

FERGUSSON Intermediate School

Newsletter - 12 May 2017



Hikurangi Street, Trentham 5018

email amin@fergusson.school.nz

Phone 04-528 7023

www.fergusson.school.nz

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Term 2 is very much up and running, and there is therefore, a fair bit of information to digest in this newsletter.

On Wednesday we held our annual noho marae for members of the kapa haka group. Thanks go to Davida Marshall, Debbie Wilson and Whaitiri Poutawa who were the mainstays of the programme, and also to members of staff and parents who attended and therefore made this wonderful experience possible. Thanks also go to Orongomai Marae for hosting us. Following on from the noho we are next Wednesday 17 May holding a whanau hui for parents and whanau of kapa haka students, Maori students and any other parents and caregivers who would like to attend. The highlight of the hui which begins at 7pm in the hall, will be a performance from the kapa haka group. Please rsvp by Monday 15 May if you are attending.

On Tuesday two teams of students competed at the STEMM Science Challenge. Competing for the Callaghan Trophy against thirty other teams of Year 7 and 8 students, our team comprising Kaito Maud, Charlotte Whitmarsh, Holly Harris and Aryan Singh Rana did exceedingly well to finish fourth and our other team comprising Nathan Lucock, Alex Ravens, Stephanie Portugal and Kalila Martins-Spiers likewise to finish seventh equal. Congratulations to all of these students for such a superb performance, and thanks to Kate Malcolmson and Susan Cook for their organising and transporting of the teams.

Languages programmes got underway last week so hopefully you were greeted after school with Talofa, Kia ora, Bonjour, Guten Tag, Ciao, Hola, Konnichiwa or silently in New Zealand Sign Language!! Please encourage your children to share their learning each week.



Science is a major focus this term and it is great to see the enthusiasm of students as they are engaging in awe inspiring hands on activities during this early part of the term. We hope that they will follow this enthusiasm through to conducting their own inquiry in preparation for the biennial school Science Fair.

Fergy Sport commenced yesterday and it was wonderful to see students involved in such a wide and diverse range of sporting pursuits. Please remember that if you signed your child's involvement in a programme that has an extra cost, it must be paid prior to next Thursday.

The pace continues next week with the Inter-Intermediate 7s Rugby Tournament, National Young Leaders Day, and class and individual photos. The following week on Wednesday 24 May we are holding our annual cross country. This hugely popular event will be at Trentham Memorial Park commencing at 1.15pm for Year 7 Girls, 1.35pm Year 7 Boys, 1.55pm Year 8 Girls, 2.05pm Year 8 Boys. All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

Mention of things sporty reminds me that we have received the registration information for the 2017 AIMS Games. The Games are an International Sporting Championship in a wide variety of sports. They are held in and around Tauranga and last year attracted 8000 plus competitors. This year there are twenty one sports on offer and while we won't be sending any teams, we are prepared to help support any individuals who may wish to compete in some of the individual sports which include golf, cross country, swimming, squash, bmx racing, gymnastics, yachting, tennis and indoor bowls. If you would like further information about the Games, and the possible involvement of your child, please contact me at ppatterson@fergusson.school.nz. Further details about the Games can be found at www.nzaimsgames.co.nz.

A number of secondary schools have advised us of their open days and parent evenings. We have listed these in the dates to remember section of this newsletter and suggest that parents of Year 8 students take note of them.



Some staffing news to finish. Tony Webb who first joined the staff in 2003 has accepted a position at Paraparaumu Beach School and will finish with us on Friday 26 May. Tony's contribution to life at Fergusson has been immense and wide ranging, and while we understand his desire to work closer to home, we will miss his larger than life personality, his passion for working with all students, and his talent for working with children who haven't always fitted well into a classroom environment. A farewell assembly for Tony will be held at 1.30pm on Friday 26 May and all parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

Please also find below a letter from Board Chair, Ros Connelly regarding my future.

Regards

Paul Patterson
Principal

ABSENCE LINE 528 7024

Dates to Remember....

- 17 May Inter-Int 7s Rugby Tournament
National Young Leaders Day
Whanau hui 7pm in Hall
- 18 May Class & Individual Photos
- 23 May ICAS Digital Technologies Exam
- 24 May School Cross Country @ TMP
BoT Meeting 6pm in Library
- 25 May Fergy Fund Finders pie orders due
- 30 May Year 8 students visit Heretaunga College
ICAS Science Exam
- 2 June Teacher Only Day
- 5 June Queen's Birthday holiday
- 6 June Upper Hutt College Open Day
- 7 June Inter-Intermediate Cross Country
- 13 June Taita College Open Evening
- 14 June Upper Hutt College Open Evening
- 20 June Heretaunga College Open Evening 6.30pm
- 21 June Taita College Open Evening 7-9pm
- 7 July Taita College Open Evening 7-9pm

Important message from the Board of Trustees

Dear Fergusson Intermediate School Community

It is with great sadness that I have accepted the resignation/retirement of our school Principal, Paul Patterson. Paul has served as the Principal at Fergusson for 13 years and his association with the school goes back to 1970s when he first worked at the school as a teacher. During his time as Principal, Paul has managed the school through a Central Government attempt to consolidate Upper Hutt schools and has overseen the construction of new school classrooms. Paul will continue in the role as Principal for Term 2 and will stay on in Term 3, if necessary, until a new appointment is made.

The appointment of a new Principal is the most important decision this Board of Trustees will face. The new Principal will have a huge influence over the life of the school and the learning outcomes of not only our kids, but also those of future Fergusson Intermediate School students. We will ensure that a robust recruitment process is undertaken and we will make sure the transfer of leadership will proceed with little disruption to life at the school.

I will provide updates to the school community when a new appointment has been made and also let you know the details of Paul's farewell. In the meantime, should you have any queries on the appointment process, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind regards

Ros Connelly
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
boardchair@fergusson.school.nz