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PRINCIPAL | Stuart Armistead M.Ed. (Educational Leadership), B.Ed., Dip.T.

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Date Tuesday 9th February

Kia ora parents, whānau and caregivers.

Welcome to Room 27. I hope you and your family have had a great rest over the summer holidays.

I was lucky enough to be a student at KNS many years ago, so it's a pleasure to be back as a teacher. I'm really looking forward to getting started and getting to know my new learners and their whānau.

### **PROGRAMME INFORMATION**

Our school focus for Term 1 is 'Mahi Tahī - Getting Along.' I aim to incorporate team building activities and group tasks to provide opportunities for the students to build friendships throughout the term and year. Room 27 will also meet up once a week with a Middle School buddy class to develop relationships and leadership skills with younger students.

Getting along is a huge part of our learning during the year and will set everybody up to be successful members of our class, school and community.

### **CLASS DOJO**

We will use Class Dojo to communicate with parents and showcase our work in class. Before I can set up your child on Class Dojo, I need permission from a parent or guardian. It's fantastic to see so many of you are already connected to Class Dojo. For those of you not yet connected, look out for an email from me and the handout that will be coming home to explain how to log on. If you are not already connected to Class Dojo, feel free to contact me via my school email address.

On Dojo, students will showcase their writing, special projects and the occasional piece of video work. You will also be able to comment and give feedback on their work.

### **LITERACY**

Throughout the term we will be focusing on creative writing and the language features that make short stories interesting for the reader. Later in the term, we will be creating slideshow presentations based on the students' cultures leading up to our school Cultural Festival.

### **MATHS**

Our term starts with some in-class maths, followed by testing before we get into our cross grouping classes. We will be working through PRIME where we have a focus on number knowledge and strategies.

### **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

We operate on an "Every Body Counts" philosophy. This is a philosophy where we focus on fundamental skills rather than just games for fun. We each try to improve our skills in a variety of areas and then apply them to game situations. Our main areas of focus for this first term are swimming, to tie into our swimming festival, as well as throwing, jumping and running, which ties in with our Athletics.

### **SWIMMING**

We swim each Monday and Wednesday. It is a part of the New Zealand curriculum, but it is also hugely important for students in a country surrounded by water. Please ensure that your child brings their swimwear. If they are not able to swim for any reason, please let me know by sending a note to school or message me through the Dojo App.

## HOMework:

With all the information that students are learning at school I believe it is important for the students to have time with whānau and friends as well as have time for rest. My hope is that the students will read for 15-20 minutes each night from their books that they have been reading in class during the week.

## SPARE CLOTHES

Please ensure that your child has a spare pair of named clothing in their bag throughout the year. There are many times that they may become muddy, wet or need a change for some other reason. This is important for term 1 and 2, and even more so for terms 3 and 4.

# WHAT'S ON WHEN

## WHĀNAU MEET THE TEACHER

Wednesday 17th February, Week 3. 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm.

Come along and enjoy a picnic dinner, games, and an opportunity to meet the principal, Stuart, followed by an opportunity to come in and view our classroom and ask any questions you may have about myself, the classroom or the learning we are undertaking.

## SWIMMING SPORTS

Friday 19th March, Week 7. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.

We have our school swimming sports taking place at Boys High. The day is broken into two parts – our competitive swimming races (Ostler and Thompson cups), followed by a celebration of our swimming where everyone gets in the water and takes part in moving through the water. We will have trials for our competitive events during the first few weeks of term.



## ATHLETICS

Tuesday, 23rd March, Week 8. Approximately 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

This is a culmination of our earlier focus on the skills of running, jumping and throwing. Students who have trialed and qualified for the finals will be taking part in their events throughout the day.



## MY DUTY DAYS:

After school on Wednesdays and before school on Thursdays.

- **MEDICATION:** A reminder that a consent form must be filled in and left at the office for any medication administered at school. All medication remains in the office for safekeeping during the day.
- **CELL PHONES:** We prefer children to leave cell phones at home, but understand that some children require a cell phone for safety reasons and to contact family members after school. Children must be responsible with their cell phones, using them appropriately and not during the school day.

My door is always open and I am always pleased to have visits from family, so please, pop in and see me sometime!

Kind Regards  
Stephen Shirley  
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