

**5 February 2016**

Kia Ora, Talofa, Fakaalofa Atu, Hello.

Welcome to all our new whanau. It is great to be back at school and catching up with all the exciting holiday stories. With this hot weather it is really important that your child has a water bottle at school that they can leave on their desk to stay hydrated across the day. All classes go swimming Monday to Thursday. If your child is not swimming can you please send a note.

It is really pleasing to see all the children have a hat on their heads. Children will be asked to play in the shade if they are not wearing a hat. Staff are required to wear a hat in the playground as well. Unfortunately Mel from the playgroup has moved onto a new position and we wish her well. The Kindergarten are currently interviewing for a new teacher.

As soon as they have appointed, the playgroup will re-open, we are hoping in the next week.

Mrs Barry  
Principal



Room 1	Mrs Ray	Year 1/2
Room 2	Whaea Jordy	Year 2/3
Room 3	Miss Keyes	New Entrants
Room 6	Mrs Walker	Year 2/3
Room 7	Mr Rennie	Year 3/4
Room 8	Whaea May	Year 4/5
Room 15	Mrs Brennan	Year 5/6
Room 16	Mr Waite	Year 5/6

A big welcome to Whaea Jordy and Whaea May.

**Important dates for this term.**

**23 February** Parent Hui.  
An informal picnic evening to meet the teachers and to have a look inside the classrooms.

**24 February** Te Mana.  
An afterschool programme held on Wednesdays between 3 – 4 p.m. to support Literacy and Numeracy.

**25 February.** Triathlon. Whole school triathlon.

**26 February.** Little Achievers.  
A programme to support early Literacy and Numeracy skills in 4 – 5 year olds. 9 – 10 a.m. in the staffroom.

**2 March** Whanganui East School Swimming Sports. Whole school.

**3 March** Swimming ends for the season.  
**22 March** Interschool Swimming.  
**25 March** Good Friday – school closed.  
**28 March** Easter Monday – school closed  
**29 March** Easter Tuesday – school closed  
**6 April** 3 way Achieve Conferences  
**15 April** Last day of term

**Introducing our fantastic staff.**



Hi, I'm Mrs Ray and I am in Room 1. This is my third year at Whanganui East School and I am very excited to see what the year has in store for us all. My husband's name is Jim and I have a daughter Leigha, who is a year 10 at Whanganui Girls College.

Leigha and I are both passionate about sport and we enjoy coaching netball, basketball and touch.



Kia Ora Whanau. My name is Jordan Webb, I will be teaching in Room 2. I am super excited to be a part of the Whanganui East team and can't wait to work with all our achievers. This is going to be an amazing year. If you see me around or need to see me about anything I will be more than happy to talk with you.



Kia ora! I'm Nicki Keyes and I teach in Terrific Room Three with the Year Ones. I have been at Whanganui East for almost four years and feel hugely privileged to be able to work with such fabulous children, staff and whanau.



I'm Susan Walker teaching a Year 2/3 class in Room 6 this year. I have a husband who also teaches, three children and two grandchildren. I enjoy walking my two yappy dogs, read a lot of books and watch a lot of films. I've taught permanently at Whanganui East School since my youngest child turned five and continue to enjoy the range of experiences that each year brings.



Tena koutou Whanganui East Whanau. My name is Drew Rennie and I teach Y3/4 in Room 7. I have been at the school for one term and enjoy working with all the students, families and staff involved in our

learning journey. I am a singer songwriter in my spare time and love playing sports like football, golf and darts – in the time that doesn't seem to exist anymore. Teaching is my passion (along with my partner Fiona), I love to share my knowledge to help inspire other people.



Kio ora e te whanau o Whanganui East School! Ko Whaea May Bennett ahau. I am very excited to be a teacher here for 2016. I am teaching Y4/5 students in Room 8. I am passionate about helping students make the most

of all the opportunities they have at school. I have moved from Auckland but I am originally from Whanganui and grew up in Whanganui East. My favourite Kiwi pastime is camping at the beach.



Kia Ora. My name is Lysha Brennan and I am lucky enough to be teaching Fantastic Funky Room 15 in the senior school. I have moved my way up the levels starting at Whanganui East in the juniors in 2010 as a

release teacher. My favourite subjects are art, writing and maths. I also enjoy cricket and football. Although cricket I mainly enjoy watching it!



My name is Tim Waite, I am fortunate enough to be the Assistant Principal at Whanganui East. I teach a Year 5/6 class in Room 16. I grew up in Central Hawke's Bay. I have been teaching for 10 years.



Kia ora. I'm Alison Metcalfe. I retired at the end of 2014 after teaching at this school for 19 years, most of which were in the New Entrant Room. I feel very lucky that I am able to continue my association with the school by doing a day's release every week

in Room 3. Retirement is giving me time to give back to the community by volunteering at Hospice. I can also go overseas every year in the winter to stay with my daughter who works in London and my son, his wife and my little granddaughters who live in Madrid.



Kia Ora Whanau and friends. My name is Rachel Ramage. This year I am enjoying a change of role at Whanganui East School. I have the pleasure of working one on one with two of our children as well as their teacher aides, teachers, and families to organise or modify resources to meet their varied learning needs. I am looking forward to continuing my involvement in our school community.



Kia Ora Whanau. My name is Steve Hessel and I am Whanganui born and bred. This year I will be helping the fantastic kids in Rooms 2 & 16 in their quest to becoming great achievers. I love my family, animals, sports and

leisure.

Kia Ora from the Librarian, Mrs Lawson. I have been at Whanganui East School for a number of years. I also help Mrs Campbell in the office, take care of sports uniforms and attend to matters of first aid. I enjoy interacting with the children in our community.



Hi, I'm Lynne Campbell and I work in the school office. I have worked here for many years and enjoy seeing the smiley faces of the children every day.

Outside school I enjoy playing tennis, walking, biking, camping holidays and spending time with my family.



Welcome to our 2016 school year. My name is Beth Ditchfield. I am a teacher aide in Room 3 again this year which is really exciting. I also help Mrs Barry run the Te Mana after school programme which is held once a week as well as the Little Achievers pre-school group on Friday mornings.



My name is Ash Whetton. I have been working at Whanganui East School for 20 years. My main role at school is to maintain the grounds and buildings and ensure the school is a safe environment for the

children and staff. Whanganui East School is a great place to work and there is usually a different challenge each day.