

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Roll: 268

Welcome back to the start of another exciting year at Winton School. I trust you all had an enjoyable Summer break with friends and whanau and are ready for another wonderful year of teaching, learning, celebrations and achievements. As you can see below, we have welcomed a large number of new families into our learning community. A special welcome to these families and to Rachel Gill who has joined our teaching team in Room 13 and Ceara Ryan, student teacher in Room 10.

It was wonderful welcoming all our tamariki back to school today. Everyone has come back refreshed and ready to get stuck into another productive year. Information about your child's class and what is happening over the next few weeks will be sent home this Friday via HERO.

After focussing on literacy and language development over the past 3 years, we turn our Professional Development focus to Mathematics. To this end we will be holding a Staff Only Day this Monday 5 February for both teachers and support staff. We are looking forward to developing both teacher capability and student achievement in this important area.

Many of you won't be surprised to hear that school attendance rates for our country have been falling over recent years. In Term 3 last year, the national average for students attending school 'regularly' (9 out of 10 days) was 45.9%. Incredibly, less than half of all NZ students are attending school regularly - 90% or more of the time. Our school's 2023 average was 61% of students attending school 'regularly', with unfortunately, a number of students who fall into the 'chronic absence' category (less than 70% of the time). There are many reasons for a student not attending school, some justified but many unjustified. Research shows that regular attendance is beneficial for both academic achievement and wellbeing, so we are taking this issue seriously. Last year we employed Jenny McPhail who is our Attendance Support person. Like last year, Jenny will be supporting those families whose children need to be attending school more regularly or arriving at school at the right time (between 8:30 and 8:55am).

Steve Wadsworth,
PRINCIPAL

**Upcoming Events****Term 1****Week 2**

Mon 5 Feb
Tues 6 Feb

Staff Only Day
WAITANGI DAY

Week 3

Fri 16 Feb

Community Assembly,
1:45pm

Week 4

Wed 21 Feb
Fri 23 Feb

Board Meeting
Yr 7&8 Triathlon, CSC

Week 5

Wed 28 Feb

Fri 1 Mar

Three Way Learner
Conferences, 1-7pm
Senior Athletics

Week 6

Tues 5 Mar
Fri 8 Mar

Junior Athletics
Central Athletics, CSC

Te kupu o te wiki

pāngarau
Mathematics

**Welcome to Winton School.....**

Jaydee Keil, Benson MacKenzie, Israel Maheno, Lhyyansmayne Paulose in Room 1/2, Zion Prasad Room 4, Harper Collins-Mann, Evie Humphries, Colton Livesey Room 5, Ila Livesey Room 6, Aurelia Maheno, Evie Thom Room 7, Marquis Fletcher, Conrad Nicholson Room 8, Cooper McLeod, Ariel Thom, Kazandra Salonga Room 10, Henry Lindsay, Riley Nicholson, Tate Schwarz, Asha Wong Room 11, Felix McConachie, Abby MacRae, Jade Wong Room 12, Jack Lindsay, Madi McLeod, Charlotte Schwarz Room 13

Staff Only Day - this Monday 5 February

This Monday we will be having a Staff Only Day. This will be an opportunity for teachers and teacher aides to develop their knowledge and understanding in our new Professional Development focus area of Mathematics. Thank you in advance for making alternative arrangements for your children on this day. With Waitangi Day on Tuesday, this will mean a 4 day weekend for some.

Arriving at School in the Morning

A reminder that students should be arriving at school between 8:30am and 8:55am. It is important that all students are in class by 9am to hear what is in store for the day. Missing this is a source of anxiousness and uncertainty. We appreciate your support in having your child/ren at school at the right time for a great start to the school day.

If students arrive late or are picked up early for any reason, they must be signed in or out on the VisTab in the school office.

If your child is going to be absent, **please message the office** to let us know, phone 03 236 7238, email admin@winton.school.nz or enter the absence on HERO.

All un-notified absences are followed up with a phone call home.

School Uniform

Please note that, after transitioning in new navy crew socks last year, all students need to be wearing these from the start of this year. These replace girls white socks and boys grey socks. Wearing the correct uniform is a source of pride for our school. If your child is not wearing correct uniform, you will be contacted. A reminder that the PTA have a number of secondhand uniforms for sale. Please contact Melissa McKenzie on 027 8052871. Details about our school uniform are on our school webiste.

Hats, Hats, Hats!

Because we are a sun safe school, red bucket style hats are to be worn when playing outside this term. School sun hats can be purchased from the office, for **\$10**, or from The Warehouse. Please note the new price for school sunhats. The plain red bucket style hat is part of our uniform. Children are not to wear caps or other styles / colours of hats. Children who have written all over their hats with vivid will need to purchase a new one.

**Contact Information**

If your contact details have changed, ie new address, cell phone number, work number, emergency contacts etc could you please contact the school office to update your child's school records. It is important that we have up to date information in case of emergencies.

School Lunch Orders

Please note that Bakery lunch orders will start from next Thursday, 8th February.

**Meet the Team - Rachel Gill, Room 13, Year 8**

Hello, my name is Rachel Gill and I'll be teaching Year 8 in Room 13 this year. I have 28 years of teaching experience where I have primarily focused on senior classes, particularly Year 7 and 8. Previously, I spent 14 years teaching Year 7 at St John's Girls' School in Invercargill. Now, I'm thrilled to return to my childhood primary school and collaborate with a fabulous team. I have a great passion for sport, health and mathematics which I hope to share with the students. I am excited about my new role and eagerly anticipate meeting the students and families of Winton Primary School.



SPORTS NEWS



For all sporting inquiries, please contact Brenda Mee at sport@winton.school.nz

Touch

Touch forms were issued today for all students wishing to play in the Term 1 competition. If you did not receive a form then please pick one up from the school office. All signed permission forms must be returned to the office by **Monday 12 February** - no late entries accepted after this date. **Please note that ALL touch fees must be paid with your entry.**

PTA NEWS

PTA BBQ Sausages/Juicees - Sausages, for \$2 and Juicees, \$2, will be available this Friday 2 February. Remember to get your stamp between 8.30 - 9.00am in the Library. Please use the playground library door, not through the office, thanks. Please try and bring the correct change.

Friday BBQ Helpers - With a number of families having left the school last year, the PTA are looking for some more volunteers to help with cooking the sausages on a Friday lunchtime. It only takes about an hour of your time from around 11.50am - 12.50pm. If you are able to help with cooking the sausages on a Friday lunchtime and would like to be added to the BBQ roster then please contact Hayley McIlwrick on 027 276 1644.

Second Hand Uniforms - The PTA have a range of 2nd hand uniform items available to purchase. Please check out the Winton School PTA FaceBook page to see what is available. If you are interested in purchasing something please message via the FB page or contact Mel McKenzie 027 805 2871.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hot Shots Tennis

Tennis for beginners! A fun 6 week, small group programme, using lighter racquets, low compression balls and lower nets on smaller courts. All ages and abilities welcome.

When: Wednesdays 14 February - 27 March

Where: John Street Indoor Courts, Winton

Time: 3:30-4:15 or 4:30-5:15pm (2 sessions)

Cost: \$30

Contact Linda Caldwell on 021 350 091

Limited numbers.



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Happy to be back!



Frisbee Golf!