

4th February 2009

A very Happy Chinese New Year to our families celebrating the Year of the Ox.



I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to our new students and their families, welcome to Willowbank School.

Welcome Back!

To our returning children and their families, welcome back! It was wonderful to see so many familiar and happy faces today as children settled quickly into their new classroom environments.

This term we also welcome back Mrs Jane Danielson (Associate Principal) from study leave and congratulate her on her successes last year. We have five new staff joining us this year; welcome to Miss Marissa Kruse (Year 4 team leader, Room 31), Mrs Alana McKay (Year 6, Room 29), Miss Andrea Peterson (Year 5, Room 14), Miss Karina Powys (Year 5, Room 11) and Miss Megan Cameron (Year 3, Room 8). This term we also welcome student teachers from the University of Auckland; Emma Nickson-Clark (Room 16), Louise Cullen (Room 4), Tina Byun (Room 19), Hannah Jo (Room 21) and we have two student teachers visiting from the United States of America; Kelly Willig (Room 27) and Natalie Wierzbicki (Room 25). Please see the opposite page for the full staff list.

Our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Thursday 19th February will provide you with the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to find out more about the learning, special events and activities your child will be involved in over the coming year. If you would like an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher before this date please call in or send a note to school to set up a time to meet.

Starting Right

To help children settle quickly into the new school year please ensure that they have all their stationery requirements and are in the correct uniform, including black sandals or shoes. During the summer terms children must wear a hat when outside. Our official bucket hat will be available for purchase at the school office from next week. Year 4 to 6 children need to wear the official sports uniform, an order form is attached to this newsletter. Please may I ask you to name everything! Thank you.

School Opening Hours

Although children are welcome to enter the school grounds from 8am, teachers are not in their classrooms until 8.30am so children in the grounds

before this time are unsupervised. SKIDS provide a comprehensive before and after school care programme for children who require supervision outside of school hours. Please contact Clare Williams on 021 702 498 for further information.

Change to Bell Times:

To maximise our morning learning time we have changed our morning tea bell times. Morning tea now starts at 11am and finishes at 11.20am.

ZeroWaste School



As a 'ZeroWaste' school we ask that children take all lunch wrappers home with them in their lunchbox. We provide bins for food waste only. A good way to cut down on landfill waste is to use re-usable plastic containers or zip-lock bags instead of plastic wraps.

Parking in and Around Willowbank School

Parking within the school grounds is restricted to staff only. The drop off zone (the driver must remain in the vehicle) is open to all parents and caregivers in the morning but due to the volume of afternoon traffic we are only able to admit parents with parking permits.

Permits are only available to parents/caregivers who:

1. Have infant children and are collecting Year 1 or 2 children
2. Have mobility stickers
3. Are collecting children with mobility disabilities.

Applications for Parking Permits are available from Michelle in the office.

Traffic



The Manukau City Parking Services has advised us that due to the rise in complaints regarding illegal and dangerous parking outside and around local schools they will be doing regular school enforcement patrols. They will be implementing a 'zero tolerance practice' to any breach of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004, which includes the stopping or standing of vehicles in illegal parking areas, e.g. footpaths, driveways, yellow lines etc and the picking up/dropping off of passengers in these areas. Infringement notices in respect of the offence will be posted to the registered owner of the vehicle. Please note, we do not have any control or influence over the issuing of infringement notices.

Walking School Bus

A great way to relieve the stress of driving to the school and having to spend an age finding a legal park is to sign your child up for the Walking School Bus. Our Walking School Buses operate each afternoon and leave the school grounds at approximately 3.05pm. We have 3 buses, each providing children with adult supervision as they walk home from school or to meet up with parents away from the school gate. Our 3 bus routes are: along Middlefield Drive to Kilkenny Drive, Middlefield Drive to Rialto Court and Gracechurch Drive to the traffic lights on Chapel Road.

If you would like to support this wonderful programme and are able to spare an afternoon or two each week to walk with a Walking School Bus please contact Lesley Pether (AP).

Empty Lot Behind the School

We have been advised that contractors have begun the development of the vacant lot behind the school on Gracechurch Drive. This means, unfortunately that we will no longer be able to use this space as an unofficial car park.



Field of Dreams – Manukau City Council Funded Swimming Programme.

This year we have been fortunate enough to be accepted onto the 'Field of Dreams' Swimming Programme provided through the Manukau City Council. The target group for this programme are children in Year 3 and 4. This means that all our Year 3 and 4 children will be provided with 7 free swimming lessons at Lloyd Elsmore swimming pool in the second term. Information regarding this programme will be sent home to parents later this term.

PTA

Our fabulous PTA will hold their first meeting for the year on the 17th February at 7.30pm in the school staffroom. Our PTA work extremely hard on behalf of the students and staff of our school and we really need your support. New members are very welcome! Please come along and meet the wonderful members and find out a little more about what they do.



School Lunches

School lunches will resume on the 16th February. Menus will be sent home on Friday 13th February.

Our full staff list:

LEVEL	Room	NAME
Y0	17	Kirsty Gray
Y0	19	Kathy Danielz
Y0	19	Ginelle Webb
Y1	16	Marie Blair
Y1	1	Eden Freeman
Y1	13	Cheryl McLeod
Y1	23	Amanda Bell
Y2	27	Verna Cameron
Y2	3	Heather Lane Colleen Wilkie
Y2	32	Jo Black
Y2	21	Lisa Neish
Y2	30	Renee Horton
Y3	12	Clare Greenwood
Y3	2	Halina Varcoe
Y3	8	Megan Cameron
Y3	15	Jessie Somervell
Y3	24	Vanessa Carnie
Y4	31	Marissa Kruse
Y4	4	Bianca Brook
Y4	10	Angela Rasmussen
Y4	20	Jean Holder
Y4	28	Keren Copeland
Y5	25	Lisa Bonniface
Y5	5	Tracy Johnston
Y5	7	Tina Joshua-Bargh
Y5	11	Karina Powys
Y5	14	Andrea Peterson
Y6	22	Maureen Agnew
Y6	6	Brett Munro
Y6	9	Amanda Isgrove-Spring
Y6	26	Olivia Calder
Y6	29	Alana McKay
Principal		Deidre Alderson
Associate Principal		Lesley Pether
Associate Principal		Jane Danielson
Associate Principal		Julie Cowan
ICT Specialist		James O'Brien
R/Rec & Mod Nds		Liz Macfarlane
Reading Recovery		Colleen Wilkie
ESOL Teacher		Angela Cullen
Learning Support Teacher		Tarsh Myles
Support staff		Karen Douglas
		Ruth Gillingham
		Carla Hart
		Melissa Kerr
		Sue Mitchell
		Dawn Nicol
		Romie Saunders
		Martha Strayton
Executive Officer		Frances Fraser
School Administrator		Michelle Wilson
Caretaker		Murray Naylor
Resource Manager		Sandra Christiansen
ESOL		Amanda Harris
Library Manager		Jocelyn Gardner
Admin		Carole Brainch

Have a lovely week and I hope to meet you at the Meet the Teacher evening on the 19th February.

Deidre Alderson
Principal