



# TERM ONE, 2018



February 2018

Dear Parents and families

Tena koutou and Happy New Year to you all. We trust you had a great break relaxing with your family over the summer. We've already enjoyed hearing about the different adventures experienced by families over their holidays. The children have settled in really well and are getting to know the students in our classes and syndicate. We're looking forward to another successful year working together with school families and whanau. The partnership between home and school is an important one and we welcome your involvement throughout this year.

## Introducing the POHUTUKAWA TEACHING TEAM

Michelle Barnes	Room 7	Deputy Principal (Maths & Sport)	<a href="mailto:michelleb@mns.school.nz">michelleb@mns.school.nz</a>
Vangela Araboglos	Room 6	Syndicate Leader (Literacy & Creativity)	<a href="mailto:vangelaa@mns.school.nz">vangelaa@mns.school.nz</a>
Greta Purcell	Room 5	(PE & Health)	<a href="mailto:greatp@mns.school.nz">greatp@mns.school.nz</a>
Deborah Meadows	Room 4		<a href="mailto:deborahm@mns.school.nz">deborahm@mns.school.nz</a>
Abigail Helsby			<a href="mailto:abigailh@mns.school.nz">abigailh@mns.school.nz</a>

We are a dedicated teaching team that prides itself on the quality of the learning programmes we deliver to our students. We bring a range of experiences and interests to our classrooms. A special welcome to Greta Purcell, who joins us from Eastern Hutt School. This year Santi Govan will support Pohutukawa classroom programmes by working alongside teachers, and students. In the Pohutukawa syndicate we use Targeted Teaching Groups for Maths and Spelling, where the students will often move to another room and work with a different teacher. These groups are regularly discussed and rearranged when necessary to meet the needs and progress of the students.

### Greta Purcell

I am an experienced teacher that has been teaching for the last six years at Eastern Hutt School in Lower Hutt. Before I became a primary school teacher I worked as an English Business Trainer in Milan, Italy for 5 years. My strengths include PE and Writing. I'm very keen to develop the children's gymnastics skills this year. I live locally and am looking forward to working closer to home. In my spare time I like to keep fit by going to the gym and doing yoga or dance.



### MEET & GREET Evening

Hopefully you should have received an email yesterday about our Meet & Greet Evening on Thursday 22nd February 6:30pm. It is a great opportunity to reconnect with staff, families and learn about our MNS School direction. Please could you complete the form by **Monday 19th**.

## CAMP

Thank you to those families who have paid the first installment for camp. A friendly reminder that the total balance of \$225 needs to be paid at the latest by 16th March. The office is happy to accept installments. The second installment of \$75 is due on 17th of February. We will start preparing the children for camp during week 6. On Wednesday 14th March we will hold a Camp Meeting to share information about the activities, venue, organisation and the important Equipment List.



## CURRICULUM FOCUS AREAS

Each term, classes undertake integrated units of learning that are based around central concepts (such as creativity, citizenship or sustainability) that cohesively bring together key competencies, values, habits of mind and achievement objectives from different learning areas (subjects). Our school values are Respect, Kindness, Determination, Integrity, Teamwork, Acceptance and Responsibility.



This year we are looking at the theme of '**How Are We Connected?**' The world and the use of technology and constantly changing making people and places more accessible. Our focus will include how the students are connected to one another, connections throughout our school and connections to community groups in Miramar and Wellington. We would then like to explore connections with other schools in New Zealand and across the globe.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

As in all year levels of the school we continue to encourage the leadership skills of students. In the Pohutukawa syndicate we focus in particular on providing opportunities where children can manage themselves in a variety of learning situations. We encourage children to take responsibility for parts of their learning and increase their independence in learning tasks and behavioural choices.



Leadership includes leading and influencing others; managing self, relating to others and participating & contributing to the life of MNS - once again there are strong links to our school values, the habits of mind and Key Competencies.

### Leadership Teams

Shortly we will begin the process of selecting Y6 Leadership Teams for this year.

The Leadership Teams are

- School Leaders, Futures Leaders, Arts & Assembly Leaders, Sports Leaders

Every year the Leaders are chosen in a way that is fair. In the next few weeks all Year 6 children will complete an application form and present a short speech to their peers describing why they would make an effective member of a specific Leadership Team and how they might contribute positively to the life of

our school. Our knowledge and understandings about the leadership capabilities of different children will also help determine the children who are allocated different responsibilities. Our understandings are developed from watching the children operate in a range of group situations in the classroom and in the playground. The views of their peers and the wider staff are also taken into account when selecting all leadership groups.

## HOMEWORK

**HOMEWORK** will commence on **Monday 19th February**. Homework tasks link to class learning and this year include, fact finding, reading, Mathletics tasks as well as other projects that connect to topic and syndicate themes. Homework is **due back every FRIDAY**.

## ROAD PATROL

We have an enthusiastic team of Year 6 road patrol monitors who are responsible for ensuring their schoolmates cross Weka Street safely every morning and afternoon. A roster for Term One has been sent home already. The rest of the monitors will be rostered on during the rest of the year. Many parents have already offered to help supervise the children whilst they are on patrol - thank you. The Road Patrol Refresher session with Constable Aaron Dann is booked for **Wednesday 28th February**. Parents are invited to come along as well. Please email Vangela Araboglos if you are able to attend this session.



