events and occasions to meet lots of you but if I haven't yet managed to say hello, I look forward to lots more opportunities in the new year. I'm looking forward to the special send off next Tuesday evening for the fantastic group of year 6 students finishing their time at Ngaio School. I wish them all the very best as they move onto their intermediate schooling. As I've been reading the end of year reports, I've been able to reflect on what a great school I have the privilege of leading. We're proud of all the progress students across the school have made this year – I can already see that the education offered at Ngaio School is excellent and look forward to continued progress next year.

I'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the teaching staff, full time and part time. They are an amazing team of professionals who work very, very hard to do the best they can for every student. They put in much longer hours than you would think; they think hard about what each student needs to improve and they hold themselves to the highest standards. I like this saying "Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." Our teachers strive to do just that every day – help your children have open minds and grow in their ability to learn. In our modern age of technology and instant information it is critical to equip children with the tools to access the information they need. No longer do we just fill them with static knowledge that is dated minutes later.

A huge thank you to Helen, Nicki and Kirsty in the office who, as you know, go the extra mile for us every day. Working in a school office is a demanding role and they have all been fantastic helping me transition into Ngaio School. I'm sure you'll agree, as the front face of Ngaio School, we're in good hands!

We really appreciate the support of our wonderful teacher aides, the amazing library staff and others like our cleaners, Desmond, Deepesh and Ben, and our caretaker Tani who make sure the school is clean, tidy and ready for learning. Congratulations to all of you for a job well-done. Our students have benefited from your talents, care, and commitment.

Now to you, our parent community; thank you all for your support. I've only been at Ngaio School such a short time but am already so impressed and appreciative of your support of the school. A special thank you to the PTA. This important group have achieved an incredible amount this year. We continue to benefit from your fantastic, hardworking committee. Thank you also to the Board of Trustees who work really hard in this important role. Once again I acknowledge the short time I've been here but have to say I'm enjoying working with you all and appreciate your support and commitment to the school.

It is with sadness that I farewell a number of staff from Ngaio School. Firstly, Juliet Smith who has been working for the past 14 years as Reading Recovery teacher. We wish Juliet all the very best in her retirement. Bon Voyage to Lucy Yates who is taking time to travel overseas. We wish her well in her adventures and look forward to lots of exciting photos as she sees the world. Farewell Alayne Wright who is leaving Ngaio School to work closer to home. We wish Alayne well in her new role at Waterloo School. Farewell to Sam Cockerton who has done a fantastic job looking after the new entrants this term. Congratulations Sam on winning an assistant team leader position at Karori Normal School. Lastly, Karen Wilson who is moving over the hill to work in Carterton. Thank you all for your contributions - you will be missed.

We welcome three new teachers - Abigail Smalley, Sam Jenkins and Hannah Anderson. We also welcome Karen Doogan who will be working full time from 2018 and Pearl Moon who was away in 2017 on maternity leave. Pearl will be working part time as a release teacher in 2018. Congratulations to Megan Palmer who is going to train for Reading Recovery in 2018. Charmaine Doole will be working in Megan's class while she is working with reading recovery children.

We are pleased to be able to share the teacher placements with you. Students will find out their classes on Monday and have an opportunity to meet with their 2018 teacher.

Following are the class teacher placements for 2018.

Kowhai Syndicate - Year 1 classes Wendy Holbrooke (Syndicate Leader) Karen Doogan Emma Milne Mon-Thursday/Kathy Yamada Friday Hannah Anderson	Pohutukawa Syndicate - Year 2 classes Bronwyn O'Halloran (Syndicate Leader) Megan Palmer/Charmaine Doole Abigail Smalley
Kakapo Syndicate - Year 3 classes Christina Oldridge Karen Lathan Sam Jenkins	Kakapo Syndicate - Year 4 classes Sarah Simpson (Syndicate Leader) Lucy Unsworth Emily Pettigrew Dan Byrne
Tui Syndicate - Year 5 - Team Rātā Liz Blackwell Daniel Edmonds Harriet Quin	Tui Syndicate - Year 6 -Team Harakeke Jon Mackie (Syndicate Leader) Sophia Gowans Sarah Smart

Ngā mihi o te wā me te Tau Hou
A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Raewyn Watson
Te Tumuaki

Miniball Co-ordinator required for 2018

Daniel Edmonds has enjoyed coordinating miniball this year. However, due to other responsibilities at school he is unable to continue with this role in 2018. We would like to recruit a parent miniball co-ordinator to put the sport in line with other codes at Ngaio. The potential candidate would need to:

- Form and enter the teams at the beginning of each term.
- Coordinate between coaches and managers with draws, results and any issues that may come up.
- Coordinate between Ngaio School about the teams and the results.
- Allocate and collect gear to and from coaches and managers (with support from Ngaio School).
- Set and model clear expectations with the community about uniform, fairplay and a general love of the game.

We have a great in school sports team made up of Ngaio School teachers and we rely on you, parents and caregivers, to co-ordinate out of school sports with us in partnership. We really appreciate this commitment as it allows us to run a variety of sporting opportunities for Ngaio School students.

Daniel Edmonds is available to train and support the new coordinator so please do not worry if you have limited experience with basketball, miniball, managing or coaching! All that is required is the ability to be organised and communicate with our miniball community.

