

Senior Syndicate Newsletter - 8th February 2017

Dear Parents / Caregivers of rooms 1, 2, 3, 4 and 16.

Welcome back to Pekerau School for 2017, and a warm welcome to families and staff who are new to the senior school. We hope everyone has had a restful holiday. We are sure we will have a busy and exciting year together, and we as a staff are looking forward to working with you and your children throughout the course of the year.

Our Team for 2017

Tracey Gray	R1
Kath Grindrod	Rm 2
Dene Franklin	Rm 16
James Paul	Rm 4
Daniel McAuley (<i>Team Leader</i>)	Rm 3
Jude Shaw & Christian Gwynn	(Support Teachers)
Hannah Buchanan	(Release Teacher)



Term 1 Inquiry Unit and Events

- Our school wide inquiry this term is focused on **Identity**. Students will understand that “our place” is special because of “our people” who live in our community.
- Senior School Camp – Week 5
- Swimming every Thursday at Te Awamutu Primary between 11am and 1.30.
- Lake Trip – Week 3



Focus for the Beginning of the Year

At the beginning of the year our main focus is around developing our class as a learning community and getting to know each other. An important part of setting the class up for the year of successful learning is establishing routines, expectations and responsibilities. Another key factor that influences success is the relationship that we as teachers form with you the parents. We encourage you to come into school as often as you can to meet us, and also to talk about the great learning that will be taking place.

Homework

This year reading will be the homework of all children in the Senior School. Some students will take home set readers, while other students will read their library books. Newspapers, timetables, internet research around topics of interest are other ways of getting reading done at home. Any queries or concerns please see your classroom teacher, and we can support you with advice on how to get your child to read.





Camp

Camp is fast approaching. This is happening in 3 weeks' time. Newsletters went home Wednesday with information regarding this trip. These need to be filled in and returned back to school by Monday 13th of February. This will enable teachers to understand any needs and health requirements or concerns of our students. Any questions please contact us and we will discuss any matters of concern. The cost of camp is \$190 and needs to be paid by Wednesday 22 February. If there are any problems with payments please see the school office or the classroom teacher.



Lake Arapuni Trip

Wednesday the 15th of February the Senior School is spending the day out at Lake Arapuni. For this to happen we require parent help. If you can help out during the day please contact your child's teacher.

Swimming

We have been offered a fantastic opportunity to use the pool at Te Awamutu Primary every Thursday from 11 am. Swimming is part of the Physical Education curriculum; therefore all children are expected to swim unless they have a valid reason not to. A note will be required with an explanation if children are not swimming. Please send togs and towel that are named in a plastic bag. Please make sure school uniform is named as if there are any mix ups we are unable to track down unnamed items. We will keep you posted on any future updates.



Seesaw



Pekerau Primary is using Seesaw this year! Seesaw gives your child creative tools to capture and reflect on their learning - in real time. Then this work is shared with you. Seesaw will give you a window into each of our classrooms and into your student's learning process. We will use Seesaw to reflect and grow in all areas of learning. Our students are excited to use this new tool in partnership with the great things our teachers do in their classrooms.

We need your help with Seesaw to ensure success at Pekerau Primary. You can download Seesaw's Parent App for iOS, Android, or use the web to view your student's learning artifacts. When your child adds new work, you will receive a notification to see, hear and respond to your child's learning item. You only have access to your own child's work and all of the content is stored securely.

Pekerau Primary is happy to announce this new opportunity for our students. Please contact Gavin or Mike with any questions about Seesaw. With your help, we can continue building our school community of lifelong learners. You will receive a handout with directions to download and sign up for your child's Seesaw journal.

Staff Professional Development

As a teaching community we are starting a new journey around formative assessment. This involves and requires us as teachers to build our skills around teacher feedback to improve student outcomes, learn how our students learn and providing opportunities for our students to take control of their own learning through goal setting and assessment. This is achieved when students know what they are learning, what they are good at, what they need to improve upon and how they can reach their goal. This is helped by co-constructing success criteria and self-assessing against these their. This is an exciting time for both our teachers and students at Pekaeru School.



facebook

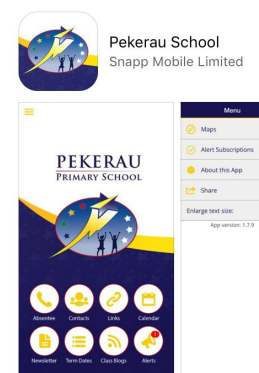
Facebook

We also have our school Facebook page which allows us to showcase some of the wonderful learning happening at our school. To keep up to date with all new posts please like and share our Facebook page.



School App

This year we have launched our **new school app which can be downloaded via the android and apple store** and this has been specifically designed for our school and our community. It allows us to send alerts straight to your mobile devices and it allows you to communicate absences to the school office from the app, as well as also providing a platform for you to contact your child's teacher directly from the app.



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Aspiring Attitudes, Inspiring Actions

Belonging – Turangawaewae, Excellence – Hiranga, Unity – Kotahitanga, Pride - Mana, Integrity – Ngakau, Respect – Manaaki, Spirit – Wairua