



St. John's School Mairangi Bay

Together We Excel, We Celebrate, We Live Our Faith In Christ

Kia Ora Koutou St John's Whānau!

A very special welcome to the new families who are joining our wonderful community this year. It has been a very difficult start to the year for many and we hope that with the support of our fantastic community we can make this a year to remember for the good times rather than the bad.

You will have seen mention of the **PTFA Family picnic** being held on **Friday 3rd March** (weather willing!) in the school newsletter and on the school facebook pages. This picnic is a wonderful informal gathering of our school community where you are invited to bring a picnic, chairs, rugs and drinks and the children have the option of bringing their togs for a swim in the school pool (under your parental supervision of course!). The PTFA will provide a sausage sizzle (\$2 a sausage) and cold drinks (\$2 a can) so you can also simply turn up and be fed and watered. Fingers crossed that the sun will be shining and the wind kept at bay!

For those new to St Johns, the term PTFA may be an unfamiliar one. PTFA stands for the **P**arent **T**eacher and **F**riends **A**ssociation. By simply being a parent/caregiver to a child at the school you automatically belong to the association. Whilst the vast majority of attendees at our meetings are parents/caregivers, we are well supported by teachers, the St John's School Board and the principal, Miss Binns as well as friends of the school.

The PTFA meets at the school, once a month, on a Tuesday evening for 1~2 hours to plan events and fundraisers as well as to discuss how we can best support our school community. It is always attended by the principal and a Board representative so it is a fantastic way to get to know the workings of the school as well. Although we run to an Agenda, the meeting itself is quite informal and everyone is given the opportunity to speak. Agenda items are called for in advance, so if you wish to raise anything specific you have the opportunity to prepare in advance. We also have a Facebook page for information about upcoming events: St John's Mairangi Bay PTFA.

The first PTFA meeting of this year, will be held on **Tuesday 7th March at 7pm** (exact venue in the school to be confirmed). At this meeting the **annual general meeting (AGM)** is held, where we go over the achievements of last year and assess the PTFA finances. We also accept nominations and vote for the elected key positions of responsibility for the year – Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. This meeting is generally a little longer than usual as we will plan a schedule of events for the upcoming year, including our fundraising and community activities.

The PTFA is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow parents. It is also the best way for you to express your thoughts on which of the projects, in consultation with the School Board, we will be fundraising for throughout the year. Being present at the PTFA meeting gives you the opportunity to ask questions and to make suggestions. We embrace any and all engagement with the school community. Refreshments will be provided.

We would therefore like to extend a very warm invitation to each school family to send a representative to the first PTFA meeting of the year.

“Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi”

Ngā mihi nui,
The St John's PTFA