

## Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

*"Each life is like a letter of the alphabet. Alone it can be meaningless. Or it can be part of a great meaning." -- Unknown*

Dear Parents, students and caregivers,

### **Welcome Back!**

A big welcome back to all students & families. 2017 will be another exciting and busy year.

*On behalf of Te Kowhai School staff and students we would like to welcome all  
our new students  
The school roll for the 1<sup>st</sup> day is 305 children*

### **Information Booklet: "A to Z"**

Check out the updated "A to Z" booklet found on the schools website. This booklet contains a complete overview of all staff for 2017 + a wide range of other important information for the year.

### **Open Door Policy**

We want all students to be comfortable at school. However, we also realise that there are times, when things may not be going as smoothly or as well as we may like. Over the next couple of weeks take a little time to introduce yourself to your child's teacher – the better we know each other, the easier it is to talk. At any time of the year it is essential that you contact your child's teacher if you have any issues, concerns or successes to discuss. It is best to keep lines of communication open and discuss matters early on. Remember there is always another side to the story and that a problem shared is a problem halved. Members of the leadership team are available to assist when necessary. Of course, it is also appreciated when positive comments are forwarded too ☺

### **Hats**

Summer is finally here and we require all students to wear their hats at morning tea, lunchtime and during any other outdoor activities. All school hats were kept in classes last year, so your child will be given their hat back. If your child's hat has been lost or misplaced, we are happy for them to bring one of their own hats from home if you do not wish to buy a new one. We have received some feedback regarding the bucket hats (i.e. hard to keep them on when running), so we are willing to support that replacement hats are other suitable ones from home. Please make sure these are named correctly.

### **Life Education**

All classes will be attending Life Education over the next two weeks (this will be part of the student's shows/concerts fee for 2017).

**What is Life Education? (From the website, [www.lifeeducation.org.nz](http://www.lifeeducation.org.nz) - check it out as it contains lots of great info for Parents)**

*Life Education is a charitable trust that delivers a health programme to children in preschool, primary and intermediate schools. We go into schools by invitation, not by right and see over 200,000 children each year. We have 19 learning modules that slot into the school curriculum.*

*Life Education is a totally positive programme, incorporating our philosophy – that each child is special and unique, that the human body is magnificent and that we need to respect one another.*

*We do this by taking children on an adventure in our mobile classrooms. We capture their imagination and make learning fun by using a language that children these days love – technology. Our educators are registered teachers and together with Harold the Giraffe, our loveable mascot, use teaching techniques to recognise the different learning styles of children, and to help with retention of knowledge.*



## Stationery Info for 2017

If you haven't yet organized your child's stationery, we have teamed up with OfficeMax MySchool to have our stationery requirement lists loaded on to **myschool.co.nz**. This is a very simple and quick process and the stationery will be delivered to you at home. All you will need to do is simply search for our school, select your child's class lists and follow the instructions on the website.

## Upcoming Dates

Please mark these on your calendar

Date	Event
2 <sup>nd</sup> February – 12 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Life Education</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>School Closed (Waitangi Day)</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Assembly 2.30pm - Learning Community 6
14 <sup>th</sup> February	3.15pm and also 5.15pm - Meet the Teacher/Info sessions
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Board of Trustees Meeting 6pm
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Assembly 2.30pm - Learning Community 5
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Harvest Festival
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Swimming Champs – Ngaruawahia (Learning Communities 3-6)
8 <sup>th</sup> March	El Gregoe Concert (Magician)
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Assembly 2.30pm - Learning Community 4
14 <sup>th</sup> March	William Pike student/parent presentation 7pm
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Inter-School Swimming Champs - Ngaruawahia
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Class Photos
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Balloon Hop
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Assembly 2.30pm – Learning Community 3
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Assembly 2.30pm - Learning Community 2
9 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>TOP SCHOOL GAMES 2017</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> April	End of Term One
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday

Best wishes for a wonderful term. Kind regards - Tony Grey

## **\*\*2017 Term Dates\*\***

<b>Term</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
1	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> April
2	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July
3	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September
4	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December



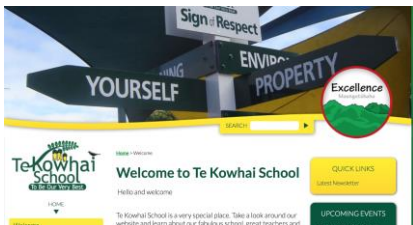
# Communication

We are constantly looking at ways of ensuring that parents are as informed as possible and feel invited to be part of the school. Of course....communication is a 2-way process, so please feel free to contact us with any ideas, queries etc. *In a school of this size and with so much going on, it is very difficult to communicate everything.*

We use a range of different tools. Each of these has a different purpose. This is what we have to offer to keep you informed;

COMMUNICATION TOOL:	PURPOSE:
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**WEBSITE**  
[www.tekowhai.school.nz](http://www.tekowhai.school.nz)




The website is a central hub of information relating to our school...