Sadly, if we are unable to find a parent co-ordinator, we will not be able to offer miniball as a school sports option in 2018.

Please contact Dan Byrne if you are interested. d.byrne@ngaio.school.nz

The Ngaio School PTA would like to extend a huge thank you to all the Volunteers, Families and Friends of the School for all their time, energy and fundraising efforts throughout the year. Your support of these efforts through fundraising, parent help, and sponsorship make the opportunities and chances for our tamariki come to fruition.

If you ever wish to become involved within the school without an official commitment to the PTA committee we are always looking for assistance. Activities you can be involved in are Road Patrol, The Clinic, PTA Fundraisers i.e. co-ordination of T-shirt & Hat Sales, Discos, Sweatshirts, Scholastic Book Orders, Inspire Photography for our families, Sausage Sizzle for Sports Days, School Leavers Function hosted by Year 5 Parents and of course being involved in the PTA major fundraiser for the year - the Ngaio School Gala. Being involved with these things will give you plenty of opportunities for leadership and meeting new people. It doesn't have to stop there, we are open to new and exciting ideas and would love you to have the chance to implement and promote your own new ideas within our Ngaio School community.

This year's fundraising efforts have allowed for the rejuvenation of the school swimming pool and toilet with the PTA contributing \$38k to the project, and \$1500 to build a shed to house our sausage sizzle barbeques. We have also donated funds of \$1500 to the Swan Family for their wee boy who has a very rare and debilitating disease.

In 2018 the PTA will be continuing to work hard, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, to further develop and tidy up of areas around the school. We will also be working with the Kapa Haka Committee to host the St Brigid's Kapa Haka Festival in mid-September.

A huge thank you to our current PTA Committee who have met monthly throughout the year to discuss and work through the varying projects. Our members are:

Parents: Leanne Hay (Chairperson, who has been tirelessly dedicated and has recently finished her term), Kylie Johnstone (Acting Chairperson), Judith Yeabsley (Treasurer), Carolyn McConnochie (Secretary), Cassandra Brandeis, Angela Coutts, Kate Studd, Roslyn McMahan, Jo McKenzie, Melissa Curry, Jessie Williams-Shigeeda, Roslyn McMahan.

School Representatives: Raewyn Watson, Kirsten Reid.

Board of Trustee Representatives: Jo Hughson, Mike Letts, Christian Hawkesby and Lucy Elwood.

We are all happy to bring your expressions of interest or feedback to our Committee meetings, but we would also like to reiterate that you, as the community, are welcome to come to our meetings as a visitor and/or to join the committee. It is a great way to keep up on the news around the school and have an input where you can. Just watch out for meeting dates in the Ngaio School Newsletter.

Most importantly, the PTA would like to take the opportunity to thank the Ngaio School Community for all your support throughout the year. We wish you all a happy and safe Festive Season, and our school leavers and their families all the best for the future. Take care and we look forward to seeing you in 2018!

Season's Greetings to you all

SMALL STICKS SUMMER HOCKEY - REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

Do you love hockey or want to give it a go? There's a 6-a-side summer hockey league for year 3/4, year 5/6 and year 7/8 teams at three venues (Upper Hutt, Porirua, Wellington) throughout the Wellington region starting late January. Enter as a team or as an individual. A great way to improve your hockey skills over the summer months, or to give hockey a try for the first time. For more info go to www.wellingtonhockey.org.nz then 'Summer Hockey' to enter online. Any questions phone Jo Murray on 021 976116. The small sticks league starts the week of 22 January and goes through till 16 March. Entries close 14 January so don't delay.



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XRACE 2018

Ngaio School is an XRACE Ambassador School –

This means there are some benefits for Ngaio School families entering and also for school too!!

SCHOOL REWARDS:

- all families from Ngaio School can leave in the same race wave(s)
- (use the promo code: FAMILY with your entry)
- a **\$10 discount** for teams from Ngaio School to the Hutt City XRACE · free teacher team entries! (2 teachers can race together as a team)
- two school flags valued at \$600 (if 10 teams from Ngaio school enter)

For more information check out: xrace.co.nz

The image shows a promotional banner for the NZHL XRACE 2018. The banner features a photo of a family (a woman and a child) running on a grassy hill. A red ribbon graphic says "SAVE \$10". Below the photo, it says "Enter your family for XRACE" and "XRACE is the perfect experience to strengthen your child's self-esteem and empower them to be the best kids they can be. Best of all, you get to be their team mate, racing together, side-by-side to the best finish-line ever!". At the bottom, it says "Our school gets a \$10 per family entry discount. Use this promo code at the checkout to claim your discount." and "FAMILY" in a large font. The website "www.xrace.co.nz" is also mentioned.

To the right of the banner, there is a graphic showing two red school flags. The flags are teardrop-shaped and feature the text "YOUR SCHOOL FLAG". A vertical line indicates the height of the flags is "300cm". A yellow starburst graphic says "FOR 10+ TEAMS". Below the flags, it says "TWO FREE SCHOOL BRANDED FLAGS FOR SCHOOLS THAT REGISTER TEN OR MORE TEAMS."