

WEST MELTON SCHOOL



Kia ora koutou e ngā matua, e ngā whānau, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Konichiwa

Welcome back to the beginning of the school year.

Events for Term One

The purpose of this short newsletter is to let you know of events happening in Term 1 so you can save the dates to help with your busy lifestyles.

Event	Learners Involved	Date	Time	Venue
Waitangi Day		6 February		
Mihi Whakatau	Whole School and Whānau	7 February	10.30 am	Front court (Wharenuī if wet)
Y5 - 8 Duathlon	Years 5 - 8	10 February pp 11 / 14 / 17 February	TBC	West Melton School
Y7 - 8 Technicraft starts	Years 7 - 8	12 February	8.30 am	Hornby High
Partnership education: A Guide to Life at School	Parents and whānau	12 February	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Rauhi/staffroom
Bus Monitor training	Bus monitors	19 February	1.00 pm	West Melton School
Celebration of Learning	Whole School	21 February	9.00 - 10.00 am	Wharenuī
Y5 - 8 Competitive Swimming Sports	Years 5 - 8	24 February pp 25 Feb / 2 / 3 March	TBC	West Melton School pool
Partnership education: BYOD and me	Parents and whānau	26 February	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Rauhi/staffroom
Selwyn Central Duathlon	Years 5 - 8	27 February	TBC	Motukarara Racecourse
Board of Trustees Meeting	Board members and community welcome	2 March	6.00 - 8.30 pm	Rauhi/staffroom
Y1-3 Duathlon	Years 1-3	2 March pp 4 March	TBC	West Melton School
Living Springs Camp	Year 4	2 - 4 March		Living Springs
Blue Skies Camp	Years 5 - 6	9 - 11 March		Blue Skies, Kaiapoi
Ako Conversations	Year 7 and 8 and whānau	11 March	1.30 - 6.00 pm (Y7-8)	West Melton School
Selwyn Central Swimming Sports	Years 5 - 8	12 March	TBC	Selwyn Aquatic Centre
Ako Conversations	Whole School	12 March	3.30 - 6.00 pm (Y1-6) 3.30 - 8.00 pm ((Y7-8)	West Melton School
Celebration of Learning	Whole School	13 March	9.00 - 10.00 am	Wharenuī
Life Education Caravan	Whole School	16 - 27 March	All day	West Melton School
Ako Conversations	Whole School	17 March	3.30 - 6.00 pm (Y1-8)	West Melton School

Ako Conversations	Whole School	18 March	3.30 - 6.00 pm (Y1-7)	West Melton School
Omaka Camp	Year 8	18 - 20 March		
Grow Ō Tautahi Garden Show	Whole school	20-22 March	All day	Hagley Park
Canterbury Duathlon	Years 5 - 8	23 March	TBC	Ruapuna Speedway
Deep Learning Expo TBC	Community	24 March	TBC	
Partnership education: School 101	Parents and whānau	25 March	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Rauhī/staffroom
Partnership education: What's new?	Parents and whānau	1 April	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Rauhī/staffroom
Canterbury Swimming	Years 5 - 8	2 April	TBC	Selwyn Aquatic Centre
Celebration of Learning	Whole School	3 April	9.00 - 10.00 am	Wharenui
Board of Trustees meeting	Board members and community welcome	6 April	6 - 8.30 pm	Rauhī/staffroom
Whānau Reward Afternoon	Whānau winner	Wednesday 8 April	2.00 pm	West Melton School
End of Term 1	'Happy Holidays'	Thursday 9 April	3.00 pm	West Melton School

School newsletter and KIT notices

School Newsletters - Friday	Keep In Touch Notices (KIT) - Friday	Board Newsletter
Mini Newsletter: 7 February (this one)	14 February	Thursday 9 April
Newsletter #1: 21 February	28 February	
Newsletter #2: 13 March	13 March	
Newsletter #3: 3 April	27 March	
	9 April	

2020 Dates

Term 1	Tuesday 4 February - Thursday 9 April
Term 2	Tuesday 28 April - Friday 3 July
Term 3	Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September
Term 4	Monday 12 October - Thursday 17 December

Ako Conversations (Goal Setting conferences)

Ako Conversations are being held during weeks 6 and 7 of this term. This will be an opportunity for our students and whanau, alongside their teacher, to set goals for the remainder of the term and into term 2. It is recognised that effective goal setting is a vital part of the teaching and learning process and we value the partnerships that develop when goals are set together. Further details and how to book will be sent out on Friday 14 February.

Partnership education workshops

At our last community engagement evening (November 2019) there was a request for continued Community Information Evenings, and parent education. We have timetabled the following evenings for Term 1, and will look to continue these evenings throughout the year dependent on attendance and whānau support.

As well as these evenings, we will be setting up a blog with further information on each topic. This will be accessible from our school website, and will be publicised on the school Facebook page as events are held. It's anticipated that this blog will include a brief run-down of the evening; any photos or videos from the evening; hand-outs or readings that were given out; as well as background information, links to other websites, and an area for whānau questions and answers.

Topics to be covered include:

A guide to life at school - Wednesday 12 February

- school communications, notices, what to tell us and when, what we'll tell you and when
- how to order school lunches, lucky book clubs, uniforms
- who are the FoWMs? Who are the BoT? What do they do? How can I help?
- how do I talk to my child's teacher?
- my child is sick, sad, on the bus, not on the bus, late, going to the dentist - who do I tell?
- Facebook, etap, spotlight, seesaw, KIT - acronyms and websites explained
- what's the kāhui ako? What's a celebration of learning? All the questions you were too afraid to ask

BYOD and me - Wednesday 26 February

- how to keep your child safe at home - filtering and citizenship
- device shortcuts and safe measures
- how do we keep your child safe at school?
- everything you want to know (and more!)
- robotics - a hands on
- revised curriculum
- apps to avoid (and how)

School 101 - Wednesday 25 March

- what happens during a school day?
- how has school changed over the years? Why does it need to?
- why the focus on play?
- what's so modern about modern learning?
- how do I support school at home?

