



Kiwi Awhina Newsletter

Term 1 2009

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to Kiwi Cluster! A huge welcome to those families who are new to Willowbank. We hope everyone had a great holiday and is ready for a challenging, busy and exciting year.

The Kiwi Awhina is an unique learning environment where we provide our Year 0 and Year 1 children with an inclusive, dynamic and safe environment where individual potentials are discovered, developed and nurtured.

We have an open door policy where parents are welcome to come and share in the excitement of their child's learning. Later this term we will have an open morning where you will be able to see how cluster operates – more information closer to the time.

Who & Where

* Kirsty Gray		Rm 17 (Team Leader)
* Kathy Danielz	}	Rm 19
* Ginelle Webb	}	Rm 19
* Jo Thompson		Rm 18 (Term 2)



Introducing....

Kirsty Gray

My name is Kirsty Gray and I have been the Team Leader of Y0/1 for 3 years at Willowbank School. I am originally from Wellington and have lived in Auckland for the past 5 years. I love teaching and particularly enjoy watching the 'light' go on as children develop their understanding and love of learning. I look forward to meeting you all and sharing the amazing learning journey as your children grow and achieve.

Kathy Danielz

My name is Kathy Danielz and I have been teaching both overseas and in New Zealand for longer than I would like to say! I am married with one daughter who starts her career as a teacher this year. I am, and always have been, passionate about setting up children with a love for school and guiding them to attain the abilities and skills to do this. I have therefore

spent the majority of my teaching life with children in their first year at school. I am looking forward to getting to know you all.

Ginelle Webb

My name is Ginelle Webb and I live with my partner and my puppy in Papakura. I really enjoy teaching year 0/1 and look forward to giving your child a great start to school. I enjoy spending time with friends and family, going to the beach and playing sport.

Getting To Know You

We look forward to meeting you all over the next few weeks. We have a 'Setting up for Success in 2009' (Meeting the Teacher) evening on Thursday 19th February. More details will follow at a later date.



Stationery

Thanks to those of you who have already purchased and sent along your child's stationery. It's important that all children start using their books at the same time. We would appreciate if all children could have their stationery at school by Monday 9 February.

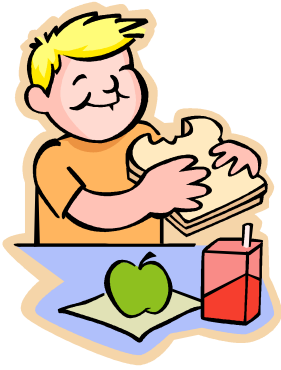
Remember stationery packs are available online at www.myschool.co.nz. Please ask for a Willowbank School, Year 1 pack. If your child is new to Willowbank there may be a couple of additional items they need, your child's teacher will let you know.

Uniform Expectations

Thank you for sending your child in correct summer uniform. Remember all children need to be in the new uniform. We have lovely classroom environments and to look after them we ask children to take their shoes off before entering the classroom. It would be fantastic if you could send your child in correct but also appropriate footwear eg velcro shoes and sandals. Remember school shoes need to be plain black.

It is extremely hot at present and we have limited shade area. Children must wear their school sun hats everyday please. (Navy bucket style.) It is essential please to name each part of your child's uniform. This enables us to return named items to their owners. Lost property this year can be found outside Room 3 in Tuatara Awhina.

Lunchboxes



Willowbank School is an Enviro school, therefore we ask that food is put into small containers or reusable bags instead of being wrapped in gladwrap. Any rubbish left after eating will be sent home again in your child's lunchbox.

We also ask that children have *water* in their drink bottles. Please do not send lollies or chocolate in your child's lunch. Thank you in anticipation.

Arrival Time to School

Classroom teachers will be in their classrooms from 8.30am, the bell goes at 8.55am. If your child arrives at school before this, they may play quietly in the Awhina space or outside. (The playground is not supervised before school so this is out of bounds)

If you need care for your child before 8.30am a before school programme is run by SKIDS in the hall. Phone: 273 4229 or 021 702 498

Art Shirts

We do some very messy things in art so we ask that every child brings an art shirt (an old bigish t-shirt or something similar). Please name your child's art shirt.



School Banking

School banking is a great way to get your children in the saving habit! National Bank school banking will start in a couple of weeks and is on every Tuesday before school in the hall. If you would like your child to bank pop up to the hall and get the forms. Keep your eyes open for the actual start date. ASB is also starting banking at school this year and there will be an elephant in the office that your deposits can be dropped into.

Parent Helpers Needed

We welcome help from any parents who are able to give a little time. No experience is required, just a little time. We even have some jobs that can be done at home like cutting out, while others can help in the classroom.

Being a parent helper is a great way to get to know the staff, children and meet others in the community. If you would like to become a parent helper please see your child's teacher. You would be most welcome, we really appreciate the help.

Keeping You Informed

Over the next few weeks teachers will be busy assessing and getting to know each child's abilities and needs. Beginning School Assessment Conferences (your child, you and the teacher) are planned for later this term. More details will be sent home closer to the time.

Learning At Home

Children will bring home reading books Monday to Friday. On Friday they will also bring their poetry book home to share with you. Your child will also have a word-ring to learn. Please spend time with you child helping them learn their word-ring out of order. These will be sent home by week 5. Home learning is designed to be fun and not a time consuming activity. Please remember daily reading to and with your child(ren) of favourite and/or library books is a key way to help your child develop a love of and the skills for reading.



What Are We Learning This Term?

Literacy and Numeracy are the core foundation for our learning in Year 1. The children will be developing early reading, writing and counting skills this term. This learning will be shared with you at our BSA conferences. During the year these core skills will be developed and strengthened as children are taught according to their needs.

Our context of learning for the first 5 weeks this term is 'The Willowbank Way'. We will be exploring the school vision and what it means to us.

This will include activities around the following questions:

- Who are the people in our school and what are their roles and responsibilities?
- How can I be safe at school? (sunsmart, conflict resolution etc),
- How can I be a good friend?

Please talk to your child about their learning and come and see our shared experiences displayed in our classrooms!

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to come and see us.

Kind Regards: Kirsty, Kathy, Ginelle and Jo
😊