



**Kia ora tatou katoa - hi everyone**

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You may have noticed in the media increasing comment about open-plan classrooms, or flexible learning spaces, that have been pursued through the Canterbury schools rebuild programme. The imperative came because it is thought they allow teachers to work in more innovative ways than single-cell classrooms. Back in March 2016 I wrote this in a newsletter as we started to move back into our renovated spaces.

These newer spaces have been developed to allow the school to evolve and adapt its teaching and learning practices to meet the challenges of 21st century future focused education. Wow - that's a mouthful.

I'm sure you just want to know - What will that look like, sound like, be like for my child?

Well, at this moment we're not a 100% sure. Through our previous professional development we have been building teachers' understanding and capability and this will continue to evolve as we complete more professional development and spend more time in the spaces. It is our intention to keep what we know works and explore new approaches and ideas that will enhance the learning of our children.

As with most change we have found new opportunities as well as challenges. I feel the biggest gain has been the increased collaboration between teachers. Planning, delivering and managing children's learning is now a joint activity and is the better for it. Our rooms are more open, brighter and more flexible and noisier. We have plans to address the acoustics in our upcoming Property Plan - we are currently waiting for the Ministry of Education to finalise the funding and delivery method.

## **ACCOUNTS**

These went out on Tuesday so if you haven't seen it search the bottom of your child's bag. We would appreciate your action on this by 1 December.

The **school donation is voluntary**. The school uses this to help pay for the leased iPads, Chromebooks and computers that children use in their learning. By doing this we avoid the whole B.Y.O.D. (bring your own device) scenario.

The school activity fees and stationery reflect payments that the school has made on behalf of your child and need to be paid. **The best way to do this is to pay by cash/cheque to the School Office or set up regular payments through KINDO - on our website under the 'School Shop' tab.**

**If you received a reminder letter with you account please contact either myself or Lisa in the office so we can set up a payment plan.**

## **PTA QUIZ**

Good company, excellent brain exercise and a lot of guessing meant that a good night was had by all. Not since the school was founded in 1871 and first located at the corner of Winters and Main North Rds, have we had such memorable event.

A huge thank you to the PTA for this event it was almost on a par with the two past pupils Angie Petty (Smit) and Natasha Hansen who have represented New Zealand at the Olympics!

## **SCHOOL LIFE**

This time of year gets hectic for everyone and school is no different with swimming tiring out the children. The evenings are longer and family life is more active so bedtimes sometimes get later. Halloween, fireworks, Christmas on the horizon, Year 6's starting to think about the end of their primary schooling. All of this can lead to extra tiredness and varying degrees of grumpiness. At school this is when we need to exercise **TOLERANCE** and **PATIENCE**. When the significant adults in children's lives talk about and model these values children become more adept at recognising when and how to exercise it themselves. **Values are caught not taught.**

