

Kia ora koutou

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS



Welcome back to all our tamariki and whanau to another packed year at Plateau! We have implemented a few changes this year to reflect some of what we think are improvements.

Firstly our bell times have been altered after months of discussion and negotiation. We think this will deliver some real gains in terms of kids managing themselves and time available to be spent on learning. The new bell times look like this:

8:45-10:30 class time
11:00-12:00 class time
12:15-1:15 class time
2:00-3:00 class time.

This gives us 4 learning blocks and allows us to space out our breaks across the day more to allow students time to eat. We would like to encourage the students to eat something healthy in the first 2 shorter breaks, including fruit in the 15 minute second break, so if this could be provided every day in lunch boxes (including days when lunches are ordered), children should easily make it through to lunchtime. We are trialling these times in this term and will review them with the students and staff at the end of the term.

Another change is the phasing out of our class blogs to be replaced by something some parents will be familiar with called "Seesaw". Seesaw gives families an immediate and personalized window into their child's school day, helping to answer: "What did you do at school today?" We anticipate that it will improve the understanding of what students are learning at school and how they are learning it. Please go to <http://web.seesaw.me/learn-more> if you would like to know more and look forward to having a much deeper understanding of your child's time at school.

Staff 2017

Nigel Frater	- Principal
Richard Sheehan	- Deputy Principal, Kea Class
Joanne Schroeder	- Assistant Principal
Mel Freemantle	- Pukeko Class
Sara Francken	- Tui Class
Laura Collins-Gasson	- Tuatara Class
Cath Brattle	- Kiwi Class
Fiona Brown	- Paua Class
Pauline Roberts	- Ruru Class
Wendy Amies	- Reading Recovery Teacher
Sandra Moore	- Accounts / Office Manager
Suzanne Modd	- Office Assistant
Nadine Davidson	- Librarian
Jill Philpott	- Teacher Aide / After School Care Supervisor
Pip Thompson	- Teacher Aide

Felicity Tyler	- Teacher Aide
Karen Connors	- School Helper
Gary McIlwrick	- Caretaker
Dave Philpott	- Cleaner
Graeme Sheppard	- IT Consultant
Ineke Kruger	- Before School Care Supervisor / After School Care Assistant
Harry Homan	- After School Care Assistant

Pou Patrol - The dropping off of children at our beautiful pou proved increasingly popular last year. We will be starting that again from tomorrow, but on days where it is very wet (and during Week 6 - camp week), the patrol will not operate. Thanks everyone for your ongoing support in making our pou initiative a great success!

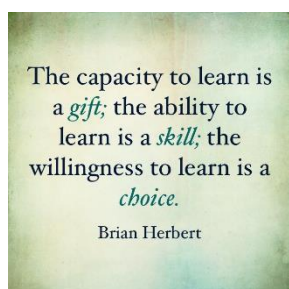
Tiniball/Miniball - We have been asked if we want to enter teams for the Tiniball/Miniball season this term. If I hear from a parent who can manage and train a team, I am happy to progress things and enter a team. If not we will not be entering a team. Note the close off for entries below, so I will need to know by the start of next week. Therefore, please let me know by then. Please email me on principal@plateau.school.nz.

START DATE - February 21st - Miniball
FINISH DATE - April 4th - Miniball

February 22nd - Tiniball
April 5th - Tiniball

Entries will need to be in by Monday February 13th.

Plateau Facebook - All our blog posts, Flickr photos and recent school news are gathered on our Facebook page making it the "one stop shop" for school events. Class blogs are posted to the page for you to read and comment on. We have 644 "likes" as of the 1st February. www.facebook.com/plateauschool



HOUSE-KEEPING

Absences - Please remember to ring through to the school office if your child is going to be absent or late. There is an option on the phone system for you to record a student absence, so you can ring early in the morning if it suits you better. If your child is absent and we have not heard from you, we will be contacting you to see why they are not at school. We are concerned about your child's welfare, especially since some of our students do walk to school. We cannot assume they are at home with you, so we would appreciate you letting us know as soon as possible.

Updated Information - Please remember to let the school know if you have any change of details, ie home or work phone number, address, email address, etc. If we need to contact you urgently, we need to have up-to-date details. Thanks.

Newsletters - Newsletters will normally come out each Tuesday via Signmee, so keep an eye on your email inbox for notification.

School Lunches - **School lunches will start from next week.** We will be making up a lunch roster for Fridays, which will be published in the newsletter next week. We will continue to have sausages / fish fingers in bread, pies and Home & School lunches on a roster system. To be able to offer sausages / fish fingers, we will need some parents to volunteer to cook and serve the sausages. If you are able to spare an hour on a Friday (hopefully it will only work out to be once or twice a term), please let the office know by this Friday. Thanks.

Before / After School Care - Just a reminder that our Before School Care operates from 7.30am to 8.30am and our After School Care runs from 3pm to 6pm. Please ensure your child/ren are picked up by this time. Time sheets showing the balance owing will be emailed to you at the beginning of each month for the previous month's attendance. You may pay the amount owing when you receive the time sheet, or alternatively you are welcome to either make regular payments or ring the school office for a balance.

