

Kiaora and welcome to the new year at Lower Moutere School!

Not much can be said for our summer ...yet! Keep our fingers crossed that it will only improve ...before the autumn makes itself known!

The school year has started well – we have new faces and families in our school. We wish to extend a warm welcome to you all and trust that your time with us here is nothing less than great!

We welcome to our staff, Mrs Shena Mali, who is working alongside Mrs Sinclair, each morning!

This term is packed with some amazing learning experiences for our students. The staff have spent a good deal of time planning the term and year ahead, and look forward to giving our students some fantastic learning opportunities!

This term...

- ☆ Our main theme this term is “Life at the edge of the land”. This is a Living Science study, where we are exploring life in the water – both river and sea. All students will have the chance to learn to snorkel (in the school pool and sea for older students). We have secured a place with EMR (Experiencing Marine Reserves), and with Jude Heath, an ex-teacher of Lower Moutere, we will work on many aspects of marine and river study. There will be field trips to Little Kaiteriteri for all, and seniors will be going further, to Tonga Island. All students will have information about this, heading home soon!
- ☆ Writing – our focus this term is on writing information reports and explanations. This will tie in well with our focus for science.
- ☆ Physical Education – our main focus will be on swimming, moving to cross country training in the latter half of the term.
- ☆ Art – our focus is going to be on collage.



Sunsense – be sunsmart! Our school has a fresh stock of Oasis sun screen – one per class. However this will not be enough for every student every day. Application of sunblock at home, and maybe even a small stick or tube in school bags, would certainly help us!



SCHOOL BUS .. Mr Fitzsimmons looks after the school buses for us. Please remember, if your child is not travelling on the bus, they need to be signed off. If you collect your child after school, and they usually travel by bus – again – sign them off. If you travel from Motueka, please remember to pay bus fees early in the term so that your child can travel on this service. Many thanks!



CELL PHONES...we have a blanket rule at school that students do not need cell phones. If students do have a phone, we will send the phone to the office, where parents can collect them.

SCHOOL UNIFORM...the school uniform can be purchased from Whitwells in Motueka, with shorts from the Warehouse (black please). The school does have a limited supply of second hand uniform – please ask. The uniform will be reviewed this term, as a result of the survey last term. We will form a working party, who will keep you ‘in the loop!’

Building work ...update! – Rooms 7 & 8 will continue to operate out of Rooms 5 and the hall till the end of February. Room 2 will then start – meaning they will shift to Room 5 for the rest of the term. Term 2 will see the Admin area being completely revamped and ready for term 3!

Rental accommodation needed...we have a few families needing rental accommodation. Please let us know if you have / hear of something – many thanks!

GRUMBLES and other things that may bug us!

Lower Moutere School provides a great education for all of our children, and within this context the Principal and staff work very hard to build positive relationships with all parents and students. The Board of Trustees and the Principal represent the community and can benefit greatly from the regular feedback and input from parents. Parallel to this, the

school also has a procedure in place to provide guidance in the event that formal complaints are received from parents or from the wider school community. We do ask that parents follow this and work with the school to resolve these, as opposed to beyond the school.

Here's what to do!

<u>Concern</u>		<u>Appropriate Person</u>
Classroom Issue	➔	Class teacher
Bus Issue	➔	Bus Controller (Mr Ross Fitzsimmons)
Staff/Principal Issue	➔	Staff member or Principal
Other school Issue	➔	Principal, if no other appropriate staff member.
Board query/issue	➔	Board member or Chairperson – Brony Webby

School assemblies – With the hall being used as a teaching space for the month, assemblies will be held under the large shade sail area – 8.50am on Mondays and 2.20 on Friday afternoons!

Coming up this term – here are a few dates for the diaries!

Waitangi Day -	Monday 6 February	School closed
Room 7&8 snorkelling	Tuesday 14 February	Information to follow
Community BBQ	Wednesday 15 February – 5pm	A chance for our community to meet staff, in a social setting, and hear about class programmes.
Road safety	Monday 20 – 24 February	With Constable Gerry – Rooms 1-4
Board meeting	Tuesday 21 February	6pm in staffroom
Room 7&8 trip –Tonga Is.	Tuesday 21 February	Information to follow
Parent / Teacher interviews	Thursday 16 March	
	Tuesday 21 March	
Firewise programme	28/29 March	Rooms 1-4
Stopping demo	6 April	1.30 – 2.40 – outside the school
KaiFest	Sunday 9 April	
Last day term 1	Thursday 13 April	

Junior school trips to Little Kaiteriteri – information regarding this will be coming home soon! We are finalising dates with the outside providers!

Tennis Coaching If your child would like to learn how to play tennis or want to continue to develop their skills, please email Vanessa claybrookestate@xtra.co.nz.

Lessons start Thursday 9th February at Upper Moutere Tennis Club. Private and group lessons for adults are also available.

Thanks! Funds from the quiz and raffle at the Moutere Inn monthly quiz will be supporting Lower Moutere School from next Thursday's quiz, the 9th of February. Get down and support the school in a fun way every second Thursday of the month. Quiz entry is only \$2 and the wine raffles are sponsored by Kahurangi, Moutere Hills, Mahana and Neudorf. Yum!



Remember ...'Like' our school Facebook page to get notifications about what is happening at school! We are posting more and more info on this page!

Do you want your newsletter electronically? Please email Sharon – office@lowermoutere.school.nz and we can add you to the list!

Have your contact details changed? Again – please let Sharon know and we can update our records!

We look forward to working with you all in partnership, over the year ahead!

Kind regards,

Chris Bascand - Principal