

# Year 3/4 Newsletter - Term 1 2021



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable break! Welcome to Year 3 and 4!

Meet our awesome team:

## **Vicky McDowall - Room 7 (Year 3 Team Leader)**

Kia Ora everyone. I am looking forward to another great year in the Year 3 team. I have been at Konini School since 2016, teaching in the Year 1, 2 and 3 syndicates. This year my son Harry is in Year 6 at Konini and my daughter, Simone is in Year 8 at Glen Eden Intermediate. One of my favourite quotes about learning comes from Miss Frizzell in *The Magic School Bus*, "Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!" I want our children to enjoy their school day and feel enthusiastic about their learning - inside and outside the classroom. I'm looking forward to getting to know our new children and their whānau. Feel free to pop into Room 7 if you have any questions or concerns or just to say, "Hi."

## **Mack Morris - Room 8**

Hello families, I hope you've all had a great Summer. My wife and I have enjoyed a fantastic break, spending time with our lovely little boy, Monty. He turned 1 just before Christmas and started walking shortly after. We've spent plenty of time in the bush, which is where we all feel most connected to. I've been teaching for 10 years, and this is my 5th year here at Konini School. I love this kura because we have the freedom to explore our own interests and passions. For me in particular, science is a big part of my classroom. I enjoy hands-on learning experiences, exploring the bush and waterfall we have on our school grounds, and engaging my learners with the wonders of the natural world. I love learning about space, dinosaurs, animals, and the world around us. My favourite animal is the octopus. I formed a close connection with these animals years ago and have been fascinated by them ever since. I'm looking forward to meeting and connecting with new whanāu this year, so make sure you pop in and say hi, if you get the chance.

## **Emiely Quach - Room 9**

Sawadee and Xin Chào. I am half Thai and half Vietnamese, but born and raised in New Zealand - I've always admired our truly diverse nation. I began my Konini journey as a student teacher in 2017 and liked it here so much that I decided to stay for the long haul. I have a background in Science and Mathematics and enjoy teaching Visual Arts too. This year, I have the privilege of teaching our Year 3 and 4 composite class. Curious faces, engaged minds and the sound of laughter are my favourite things in the classroom. We love having visitors in Room 9 so please feel free to wander through our open doors.

## **Our Learning for Term 1.**

**Literacy** - daily reading and writing activities as well as phonics, handwriting, spelling and poetry.

**Maths** - Statistics (data collection, graphing, analysing), number knowledge, place value, addition/subtraction.

**Inquiry** - Ko Aotearoa tātou / We are Aotearoa. As part of a year long Inquiry focusing on what makes New Zealand special, this term we will be learning about important/well-known New Zealanders - past and present, including those in our local and wider communities.

**Physical Education** - Jump Jam, Sport with Anton, Year 3 Sports rotation.

**Music** - Rm 7: Thursday, Rm 8: Tuesday, Rm 9: Wednesday

**Library** - Rm 7: Friday, Rm 8: Thursday, Rm 9: Wednesday

**Kaitiaki Programme** - TBC by your classroom teacher.

### **Homework and Bookbags:**

Once classroom routines have been established your child will be regularly bringing home a book to read and spelling words to practise. On Fridays, they will bring home their poem book to read and return it to school the following Monday. Please use a book bag from last year or purchase one from the office as soon as possible so your child can take their books between school and home.

### **Reminders**

**Our school day** starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3.00pm. Please make sure your child is at school in time to be ready for our 8.50am start. Teachers will be in classes from 8.30am onwards so feel free to come along and have a chat at that time.

As we often have meetings before school and are preparing for the day, please do not drop your children off before 8:30am. If your child is late they need to get a late slip from the office before coming into class. If you need to collect your child early, please see Karen in the office for a sign out slip before coming to the classroom. The teacher needs to see this before they can dismiss your child.

**Brain Food** is a short break every morning. Please make sure that large pieces of fruit are cut into bite size pieces so your child is able to eat their snack in the time given. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Please send only water with your child and not milk based drinks, juice or fizzy drinks.



As we are an Enviro School, we promote **litterless lunches**. Please try to avoid plastic wrappers/packaging as much as possible.

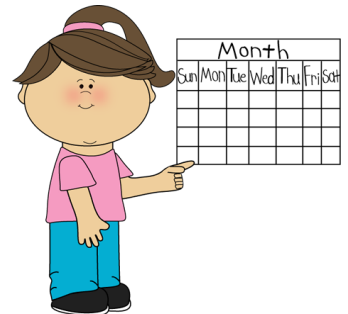
All children need to practise **sun safety** by wearing a wide-brimmed hat, and putting on sunblock before school.



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### **Upcoming Events**

- **Mihi Whakatau** (assembly welcoming new students) - Friday 12th Feb
- **Twilight Family Picnic**- Wednesday 17th Feb
- **Year 3/4 Wheels Day** - Wednesday 24th Feb
- **Parent Conferences** Wednesday/Thursday 3rd/4th March (school finishes at 1:00pm on the 3rd).
- **Cross Country** - Monday 15th March (Year 4 only)
- **Colour Run** - Thursday 1st April
- **Easter Break** - Friday 2nd - Tuesday 6th April (school closed.)



We are all looking forward to a wonderful year getting to know you and your children.

Kind regards,

Vicky McDowall (Rm 7) [victoriam@konini.school.nz](mailto:victoriam@konini.school.nz)

Mack Morris (Rm 8) [mackm@konini.school.nz](mailto:mackm@konini.school.nz)

Emiely Quach (Rm 9) [emielyq@konini.school.nz](mailto:emielyq@konini.school.nz)