



Wednesday 5 February 2020 www.sis.school.nz

Principal: Taitu'uga Geoff Siave

Kia Ora Talofa Greetings Namaste Kamusta Guten Da Bula Konichi Wa
Anyoung haseyo Malo e lelei Salaam Alaikum Bore da

Nau mai haere mai koutou katoa

Welcome to you all

Tamariki ma, matua ma, me nga hoa katoa

Children, parents and all friends

And an extra special welcome to those of you who are new to Te Kura Takawaenga o Oraka - Shirley Intermediate School



I hope you enjoyed the festive season and that you're all set for the new school year. It's been wonderful seeing our new pupils and our returning pupils, talking with them about their break, and looking forward to the year ahead. There's always a great sense of anticipation - a few nerves, but also - from children and staff alike - a resolve to do well.

Our topic for term one is "**Journeys.**" This provides huge scope for exploring Journeys at a variety of levels - personal, class, school, family, as a country - these are just a few examples of context. Another part of journeys is thinking about what is needed for a journey in terms of being organised, preparing ahead, following rules, being safe and working well with fellow travellers. Waitangi Day is a good time to think about the journey of Aotearoa /New Zealand, and the unique bicultural Treaty between the indigenous Maori and the Crown. Now that NZ history is about to become compulsory in all schools, the journey of our country could be taking a step toward a greater joint knowledge of historic moments such as those that we commemorate tomorrow.

Taitu'uga* Geoff Siave



This newsletter is issued fortnightly during school terms on Wednesdays.

Class Structure for 2020

We still have three learning bases - each with two classes. They are:

1. **Totara**
 - a. Totara 1 - Miss Holden, based in the art room;
 - b. Totara 2 - Te Tahu Rua Reo - (Matua) Thomas Paata
 - i. Learning Assistants Adrienne Nicholas Rakatau and Wendy Pule
2. **Matai**
 - a. Matai 6 - Barry Duff
 - b. Matai 7 - Ang Reeves. Mrs Reeves joins us from North Canterbury, and specialises in music and performing arts.
 - i. Learning Assistants Rebecca Talbot and Candy Swart
3. **Kahikatea**

- a. Kahikatea 8 - Andrew Flanagan - Mr Flanagan replaces Mr Dodge. He has a lot of experience coaching many different sports.
- b. Kahikatea 9 - Tim Carrick
 - i. Learning Assistants Carol Tanner and Reisha Bone

Teacher and class changes

4. As you can see from the list above Mr Duff and Mr Carrick, who have been teaching together for three years now are each paired with one of our new teachers. This brings some freshness to our school, and ensures that our new teachers are well supported. Mr Carrick and his pupils (who are now in year eight) have moved with him to Kahikatea 9.
5. Ms Dwan has left us and her children are now with Mrs Reeves in Matai.
6. **Learning Support Coordinator** - We also welcome Tamara Drew to our team. Tamara will be supporting learning school-wide and coordinating various internal and external support for particular pupils and groups of pupils.
7. **Learning Assistants** - Candy Swart has joined our team of Learning Assistants
8. The office staff - Mrs Ann Laurenson and Mrs Tricia Tooley - continue in their role of being the reliable first port of call for children, parents and visitors.



The Shirley District Music School has space for children to learn to play a classical/orchestral instrument. Director Janet Simon is keen to start our own chamber music group. **Children are invited to try a classical instrument from 8.30am to 9.10am Friday 7th February in Room Six.** . Note this does not include keyboard, piano, guitar and percussion as these are already fully subscribed. The instruments on Friday will include strings (violin, cello etc.), brass and woodwind. Thanks to our subsidies SDMS lessons are very competitively priced - a quick comparison of lesson prices confirms this.

Learning to play an instrument has all sorts of benefits for us academically and personally.

School is open as normal this Friday after Waitangi Day

Meet the Teacher - 5.30pm, Thursday 13 February - This will start in the school hall, for a brief address by the Principal followed by a visit to your son's/daughter's classroom. From 6.15pm (approximately) there will be a free barbecue and the pool will be open for swimming. Tickets for the barbecue will be given out by teachers in the classrooms. We look forward to meeting parents and family members.

Swimming

If your child is in need of extra help involving swimming please contact Mr Flanagan in Room 8. With over fifteen years of swimming coaching and teaching experience he is more than willing to help students that need more confidence in the water, need some additional stroke correction or even with students that are quite capable, an extension programme to increase their potential.

If your child has cultural beliefs, anxiety, etc that prevents them from swimming in large groups, mixed gender, or any other reasons, please also make contact, as we are open to making adjustments to our programme so every student has the opportunity to be involved in swimming at our school.

Parents Supporting Shirley Intermediate At the “Meet the Teacher” evening on there will be an opportunity to express an interest in forming a group of parents to look at ways of supporting learning at SIS. This could range from coordinating ways for parents to help formally and informally at school - assisting teachers or children, fundraising, being available for class trips, sharing skills or time in a class etc. Please consider supporting this group when you see the opportunity.

Pasifika Families Fono - 6pm Thursday 20 February - We are holding this meeting for our Pasifika families and anyone else interested in enhancing the achievement of our Pasifika learners. The meeting venue will be in Matai (the children know where this is) and in the Foods room.



Board of trustees - Our board meets twice a term (sometimes more) and plays a crucial part in monitoring what we are doing as a school to improve student achievement and ensure that we meet our objective of preparing children to live full and satisfying lives. If you are interested in being part of our board please give this some consideration. There is information from last year’s board elections that explains very simply the role trustees have in our school. ([Here](#) for online readers). If you would like some paper information about this, please contact the school office.

Clubs - Children will be informed about the following clubs which operate outside of class time.

Fitness Club. Wednesdays 3-4pm . This club operates all year and starts shortly. Children take part in a range of challenging and fun activities aimed at improving physical fitness. Mr Carrick or Mr Flanagan will soon send notices home for those interested.

Swimming Endurance Club - Focuses on building up swimming endurance. This will run after school as well as during a lunch period. Details coming.

Coding and Robotics Club- Children have the opportunity to undertake and progress with coding and robotics at their own level during school time after lunch on Thursdays. Later in the year there will also be after school sessions at ARA. Mr Hemmingsen will communicate with classes and children will be able to volunteer for these coding opportunities.

Road safety - The Shirley Rd intersection with North Parade Rd (and New Brighton Rd and Marshlands Rd!) is one of the busiest in Christchurch. PLEASE be aware of this when making arrangements for your child getting to and from school.

