



# MANAKAU SCHOOL Matters...

February 3, 2021 Term 1, Week 1

## Upcoming Events

### Monday February 8

- **Waitangi Day observed. School closed.**

### Thursday February 11

- Open house/school BBQ. Classes open with teachers available from 5.00. Tea at 6.00pm.

### Monday February 15

- BOT meeting

### Tuesday February 16

- PTFA AGM. Held in staffroom at 7pm All welcome.

### Monday March 8, 9, 11

- Korimako (Juniors) swimming lessons

### Friday March 12

- Teachers Only Day

### Monday March 15, 16

- Korimako swimming lessons

### Wednesday March 31

- School photos

### Friday April 2 - Tuesday April 6

- Easter Weekend

### Friday April 16

- Last day of school for Term 1
- Finish at 3.

### Monday May 3

- First day back at school for Term 2

### ***From Debs Desk...***

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou. Welcome back! My Summer break included a couple of opportunities to go fishing...and yes you may have seen on our school facebook page I caught a beauty!!

On day one we welcomed 5 new families to our Manakau Community (12 students).

The team and I are really looking forward to continuing to work with you and your children this year.

At the start of every year we have an opportunity to explore how do things here. I have included information around school uniforms and Christian Religious Instruction in this Manakau Matters. The Board of Trustees and I would really appreciate your feed in on these areas of our school life.

### **Personal Best Always**

Our School motto was in place when I started at Manakau School 5 years ago and over the holidays I have had some time to reflect on what that actually means for myself, the children, staff and whanau at Manakau School in 2021.

I take this opportunity to share my thinking. If you google personal best, the responses are mostly related to sporting pursuits...better than you have done before. This didn't quite align with my thinking in our school setting. For me, personal best is wrapped up with a whole lot of descriptors...striving, having a go, understanding the power of yet, acknowledging diversity, owning our mistakes, being aware of the strengths we have and conversely an understanding of the areas we are working on. All of these ideas build on an individuals pursuit of "Personal Best".

Over the course of this year I plan to continue unpacking our school motto. This will also be an area your children and their teachers will take some time to explore. My thinking at the moment is that giving your Personal Best Always is fraught with challenges but worth keeping to the forefront of our thinking:



### **It's HOT**

Please make sure your child/children are appropriately dressed for the hot weather. We have sunscreen available at school and there is plenty of shade, every child has also been issued with a school hat. These must stay at school. As this is a Summer term, we ask that your children apply sunscreen before coming to school. Appropriate dress includes shoulders and puku (stomach) covered - shorts, skirts or pants that are at least mid thigh.

## Uniforms

Although there is no Manakau School uniform I have been sharing some ideas with the Board and have discussed adding some items to our options. Currently the Green Manakau shirt and sweatshirt can be ordered through the school office. There is a short yes/no survey attached to this Manakau Matters. We would appreciate your feed back as this will help to guide our discussions.

## Religious Instruction

In previous years our school has included a values based Christian Religious Education programme in Term 2 and 3, for children in Years 4-8. The Board has been updating its policies and procedures and we have looked at current guidelines for this programme in NZ schools. We have also revisited our last community consultation in this area.

In this consultation, the question was *“Do you support the teaching of CRE at Manakau School?”*

We had excellent responses in this survey and the outcome 47.5% Yes /52.5 No. There were also lots of responses with suggestions for alternatives. This mainly concerned the need to have a wide approach to talking/teaching about all belief systems and to include this in our Social Science’s curriculum.

The best practise recommended is to ask parents to **opt in** to Christian Religious Education. There is a question for you at the end of this edition of Manakau Matters and I have included a link to the [Religious Instruction Guidelines for NZ Schools](#) for your perusal.



### Water Bottle filling Station - Reminder

At our school we have one traditional drinking fountain. This can cause a bit of a hold up at the end of our morning and lunch breaks. We do however, have a 6 bottle filling station. Please make sure your children have a named refillable water bottle at school every day. These can be kept in class for easy access and refilled, by the children as needed.


## Term Dates for 2021

**Term 1 Monday February 1 - Friday April 16**  
**Term 2 Monday May 3 - Friday July 9**  
**Term 3 Monday July 26 - Friday October 1**  
**Term 4 Monday October 18 - Wednesday December 16**

## Staffing for 2021

Principal..... Deb Logan  
Office Manager..... Deb Feldon  
Team Huia - Years 7/8..... Lorne Singer  
Team Kereru - Years 4-6  
..... Michaela Dear, Rob Pollock  
..... Donna Henare (Teacher Aide)  
Team Korimako - Years 1-3  
..... Rachael Newman, Chris Thorpe  
Relieving Staff..... Carolyn Biessel, Pam Good  
Reading Recovery..... Patti MacIntyre  
Learning Support Coordinator... Lauren Shuker  
Cleaner ..... Julia Thorn

Welcome to our new families and students. Just letting you know... we send home a newsletter every Wednesday with the oldest child in the family at school. We are happy to email these also, just let the office know if you would like this emailed to you. All newsletters are put up on our website and on SkoolLoop App.

Do you have the SkoolLoop  App? This is a very easy to use app for notices, sending through absence notes, booking parent/teacher interviews etc. Plus it is free.



We have a first aid course running at school, over 2 evenings, in the beginning of March. If you need to renew or would like to have your first aid certificate and would like to join this group, we need 10+ people, please speak with office Deb. There is a cost to completing this course.

You will see on the newsletter calendar that we have a **Teachers Only Day** on Friday March 12. School will be closed for teachers to attend the Horowhenua Kahui Ako Ngati Raukawatanga day, with other teaching colleagues in our region.

Thank you to all the parents who have provided 2 reams of paper per child, and tissues. This is a great help to the school.

Today we activated our 'rural alarm' at lunch time due to a dog on school premises. All the students responded well.



We have our annual school BBQ next Thursday evening, February 11, from 5pm. The class rooms will be open with teachers available to talk to, followed by tea at 6.00pm. Sausages will be provided. Please could families bring a salad or a dish to share.

## Questions for a return slip

### Religious instruction

I would like my child/children to participate in Christian Religious Instruction at Manakau School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

### School Uniform

I would support the introduction of a school uniform at Manakau School. Yes / No

My child already have a Manakau Green top. Yes/ No

My child already has a black Manakau sweatshirt. Yes/No

Any other comments you would like to share...and if you'd like to follow up with Deb, please add your name and she will make contact with you over the next week.