This is a detailed site which includes;

- Information about our school for new families
- Who is on our staff
- Parent information - general
- Enrolment information
- Photo galleries

**FACEBOOK**



Facebook highlights and showcases school events and activities that have taken place...

At Te Kowhai we use Facebook to share news, photos and videos relating to what has been happening at school. (E.g. sports events, learning in Learning Communities). These bite-sized highlights are currently shared regularly to over 800 followers.

*Note: you can see Te Kowhai School on Facebook without having a Facebook profile <https://www.facebook.com/tekowhaischool/>*

**SKOOLBAG**



This app informs you about what is coming up and is a way of sharing need-to-know information quickly...

*Search for Skoolbag at the app store, and then Te Kowhai School*

The purpose of this app is to provide you with a convenient way to receive all school notifications. This includes alerts, newsletters, news and dates of events that you can sync to your calendar. You can also notify the office of any child absences, and update your contact details.

## PERSONALISED COMMUNICATION

As well as school-wide communication, your children and teachers want to communicate with you personally as well. This is a two-way process so we encourage you to email, visit or message your child's teacher if you have anything you want to discuss. In addition to this, there are some tools Learning Communities are utilising to share news specifically from Learning Communities. This might be shared to all parents of a particular Learning Community, or it might be a personal sample of work, photo or 'moment' from the day relating specifically to your child.

**CLASS DOJO**



Class Dojo is utilised in some of our learning communities and is where any short messages or direct communication is wanted.



Seesaw is an online portfolio used for all students and keeps you up to date with the learning your children are doing at school. This is a critical part of a student's overall "report". Seesaw will link you to learning your child has done in class. Seesaw is kept up to date by your child and the class teachers.

## Staff Emails

All classroom teachers have an email address, which is checked regularly. Please feel free to email your child's teacher directly if you wish to query anything or make an appointment to see them.

Tony Grey	Principal	<a href="mailto:tonyg@tekowhai.school.nz">tonyg@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Juliet Dickinson	Deputy Principal	<a href="mailto:julietd@tekowhai.school.nz">julietd@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Shirley Bailey	Leader of Learning	<a href="mailto:shirley@tekowhai.school.nz">shirley@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Sally Grylls-Thomas	Leader of Learning	<a href="mailto:sally@tekowhai.school.nz">sally@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Nikki Willis	Leader of Learning	<a href="mailto:nikki@tekowhai.school.nz">nikki@tekowhai.school.nz</a>

### ***Learning Communities 1 & 2***

Shirley Bailey	Leader of Learning	<a href="mailto:shirley@tekowhai.school.nz">shirley@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Cherie Cutler		<a href="mailto:cherie@tekowhai.school.nz">cherie@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Nicki Grey		<a href="mailto:nicki@tekowhai.school.nz">nicki@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Rachel Hall		<a href="mailto:rachel@tekowhai.school.nz">rachel@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Clare Tammik		<a href="mailto:clare@tekowhai.school.nz">clare@tekowhai.school.nz</a>

### ***Learning Communities 3 & 4***

Sally Grylls-Thomas	Leader of Learning	<a href="mailto:sally@tekowhai.school.nz">sally@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Lisa Jones		<a href="mailto:lisa@tekowhai.school.nz">lisa@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Katie Robinson		<a href="mailto:katie@tekowhai.school.nz">katie@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Kent Watkins		<a href="mailto:kent@tekowhai.school.nz">kent@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Rochelle Moorfield		<a href="mailto:rochellem@tekowhai.school.nz">rochellem@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Kyla Kerby		<a href="mailto:kyla@tekowhai.school.nz">kyla@tekowhai.school.nz</a>

### ***Learning Communities 5 & 6***

Nikki Willis	Leader of Learning	<a href="mailto:nikki@tekowhai.school.nz">nikki@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Juliet Kelly		<a href="mailto:julietk@tekowhai.school.nz">julietk@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Troy Crook		<a href="mailto:troyc@tekowhai.school.nz">troyc@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Barb Shepp		<a href="mailto:barb@tekowhai.school.nz">barb@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Chris Dickinson		<a href="mailto:chris@teckowhai.school.nz">chris@teckowhai.school.nz</a>

### ***Office Staff***

Prue Williams	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:pruew@tekowhai.school.nz">pruew@tekowhai.school.nz</a>
Kerry Crossland	Secretary	<a href="mailto:kerryc@tekowhai.school.nz">kerryc@tekowhai.school.nz</a>

## Contact Details

- ❖ Please phone the school office by 9am if your child is going to be absent or late. Phone 829 7860. ***It is important that we are able to safely account for all students. Please contact the office, email [kerryc@tekowhai.school.nz](mailto:kerryc@tekowhai.school.nz) or by using the Skoolbag App as per above.*** This makes it easier to centralise attendance.
- ❖ Details changed? Please notify us immediately if your address, phone number, emergency contact details or work details have changed. Email [kerryc@tekowhai.school.nz](mailto:kerryc@tekowhai.school.nz)