



**Fergusson Intermediate School**

Hikurangi Street, Trentham email [admin@fergusson.school.nz](mailto:admin@fergusson.school.nz) Phone 04-528 7023 Fax 04-528 3821

*"High expectations for all"*



Newsletter Thursday 29th March, Week 9, Term one 2018

Kia ora Koutou / Hi everyone

It has been an incredibly busy term and we are all (staff and students) really looking forward to the upcoming Easter holiday. After that there are only two weeks before the end of term break. Earlier this week I asked staff and students to provide me with some positives for the term. I have been overwhelmed with the response, the list is enormous. I will be putting a snapshot of these together in some form to share with you before the break. I was encouraged that the list not only mentioned technology and opportunities, such as sports or visits to the Symphony Orchestra, but it specifically mentioned the teaching and learning taking place across the school as well.

This week's newsletter is a small one but I do want to take the opportunity to share something with you. I am in an extremely privileged position in that I get to experience the whole school, warts and all. At times I deal with silly and negative behaviours but I also get to work alongside a great team and interact with close to 500 students. There are amazing stories and examples of empathetic and caring behaviour going on all the time. I know often it's the "bad behaviour" that grabs the headlines around the dinner table and that's a shame as so many great kids who are wonderful role models and ambassadors for our school can be overlooked. We have a stunning group of students and I feel privileged and humbled to be a part of their lives. For every insecure student who tries to look "tough" by swearing or being rude to others there are hundreds of others who show their strength through manners, respect and integrity. For the four or five students that need to be reminded of the expectation there are 495 students modeling that expectation and leading through their actions and interactions.

I am incredibly proud of our Fergusson Students. They make me proud on a daily basis and I feel lucky to be the person that greets them in the morning and hears their stories and highlights at the end of the day before heading home. Like any school we have our moments but I refuse to let a few incidents and behaviours detract from the great things our staff and students are achieving together.

**Waiho i te toipoto, kua i te toiroa.**

Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

Have a wonderful weekend

Simon Kenny

Principal

### **Staffing News**

Given the reality of the teacher shortage in NZ and a really tight timeframe, we are extremely fortunate to have employed an excellent, experienced teacher to take over from Karen Van Arsdale. Scott Balmforth will join our team from the beginning of Term 2 and will work alongside Brigitte Ferguson in our new learning space. Scott is an Upper Hutt local and has taught at Evans Bay Intermediate, Newbury School (Palmerston North Yr 5/6), and is currently at Birchville School teaching in a collaborative classroom with

Year 3 and 4 students. Scott loves sport, especially Basketball and has represented Wellington and New Zealand in Handball. Scott has a passion for working with older students and the opportunities an intermediate provides for both teaching and learning.



### ***Sports Update***

Athletics - Approximately 30 students attended the Inter-Intermediate Athletics. All participants can be really proud of their effort and achievements. It is always really challenging to compete against schools from throughout the region, however Fergusson students rose to the challenge. We had some really pleasing results, which will be published in the next newsletter.

Netball - Twilight Netball has come to an end, after 6 weeks of our four teams taking part. This has been a great exercise in seeing how this social interaction provides some of our more competitive players a great pre-season warm up. Our students that have taken part purely on a social basis, demonstrated some great teamwork skills alongside growing in confidence as a netballer.

Saturday Netball - Please remember that permission forms do need to be returned as soon as possible. Don't worry too much about the money until 10 April, but if you do forget you will be invoiced.

### ***Private Music Lessons***

We are very fortunate to have tutors coming to school to offer private music lessons in Piano/Keyboard and Drums from the beginning of Term 2. If students are interested in taking up these lessons the information is as follows:

Drum lessons - take place on Wednesday with Maurice Phillips

**Cost:** \$25 for a half hour individual lessons

Piano/Keyboard lessons - take place on Friday with Michael Brown

**Cost:** \$25 for a half hour individual lesson

\$12.50 for a half hour group lesson (2 people) **Recommended for beginners**

If you are interested in either of these lessons please come and get a letter from Miss Fuller or email [kfuller@fergusson.school.nz](mailto:kfuller@fergusson.school.nz)

### ***Absences***

We make every effort to track unexplained absences. **Please** phone or email the school before 9am if your child is not attending school. This will not only reassure us that your child is safe but also save us an incredible amount of time. To ensure the ease of phoning in absences we have installed a line for this purpose. Ring **528 7024** to record your message. Alternatively, absences can be emailed via the school website. We are required by the Ministry of Education to log reasons for all absences so please include an explanation in your message.



We were privileged to host Mike King and his I am Hope Tour last week. Mike spoke with our students in a very honest, real, informative and somewhat humorous way whilst getting the message across to students and staff in attendance.



### Fergy Fund Finders Class Results

Sweets Fundraiser Class Results



- 1st Room 5
- 2nd Room 12
- 3rd Room 3

*Many thanks to all who supported the sweets fundraiser*

# Coming up...

- 30 March Good Friday
- 2 April Easter Monday
- 3 April Easter Tuesday (School closed for instruction)
- 5 April School photos  
Disco 7-9pm
- 6 April Mufti Day (Gold coin donation)
- 9 April Gardasil (Dose 1)
- 10 April Inter-Int 7s Rugby (TMP)
- 13 April Term 1 concludes
- 30 April Term 2 commences

**School photos will be taken at**  
**on 5/04/2018**

**FERGUSSON INTERMEDIATE**

You do not order your child's photos until AFTER PHOTODAY. 1-2 weeks AFTER PHOTODAY you will receive an order form to order your child's photos. The photo packs available are below.

<p><b>Pack A \$40.00</b></p>	<p><b>Pack B \$35.00</b></p> <p><b>Packs include:</b>          (Pack A: 10x8, 2x 5x7, Postcards, Wallets, Calendar and Class          (Pack B: 2x 5x7, Postcards, Wallets, and Class          (Pack C: 1x 5x7 and Class          (Pack D: 2x 5x7, Postcards, Wallets, but no Class          (Pack E: Class only          Complimentary          Packs A-D include portrait file voucher. Email the code on the included voucher to us, and we send the file by return.          A, B &amp; D include complimentary B&amp;W 1x7's.</p>	<p><b>Pack C \$29.50</b></p> <p><b>Pack D (Portraits) \$20.00</b></p> <p><b>Pack E (Class) \$15.00</b></p>
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**Sibling photos**  
If you would like a Sibling photo to be taken, please complete the request form on the reverse side and return to the school office before photoday.

