



# Newsletter

**Wednesday 1 February 2017**

**This week**

Swimming programme underway

**Coming Up**

Mon 6 Feb	Waitangi Day - school closed
Thurs 16 Feb	KTS Swimming Sports
Thurs 16 Feb	Meet the Teacher evening (see details below)
Mon 20 Feb	Intermediate Urban Camp week
<b>Mon 6 March</b>	<b>Teacher Only Day - school closed</b>



**Quick Look**

- Meet the Teacher
- General reminders
- Safety at the gate
- Parent portal
- Responsible Use Agreements
- 2017 Head students

Welcome back everyone. I hope you've had a restful break and have been able to spend lots of time with family and friends. It was certainly good to see so many eager faces coming into school yesterday and gosh so many have certainly grown a few inches over the last 6 weeks.

Many of you are aware that I have six months leave this year to undertake international research. I am looking into leadership across schools (much like our communities of learning). I will be away terms 2 and 3 with Louis Heap taking on the role of acting principal. He will be ably supported by Kath Horsnell as acting associate principal. I will share more information later in the term before I head to the United Kingdom, United States, Canada and Singapore and then looking more into the New Zealand context.

We welcomed a number of new students in the school yesterday. It is great to have you at KTS along with you as new parents to our school. We look forward to getting to know you over the next few weeks.

Teaching staff have been in school over the last two weeks preparing for the new school year with Teacher Only Days on Thursday and Friday. Amongst other things we had two very informative sessions, one ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and another on APD (Auditory Processing Disorder).

Please note that we are having another Teacher Only Day Monday 6th March. We have Mark Treadwell coming to work with us on developing effective learning to support the development of 21st century learning competencies. We did try to get Mark in for last week but he was unavailable. We have had Mark in school a few years ago and found him amazing. Please note that this day does not impact on the number of school days for the year – we are required to be open for 194 days. By taking this Teacher Only Day we now finish Friday 15th December.

### **Meet the Teacher**

We have set **THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY** for our Meet the Teacher evening. This evening is designed to outline the class organisation and expectations and for you to more formally meet your child's teacher for 2017. We will also have a full parent meeting in the hall where I will outline the main goals for the year and share our newly developed KTS Parent Guide. The outline of the evening is as follows:

- 5.30 - 6.00 Meet the Teacher meetings for Koru team (Rooms 1 - 7)
- 6.00 - 6.30 Parent meeting in the hall
- 6.30 - 7.00 Meet the Teacher meetings for Harakeke and Pohutukawa classes (Rooms 8 - 16)

Class booklets will be available on the school website on the 16th February. Please remember that the website has contact details for all staff along with a raft of other information.

### **General reminders**

**Hats** - all students are required to have a hat to wear whilst outside in terms 1 and 4. Any hat is acceptable but please ensure it is named.

**Uniform** - again please ensure all items are named and that your children have the correct uniform - particularly shoes. The Board's uniform code is detailed in the following links:

[Uniform Code](#)      [KTS Shoes](#)

**Junior deck area** – our sense of community is very important to us and we love that many of you catch up with friends after drop off and just prior to pick up. We ask that you move away from the deck and catch up – maybe enjoy the new seats in the junior area. It helps students concentrate and focus on both start of day and end of day instructions.

**Swimming** – programmes are up and running. The timetable for your child's class will have been communicated to you by class teachers. We do need help from you both in the water and pool side. We have extended the swimming sessions this year but it is important that your child is prepared for their time in the pool. It is part of the New Zealand curriculum so all students are expected to take part. We do focus more on water confidence (for those who need it) and water safety. Water Safe provide life jackets to aid this aspect of our teaching.

### **Access to the school**

We have changed the way in which we are managing the crossing on Kohia Terrace. We are trialling having just a staff member on the crossing in the morning as people tend to use the crossing over a good 20 min period rather than the mass exit at the end of the day. As I say, it is a trial, so we will be reviewing it in a few weeks.

Thank you to everyone who is using the drop off zone so effectively - it does make such a difference to traffic flow. A reminder for everyone to use the pedestrian areas to come to the school office and NOT walk through the car park area.