Year 5/6 Camp 2017 - This takes place in March. You will have received an invoice for this at the beginning of the year. Thank you to those of you who have paid this already.

Hats - A reminder that it is compulsory for all students to wear a sunhat when they are outside during terms 1 and 4. We have school hats available for purchase in the school office (\$16 each).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Monday 6th - Waitangi Day (school closed)
Thursday 9th - Subway Lunches Start
Friday 10th - Friday Lunches start
Wednesday 15th - Year 5/6 Camp Parent Meeting, 6.30pm
Monday 27th - Sea Week

March

Sun 5th - Fri 10th - Year 5/6 Camp
Monday 20th - Goal Setting Evening (3.20pm - 7.30pm)
Tuesday 21st - Goal Setting Evening (3.20pm - 5.30pm)

April

Thursday 13th - Last day of Term 1 (finishing at 3pm)

TERM DATES FOR 2017

Term 1 - Tuesday 31st January – Thursday 13th April (102 half-days)
Term 2 - Monday 1st May – Friday 7th July (98 half-days)
Term 3 - Monday 24th July – Friday 29th September (100 half-days)
Term 4 - Monday 16th October – Friday 15th December* (88 half-days)

A Teacher Only Day will be held on Friday 2 June 2017.

PLATEAU SCHOOL 50TH SCHOOL REUNION - FRIDAY 25TH MAY AND SATURDAY 26TH MAY 2018. BOOK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY! PLEASE REMEMBER TO SHARE THE LINK TO THE PLATEAU 50TH REUNION FACEBOOK PAGE ON YOUR TIMELINE SO THAT WE CAN SPREAD THE NEWS FAR AND WIDE! (AND REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND!). DON'T FORGET TO "LIKE" AND "SHARE" OUR 50TH REUNION FACEBOOK PAGE! - www.facebook.com/plateau50

STARTING WEEK 2 - EVERY THURSDAY - SUBWAY (\$5.00 MINI SUB PACK, \$6.00 6" SUB PACK). - More order forms are available on Grabmee to print.

ROAD SAFETY SPOT

Did you know ... That wet days mean more traffic and less visibility. Extra care and patience is needed. Use your lights, bring an umbrella and be prepared to walk further than usual to pick up your child. It is better to catch a cold than collect a car! Our pou walking group will start from tomorrow.

GREEN SPOT

Tips for greener, cleaner living. Everyday ways for us to help make a healthier planet –

Insulate and weatherproof your home - Properly insulating your walls and ceilings can save 25% of your home heating bill and 900 kg of carbon dioxide a year. Caulking and weather-stripping can save another 750kg per year.

PUSH PLAY

Adding variety to a fitness programme is a good way to keep motivated:

Vary the place - Try a new route for walking or biking, or even a different room for your exercises or stretching. By having several options, you can pick one that suits your mood or schedule.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Can your child swim?

As we spend more time enjoying water around New Zealand, the drowning rates are on the increase. This is the main reason I became a qualified swim instructor – to help save lives!

At Swim Stars, I offer 5 weekly half hour swim lessons (from Thursday 9th February and Saturday 11th February) for \$55. Lessons are held at Plateau School pool.

This year, I am offering 2 fully paid scholarships for 5 weekly half hour lessons (please contact me directly for further information).

Preschool

parents in the water with children

Beginner

No previous swimming or aquatic experience
Perfect for nervous students
Introduction to basic skills

Floater

Learning to float on front and back for 10 secs
Perfect for students that need to learn stroking

Glider

Can float on front and back for 10 secs
Can swim 3m
Learn breathing techniques

Pro

Can take 3 rolling breaths
Can swim 1 length Freestyle and backstroke
Simple breaststroke

For more information or to book lessons, please contact

Arna Hannan 027 562 9471

Facebook: Swim Stars

Upper Hutt Cossie Club
TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

HARGOURT PARK
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12
12PM - 3PM • FREE ENTRY
BJ BEAR • MAGICIAN NIGEL KENNEDY
ARTS A GO GO PERFORMING ARTS
FOOD STALLS • RIDES & MUCH MORE
ENTER YOUR TED IN THE BEST BEAR
COMPETITION TO WIN!
For cancellations see: <https://www.facebook.com/upperhutcossieclub/>

SUBWAY **activation**
ACTIVE RECREATION

Pinket
1000 Days to Raise a Bundle

Cossie Club
UPPER HUTT

The poster features a collection of various teddy bears in a picnic basket, with a Subway logo and a 'Pinket' logo at the bottom. The background is a light blue sky with a sun and clouds.

Anita from Anita's Dance Academy is offering a scholarship for 2017 for one child for lessons. If your child would like to take dance lessons, but you are not in a position to fund it, please call Anita on 021 168 6115, to ask about applying for the scholarship.

Upper Hutt Music Centre



Enrolment Day
Saturday 11 February 2017
 9 - 11 am

Fergusson Intermediate School Hall

The Upper Hutt Music Centre welcomes new and returning pupils for 2017!