**CLASS TREATY** Classes are preparing their class treaties as part of setting up classroom routines and expectations. The class treaty outlines the rights and responsibilities each class member has in order to maintain a positive and productive learning environment. Supporting the treaty is the Choices have Consequences Behaviour Plan, Habits of Mind and our School Values.



**SUN SAFETY** We are very aware of the need to keep your child safe from the sun. Our policy is 'NO HAT, NO PLAY' for Term One and Term Four. Please support this by sending your child to school with a sun-hat every day. We are encouraging the children to leave their hat at school Monday-Friday so that there is less chance of it being forgotten. Please also ensure that children have applied sunscreen in the morning.

**VALUABLES AT SCHOOL** Students are strongly discouraged from bringing precious items to school for any reason. This includes items like toys, money, ipods and cell phones. Should students bring an item of value to school these need to be handed to their class teacher for safe-keeping. We suggest items are not left in school bags during the school day.

**WATER** We would like every child to have a named bottle of water at school, especially during the summer. Water is powerful brain food. For hygiene purposes water bottles should be taken home regularly, so that they can be washed.

## SPORT

During the year children will have opportunities to develop a range of physical skills and attributes. They should come to school EVERYDAY with appropriate clothing and footwear for physical activity.

Michelle Barnes, Room 7, is the Eastern Zone Sports Co-ordinator and this year will be working alongside Daniel Mangin to organise teams for sporting tournaments. Daniel is a teacher aide at our school who has lots of coaching experience. Michelle and Daniel will be liaising closely with the other teachers, and parents, about sporting events held at school or as part of the Eastern Suburb group. Greta Purcell will be taking on the role as Physical Education coordinator to oversee PE in the curriculum. Greta will also support Daniel with the organising of 'After School' teams (floorball, miniball and netball).

**Eastern Zone Events** Y5 and Y6 children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of inter-school sports during the year. Some of the EZ events are now designed to include competitive and non-competitive teams. Other individual events have a purely competitive element with Year 4 - 6 children qualifying through school trials for cross-country, swimming and athletics. MNS usually enters two events per term.

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Term 4</b>
Cricket Tournament Football Tournament	EZ Cross-country Netball Tournament	EZ Swimming Floorball Tournament	EZ Athletics Miniball Tournament

### **AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS LEAGUES**

Daniel and Greta will be liaising with the parents and overseeing the after school floorball, netball and miniball programmes. Participation in these leagues is dependent on the availability of parents as managers and coaches, so we thank you in advance for the support given to sporting activities. There are many sporting opportunities in our area and we encourage interested families to join local clubs or to try new activities. As a school we help to organise MNS teams for the following leagues.

<b>Term</b>	<b>After School Teams</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Floorball</b>	<b>2 - 6</b>	<b>ASB</b>
<b>2 &amp; 3</b>	<b>Netball</b>	<b>5 &amp; 6</b>	<b>EBIS Courts</b>
	<b>Miniball</b>	<b>3 &amp; 4 / 5 &amp; 6</b>	<b>ASB</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Floorball</b>	<b>1 - 6</b>	<b>ASB</b>

### **SWIMMING**

The senior aquatic programme started this week. This term we are fortunate to have two skilled MNS teachers leading each session. These lessons are extremely important and the children need to remember to **bring their togs, goggles and SWIMMING CAPS**. It's really important that all families pay towards this valuable swimming programme by paying their Annual Pool Fee which supports these sessions and maintenance of the pool. Thank you for your support.

The cost of the sessions is \$35 and can be paid using Kindo or cash to the school office

**Swimming Timetable Weeks 2, 3, 4, & 5**

Tuesday & Thursday	Rooms 4 & 5
Wednesday & Friday	Rooms 6 & 7



# Pohutukawa Calendar for Term ONE



<b>Thursday 22 February</b>	<b>Meet &amp; Greet Evening 6:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 27th February</b>	<b>Scorching Bay Trip</b>
<b>Wednesday 28th February</b>	<b>EZ Cricket Tournament (for selected children) Year 6 Road Patrol refresher</b>
<b>Wednesday 14th March</b>	<b>Camp Meeting for all parents</b>
<b>Wednesday 28th March</b>	<b>EZ Football Tournament</b>
<b>Monday 9th - Thursday 12th April</b>	<b>Pohutukawa Camp</b>
<b>Friday 13th April</b>	<b>Last day of term</b>

We are working to support students through the transitioning stage of the year and focusing on building positive learning environments. We are happy to meet with you at any time during the year to discuss any learning concerns you may have about your child. Please initially contact your child's teacher to make an appointment, we will endeavour to answer your queries and respond to emails within a reasonable time frame. The process for further concerns is to liaise with me, Michelle Barnes.

Please take time to look at the Pohutukawa Syndicate Learning Journey through our blog on the MNS School website  
<http://mns.school.nz/>



**Kind regards,  
Michelle Barnes (Deputy Principal)**

**Vangela Araboglos, Deborah Meadows, Greta Purcell & Abi Helsby  
POHUTUKAWA TEACHING TEAM**