### **2017 Head Students**

On the last day of the 2016 school year we announced our 2017 head students. Congratulations to our head boy and girl. Daniel Lyons and Dayna Langley, our deputy head students Muni Kumaran and Grace Gilmore. More from them next newsletter (Tuesday 14th February).

## **Parent Portal**

Some of you are still having difficulty accessing the parent portal. We have been in touch with MUSAC and are awaiting information on how to solve the problems you are having. We will have information about this in the next newsletter.

## **ICT Responsible Use Agreement**

Your child will be bringing home this year's Responsible Use Agreement (RUA) today for you to read, complete and return to school. The RUA is a means for the school and parents to agree what safe and appropriate internet use looks like – it's a tool to promote good online habits. By signing the RUA you are letting the school know that you trust the way we support students in how to use ICTs safely. Furthermore, it provides a framework from which teachers can support students throughout the year as they grow and learn in their use of ICTs.

For older students (Year 4-8) the RUA includes guidance on appropriate use of the school email address students receive. We believe that by helping these students understand how best to behave online, we are equipping them to be more resilient in an increasingly digital world. By asking these older students to sign the agreement we can get more buy in, and help them to understand that they are responsible for any intentional breaches of our guidelines.

Finally, the RUA gives parents the opportunity to allow their child's school work and/or image to be used publicly within the school context (e.g. printed in wall displays, in the school newsletter, on class websites). Where external use was in question (e.g. a story in the Central Leader, NZ Herald or similar) a separate one-off permission would be sought from the parent. If you are not comfortable with your child's image/work being published in trusted online school contexts please indicate this on the form and we'll be in touch to clarify exactly what your preferences are.

I hope you are all enjoying getting back into the school routine. I look forward to seeing you at Meet the Teacher evening Thursday 16th February if not before - *Alison*



## **Spotlight on Sport**

Welcome to Term 1 2017

Sport at KTS has already started so well - lots of swimming and we already have 3 basketball teams and 2 flippaball teams underway.

Please check on the Parent tab on the website and read about the different opportunities for Zone competitions for both Intermediates and Year 5 and 6. Thank you for all your support in coaching teams for these sports days - your help is very much appreciated.

## **Swimming**

Thanks to all those parents who have offered to help out their child's class - remember the more we have to help out the more time the children spend in the pool.

## **Swimming Sports Year 5 - 8**

We have swimming sports coming up on Thursday 16th Feb 8:45 - 1:00. There will be a note coming home in the next couple of days. I need lots of parents to help with timing the races. I also need a couple of parents who are happy to get in the pool about 8:00am to help me set up the lanes on the day of the swimming sports.

If you can help please email me at [jayne@kts.school.nz](mailto:jayne@kts.school.nz)

### **Yummy Stickers**

We would like to make a really big effort this year to get as many sheets filled as we can. If you fill a sheet then return it to the office and you will get 300 house points for each sheet that is filled in. We can get some fabulous free sports equipment with these stickers - so keep collecting! Click [here](#) for the link to the sheets.

Please contact Jayne [jayne@kts.school.nz](mailto:jayne@kts.school.nz) if you have any questions

### **GymClub**

Term one gymnastics classes are scheduled to start on Monday 13th February at lunchtime in the school hall. The cost of the 8 week term is only \$95.

Register on the website: [www.GYMclub.co.nz](http://www.GYMclub.co.nz) or for more details phone 0800 273368.

### **Belonging to Kohia Terrace School**

#### **Secondhand Uniform Sale**

We will be holding a sale of secondhand uniforms on Thursday 16th February from 2.30 - 3.15pm in the office foyer. If you have any good quality used uniforms you would like to donate please bring them to the office, they would be much appreciated, thank you.

### **General Notices**

**Taoist Tai Chi** - beginner classes starting 14th February at 7pm in the Kohia Terrace school hall. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Contact Jeff on 0272137091 or email [northern.nz@taoist.org](mailto:northern.nz@taoist.org) for more information.