Affordable group tuition available for primary and intermediate aged children in
 Flute, Fife, Recorder, Clarinet, Sax
 Ukulele, Guitar, Trumpet, Drums, Violin and Viola

Learning a musical instrument is fun, rewarding and beneficial to children's education and development. The Upper Hutt Music Centre's long running subsidised out of hours music program has been helping children discover the wonderful world of music for more than 40 years!

The Upper Hutt Music Centre is supported and subsidised by the Ministry of Education

Unbeatable value at only \$30 per year!

Instrument hire available for violin, viola, trumpet, clarinet and flute \$30 – 70 per year.

Enquiries welcome, please contact:
Mrs V Philip
 Supervisor, Upper Hutt Music Centre
 Tel. (04) 526 9643



HELP US STOP NEW ZEALAND'S BIGGEST KILLER.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Every 90 minutes more than one New Zealander dies of heart disease. **Volunteer** now for our February street appeal and make a difference.



VOLUNTEER TODAY AND HELP US FIGHT BACK!

-  **TXT "volunteer" to 244**
for more info Text cost: 20c
-  **heartfoundation.org.nz/**
annual appeal
-  **0800 830 100**

 **Heart Foundation**

heartfoundation.org.nz



Term 1 2017: Parenting courses & events in the Wellington region

Build a great family team. Join a Toolbox parenting group and discover new ideas and strategies to add to your parenting kete. There are six sessions with a small group of other parents and a friendly facilitator.



Early Years (0 to 6yrs)
The most important years in your child's development are these early years. Learn how to lay the building blocks for a great future.

Lower Hutt Mondays 20 Feb to 27 March 7pm to 9pm



Middle Years (6 to 12yrs)
The Middle Years are when your child becomes acutely aware of "family" – it's their base, their brand, their identity. This Toolbox will help you stay connected, teach skills and build memories.

Porirua Mondays 6 Mar to 10 Apr 7pm to 9:30pm



Tweens and Teens (12 to 18yrs)
We will show you that, although these years may be challenging, they can be some of the best years of your life – and theirs!

Upper Hutt Tuesdays 28 Feb to 4 Apr 7:30 to 9:30pm

\$75 per person, \$110 per couple for each six week course. *Subsidies available*
 Free to foster carers, whānau caregivers, adopters, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and Home for Life Parents, thanks to government funding.



TECHNOLOGY TODAY, with John Cowan
 Can your family's values survive the internet? Of course they can!
 Mon 27 March 2017 | 7pm Doors Open, 7:30pm to 9pm John's presentation
 The Street City Church, 9 Hania Street, Mount Victoria | \$10pp, \$15 couple

Information Evening: All about Toolbox and how to become a facilitator
 Thursday 16 February 2017 | 7pm to 8:15pm | Hope Centre, 8 Downer St, Lower Hutt | Free
 For more information phone Natalie 0277 334 138 or e-mail wellington@parentingplace.com

Have questions? Visit theparentingplace.com or contact your area coordinators
 Natalie Alabaster | 0277 334 138 | wellington@parentingplace.nz
 Lesley Lambie | 021 647 136 | lesley.lambie@parentingplace.nz



middle years
 teens + tweens



TECHNOLOGY TODAY WITH JOHN COWAN

Can your family's values survive the internet? Of course they can! You just have to be a switched on parent when your kids switch on their gadgets. This seminar gives parents insights and skills to keep kids safe so they can reap the incredible benefits of modern technology. Even if you are not technical at all, you can still coach your kids in this digital age.

- Monday 27 March
- The Street City Church
 9 Hania Street, Mount Victoria, Wellington
- 7.00pm Doors open
 7.30 - 9.00pm John's presentation
- \$10 per person, \$15 per couple

Tickets available online at
www.theparentingplace.com

- For further information please contact Natalie Alabaster
wellington@parentingplace.nz



theparentingplace.com

www.highlandjoker.com

The Bubble show



**Thursday 23rd February
3:30pm**

**Friday 24th February
3:30pm**

**Saturday 25th February
11:00am & 3:30pm**

**Gryphon Theatre
2017**



TIX & BITS AT

WELLINGTON THE
FRINGE
ARTS FESTIVAL

FRINGE.CO.NZ



The Major Minors Childrens' Choir –

'The Major Minors Children's Choir is celebrating its 5th year of singing, and is welcoming new members to join them.

Rehearsals are on Sundays 3-4pm at 'The Spot', corner Fergusson Drive and Milton Street, Upper Hutt.

More info hvkidschoir@gmail.com or Joanne on 027-566-7672'.

For Parents who want to sing! - The Hutt Valley Singers is an all-comers community choir that rehearses on Monday nights 7.10-9.10pm at the Pettit Centre, by Our Lady of Grace Church, Cnr Palmer Crescent and Fergusson Drive Upper Hutt. All welcome. More info at www.huttvalleysingers.org.nz or Joanne on 027-566-7672