What's new? - Wednesday 1 April

- a speed dating session - maths (DMIC), junior reading (Liz Kane), NPDL, revised technology curriculum, enviro stuff
- 10 minute presentation then look at one in more detail, ask questions, have a go

Meetings will be held on **Wednesday evenings, from 7.00 - 8.30**, in the Rauhi space (beside the front office). These meetings will be largely discussion-based, and allow you time to ask your own questions or share your own thoughts. We hope they will be relaxed, inclusive, and informative!

If you have any feedback, questions, or topics you would like covered (no promises), please contact Christina:
christina.sands@westmelton.school.nz

Coronavirus Update

Current advice regarding who needs to stay away, taken from Ministry of Education advice to schools

'We have collated the key information from the Ministry of Health website to support your understanding of current requirements for the stay away period':

- *New border measures will deny entry to New Zealand for anyone who has left or transited through mainland China after midnight on 2 February 2020, with the exception of:*
 - *New Zealand citizens (including those from the three Countries of the Realm: Tokelau, Niue and the Cook Islands), permanent residents and their immediate family*

- *Air crews on direct flights from mainland China who have been using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).*
- *If you have been in close contact with a confirmed novel coronavirus case you should self-isolate for 14 days. If you develop symptoms including fever, coughing and difficulty breathing you should ring Healthline (for free) on 0800 611 116 or your doctor.*
- *As of 2 February 2020, all travellers arriving in New Zealand out of mainland China should self-isolate for a period of 14 days from the time they leave mainland China.*
- *People who departed from mainland China before midnight 2 February are not required to self-isolate unless they have been in Wuhan City or Hubei Province in the last 14 days.*

A key point is that the 14 day stay away period starts from when the person left China (or Wuhan City/Hubei Province). Not when they were due to start back at school or from when they arrived in New Zealand (eg, they may have travelled to another country before arriving here).

[Ministry of Health](#)

General Information and Routines ...

- **Absences** - Please notify the office if your child is going to be absent - 3478448. There is a facility to leave a message. If you know in advance that your child/ren are going to be absent, then please complete the Absence form in the office. Community teachers have been asked to refer you to the office. You can also let the office know via the School App.
- **Buses** - If your child/ren travels on the bus then please complete the bus form sent home and return it to the school office as soon as possible (paper copies are available from the office, if you need one). Thank you to those who have done so already. We do not carry over information from the previous year. Bus monitors will be selected and trained in the next couple of weeks and all students traveling on the bus will receive bus education. Well done to the students who have remembered to wear their bus vest.
- **Hats and sunscreen** - Please remember that all students are expected to wear their hats during Terms 1 and 4. Should they forget or misplace them, then they are asked to sit under the big tree during break times. Naming hats is essential! We do have sunscreen in each community, but it is always a good idea to put some on before leaving the house and for each child to have some in their bag for during the day.
- **Lunch orders** - 'Subway Thursday' lunch is up and running again this year. Orders must be placed before 9am on Thursday morning. Sushi is also available on Friday. Orders are due in before 9 am on this day. You are able to order from www.lunchonline.co.nz which is available through the School App
- **Kea Crossing / Car parking**- Thank you to the parents who are walking that extra wee bit and using the crossing. If you are parking in the shopping centre car park, please **ONLY USE THE PARKS ON THE SCHOOL SIDE OF THE CAR PARK**. The parks on the business side need to be available for customers and clients of the shops. Please respect this as it is fantastic that we are able to use them. Don't forget that there are other entrances to the school that could be used also.
- **School App** - For quick access to accounts, lunch orders, notices and attendance please ensure that you have downloaded our school app. Call in or ring the office for details on how you can do this and to organise your login details.
- **Swimming** - We try to swim as long as possible - although it is very much weather dependent. Could you please ensure that your child brings their togs every day. Again, naming togs, towels etc is essential. If your child is unable to swim, eg due to illness, then we ask that you notify the teacher (verbal, email, note) excusing them. We do offer lunchtime swims - but this is dependent on getting enough supervisors.
- **Uniform** - It is great to see so many of the students in the correct school uniform. Just a reminder that students need to wear the correct
 - socks - blue, white or black - with no motif/logo on them
 - shorts - blue with no motif/logo on them
 - headband - plain and small
 - no non-uniform clothing, including 'skins', under uniform

New uniforms can be purchased through the Mainland Uniform website [West Melton School](#)

Community Help

- **Learning Support** - Are you keen to support children with their learning? We had a fantastic group of parents last year who made a difference! If you have some time available - we can make it work! Please email Jeanette at jeanette.neal@westmelton.school.co.nz if you would like to help.
- **Community Support** - Teachers would love to have you in their communities helping out. Contact your child's teachers if you are willing and able.
- **Road Patrol Duty** - It would be fantastic and very much appreciated if we could have some volunteers to do crossing duty. This frees up teachers to catch up with children and parents before and after school. Please see/email Nicole Allchurch nicole.allchurch@westmelton.school.nz in Kōwhai if you are keen and able.

Susan Jackson
Principal