



Gate Pā School

Pukehinahina

10/12/2020

Kia ora tatou whānau

As we sprint to the end of an unprecedented 2020, this whakatauki is significant:

Ka mua, ka muri - Looking Back to Look Forward.

It reminds us to reflect on the past and to use this perspective to shape the future.

2020 - Looking Back

The importance of human connection and our school motto 'We CARE' came to the fore as we worked with tamariki and their whānau to navigate the challenges of COVID. It became more important than ever to focus on relationships, to know our learners before we teach them.

Our staff worked together to adapt to the challenges while remaining steadfast on high expectation for learning and behaviour. We used every resource available to support our tamariki to live by our school values and to make progress with their learning goals.

We celebrated our rich learning community both on and offline, making the most of every opportunity to strengthen connections with whānau and to celebrate the multicultural fabric of our kura.

Sadly, we farewell two long-standing staff members: Whaea Reremoana Rota and Julia Lerke. Both have made a significant positive impact on our kura and will be missed. Part-time and short-term staff have also been worth their weight in gold and we hope to be able to welcome them back at some stage in 2021: Sarah Strahan, Dee Samuels, Mihi Reid and Rachael Pratt.

2021 - Looking forward

Lunches for Learners

Gate Pā School will continue to provide nutritious, free lunches to all our tamariki.

Changes to our daily timetable

In 2021 we will trial some changes to our daily timetable. These changes aim to maximise morning learning blocks, to make sure our tamariki have full tummies earlier on in the day, and to make our afternoon blocks shorter. Start and finish times will remain the same: School Starts - 8:55am. School Ends - 2:55pm.

New Staff

A warm welcome to the following staff who join / will return in 2021:

- Rosemary Meynell - junior school teacher
- Matua Roha Dalton-Reedy - specialist teacher
- Matua Tama Robens - youth mentor
- Amanda Marshall - sports coordinator

We also have one vacancy which we are currently advertising for. Interviews for this position will be held next week.

Uniforms

Polo shirts, jerseys and hats can be purchased from the NZ Uniform Shop, 94 Elizabeth Street, Tauranga. Plain black items must be worn on the bottom i.e. tights, shorts, skirts. These can be purchased from any store.

New Enrolments

The more we know the more we can plan. Please encourage whānau who are thinking about sending their children to Gate Pā School to pop into the office and/or fill out an 'expression of interest' form on our website.

Key Dates including Pōwhiri

2021 term dates are enclosed. Term 1 starts on Thursday 4th February. On this day at 9am, Gate Pā School will be hosting a pōwhiri (formal Māori ceremony) to welcome new tamariki, parents and staff. All extended whānau are welcome.

Stay Updated

A reminder that our school website and our facebook page - 'Gate Pā Pukehinahina' are great tools for keeping in contact .

School Grounds

Our school whānau are welcome to enjoy our school grounds over the holidays. Please keep a watchful eye on activities and report anything untoward to Nutech security: 07-578 8233. Security cameras along with regular checks from Nutech will support us to keep our school safe.

Final 2020 Reminders

- School finishes at midday on Tuesday the 15th December.
- Reports are enclosed, enjoy celebrating your child's progress and their special talents .

Finally whānau, I thank you for your support and wish you a safe and restful break to refresh, recharge and reflect on what is most important – he tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.

Noho ora mai,

Rochelle Jensen

Tumuaki/Principal