



# St. John's School Mairangi Bay

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

## **Kia ora koutou e te whānau!**

A very special welcome to the new families who are joining our wonderful school community this year and who were welcomed on Friday with a very moving powhiri. And to those of you who are not new to the school – welcome back! What a difference a year makes! We have been blessed with a very different summer compared to last year and we hope to make the most of it! The PTFA have a few summer events for everyone to enjoy.

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – FROZEN FRIDAY:**

The children will be able to enjoy juicies at lunchtime on Friday for \$2. Please remember to bring \$2 (or more if you would like more than 1) to school on Friday. Reminders will be posted on the School and PTFA Facebook pages.

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – PTFA FAMILY PICNIC:**

This picnic is a wonderful informal gathering of our school community where you are invited to bring a picnic, chairs, rugs and beverages 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 simply turn up and be fed and watered. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow parents and a great way to start our year.

### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March – AGM and first PTFA meeting for this year:**

This will be held at **7pm** in the staffroom. At this meeting the **annual general meeting** (AGM) will be 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.

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 PTFA. 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, currently 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. We introduced virtual attendance to the meeting last year so if you are unable to be there in person, you can log in from home. 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. 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. We also have a Facebook page for information about upcoming events: **St John's Mairangi Bay PTFA**.

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 on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**.

***“Nāku te rourou nāu te rourou ka ora ai te iwi.”***

*With your basket and my basket, we will sustain everyone*

Ngā mihi nui,  
Amanda Dixon-Mclver, Chair St John's PTFA