

Tena koutou katoa - nga mihi nui and welcome to the 2017 school year. We trust that 'summer' is treating you well....

The first day of school went well for your kids - and for us probably the smoothest start we've ever had to a year. There were no signs of frantic panic anywhere; not even the tiniest of hints. Kids and staff alike were well prepared and just got straight down to business.

The biggest challenges facing us this year are some created by the changes to the Education Act (*more about that later*); the freezing of schools' operational funding (*more about that sooner*); and our ever-expanding roll; more about that now.

No we didn't...

A recent *Southland Times* report on overcrowding in city schools indicated that our Board of Trustees applied to the Ministry of Education for a new Ministry-supplied classroom: no we didn't! What we did do is investigate constructing a board-funded classroom; but the costs involved put that option well beyond our reach.

Currently, we are investigating building an extra room to use (initially) as a staff-room; allowing us to use the existing staff-room as a classroom when the need arises later this year. If this proves to be within our financial reach and the Ministry of Education approves (it's their land so it's their call); then we shall follow that course of action. Any rumours you hear to the contrary are just the - rumours. We've never played fast and loose with the truth; so we're not going to start now ...even though the conjuring of "alternative facts" is now obviously a 'thing'! So obvious.

The reason for the Ministry's reluctance to build an extra room here is simply that only students who live in a school's zone 'count' towards generating classroom space. This is a practical means of ensuring that schools don't build classroom space beyond what they are entitled to.

So, what about our roll then?

Yes; it is big by our standards. Ideally, our school roll would peak around 270 - 280 by December each year. Last year it reached 300 or so; this year looks similar - we've started at 291 (our highest February roll in decades).

Currently, we have approximately forty students who live out of our zone. Half of them are from families who were in the zone when they enrolled their first Waverley kid and then moved to a new (out of zone) address; exercising their right to keep their child at the school. As we're not in the business of splitting up families, subsequent siblings joining us from those whanau, officially count as out of zone students.

However; more than a dozen out of zone kids are currently in year 6; the out of zone portion of the roll shrinks further in 2018.

Take the morning air...

...in the company of our morning road patrollers. If you have thirty before-school-minutes to spare one day per week; we'd love your assistance to supervise the kids on road patrol. Please contact our office with your contact and availability details.

How to

call us: 217 9332
txt us: 022 3179332
FB message us: <http://goo.gl/ljqac>
pay us online: 12 3154 0103559 00

Chocolate fishing season!

Opens next week! Yes - we send your child home with a global permission form (one signature covers the whole year); and a copy of their personal details that we have on file.

You confirm that the details are still accurate (making any changes necessary - especially emergency contact details) and sign it. Then sign the consent form.

Give both completed forms to your child to hand in to our office team; your child gets a chocolate fish in return (minnow: not whale). Better than Lotto: everybody wins!

Touch...

This term we have decided to run some touch development in the school during school hours. Children from year 3 to 6 (at this stage) will have two full sessions with Touch Southland to develop their skills in this sport. We hope to have a fun afternoon with an in-school mini tournament towards the end of term. (The deadline for entries meant that we had nowhere near sufficient time to organise teams and get our registration in for the out of school competition).

You will be sent home a further note through your child concerning the cost of the Touch Southland sessions - approximately \$2.00 each child.

We are also hoping to upskill any parents/whanau members who are interested in becoming a coach for the term four competition. This will involve experts coming in one afternoon (time can be discussed) and helping with rules and ideas for coaching.

We would love to start developing our teams early and have coaching of teams going on within the school well ahead of the competition start.

Please forward your interest to the school (*see details above*); or to either of the contacts below.

Fiona Fairbairn fionafairbairn@waverleypark.school.nz
Brenda Devery brendadevery@waverleypark.school.nz

Canteen for 2017...

At this stage the canteen ladies are planning to start again for the year on Wednesday 22 February. We will let you know when the date is confirmed.

Pita Pit

A reminder that orders on a Friday for Pita Pit need to be done online only before 9am. Please go to: www.lunchonline.co.nz If you are setting this up for the first time you need to register online and link to Waverley Park School. It is important that you first of all make a payment (either by credit card or internet banking) before you place your order.

Scholastic Book Orders close...

on Wednesday 22 February. Orders are able to be done online at www.scholastic.co.nz. There are instructions under LOOP or how to place your order if you have not done this before.. Go to the drop down box: Parents, Lucky book clubs to place your order. Orders will still be taken by us if you prefer. Just make sure they are back to us in the office by the close off date above.

AGM of the WPPA...

The AGM of the Waverley Park Parents Association will be held on Tuesday 21 February at 7.00pm in the Staffroom. We would love to see new faces come along. Meetings are very low key and we would love to have more members join us.

What's next?

February 21	WPPA AGM - 7.00pm
22	Book orders close; canteen likely to open
March 06	Rotary Club dictionaries presented to Year 4s
08	Maori whanau hui
28	Phoenix Zone athletics
April 08	Southland Athletic Championships
10	ILT Sing Out week
13	Term 1 ends
14	Good Friday

Random thoughts...

- I was stunned last night when my wife told me I was too wrapped up in myself. When did I get a wife?
- I may not know what I'm doing, but I'm pretty sure I'm doing it brilliantly. (*Donald Trump?*)
- They told me I was gullible and I believed them.
- Yeah - I'm a bird lover...chickens mostly.....fried...
- Going to bed early; not leaving the house; not going to party. Funny but, somehow; my childhood punishments have become my adult goals!

Ka kite,
Kerry Hawkins & staff

Interesting times...



DRAMA LESSONS FOR TERM 1

Invers Theatre Drama Academy invites enrolments from students aged 8-10. Space is available in our Thursday class, 3.30pm-4.30pm in Invercargill.

Build your confidence, meet new friends, become a team player, and broaden your imagination!

Lessons cost \$12.50 per week, and your first lesson is FREE! Enrol now by phoning or texting Jade on 0210799676. But hurry, spaces are limited!

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