

PATRICIA AVENUE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Learning for Living



MELVILLE PRIMARY SATELLITE - JUNIORS

Our classroom took part in an exciting art competition where they created a beautiful collaborative artwork titled: "Ko nu te moana, ko te moana ka au". It means "I am the sea; the sea is me". We are incredibly proud to share that, out of hundreds of entries, our students were announced as **WINNERS!** The students showed wonderful creativity, teamwork, and enthusiasm throughout the project. As part of the prize, our class received a prize pack filled with books, activity cards, and stickers. A huge congratulations to all our talented students for this amazing achievement!

Maritsa Horn, Teacher at Melville Primary Satellite

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **HOLIDAYS during term time**
01 JUNE KING'S BIRTHDAY
- * **TERM 2 ROOPUU MEETINGS**
26 May and 16 June
- * **ARBOR DAY (SENIORS)**
05 June
- * **COLOUR RUN - Jumping June**
12 June
- * **SENIOR PRODUCTION**
24 and 26 June
- * **JUNIOR TEAM MATARIKI HANGI**
02 July
- * **HAMILTON COMPETITIONS**
02 July
- * **TERM 2 LAST DAY**
03 July
- * **TERM 3**
20 July - 25 September
- * **TERM 4**
12 October - 16 December

Message from the Principal

Kia ora koutou,

The term break provided the long awaited opportunity to tidy up the old horticulture area in the senior playground and transform it into a sensory garden space. It is looking fabulous and once the grass is a little more established we will be able to make use of this lovely new addition to our play area.

This term has got off to a purposeful and focused start with all teachers undertaking the implementation of 'Better Start to Literacy Approach'. This week we have had the external facilitators in school observing and supporting us with our delivery.

This week we also celebrate 'Support Staff Week' and thank our amazing team for their continual support and dedication.

Alongside this, term 2 has a quite a number of special events to look forward to: Hamilton Competitions, Senior Production, Colour Runs, Matariki and, more!!! Hope to see you there.

Ngaa mihi nui
Andrea



Introducing

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Carol Ridge
Teacher

With 27 years of experience as an Early Childhood Education teacher, I bring a deep commitment to supporting and nurturing our learners, particularly those with special needs. My interest for inclusive education has guided my journey to my current role at Patricia Avenue School, where I

hope to enhance life for every child's unique learning pathway.

Along the way, my work with the Teachers Council and Sport Waikato has enriched my understanding of mentoring and brain development, shaping a thoughtful and responsive approach to teaching. I strongly believe in play-based learning, creating environments where children can explore, discover, and engage with the curriculum in a variety of meaningful ways.

Outside of my professional life, I enjoy staying active and connected to nature through mountain biking, walking, and yoga.



Connie Dainty
Teacher

Kia ora whānau, my name is Connie and I recently joined Patricia Avenue School as a release teacher.

I was born and raised in South Africa and worked as a social worker in England for 10 years in the fields of care and protection, adoption and fostering, and supporting families of children

experiencing disabilities and health needs.

I moved to New Zealand in 2010, where I made a career change and trained as an Early Childhood Educator. As part of my role as an ECE teacher, I supported children and families who needed additional support.

Creating inclusive environments is something I care deeply about, and I feel privileged to be part of a community where every child is supported to participate, grow, and feel a sense of belonging.



Kassel Menin
Teacher

Hi, my name is Kassel, and I am excited to be working at Patricia Avenue School. I am originally from Canada and moved to New Zealand four years ago. I joined the school at the beginning of the term and am really looking forward to becoming part of the school community.

I have been working in special education since I began teaching and am passionate about supporting students in

their learning and development. I am committed to creating a space where students feel seen, valued, and able to achieve their goals. I love being in the classroom, working alongside students, and building positive relationships with them.



Nadia van Schalkwyk
Teacher

My name is Nadia van Schalkwyk, and I'm very excited to introduce myself as the new teacher of Woodstock 16B.

I have been teaching for 16 years, including 12 years in special education. I am passionate about helping every learner reach their full potential.

My family and I recently immigrated from South Africa. My husband, Eddie, and I have two boys, Eduan (10) and Leo (6). We arrived in New Zealand in February 2026 and are now happily settled in Cambridge.

We love everything about New Zealand, the natural beauty and the sense of safety make it a wonderful place to call home.

My motto in life is: "Things don't have to be perfect to be perfect". This is something I bring into my classroom every day, celebrating effort, growth, and progress in every child.

I am truly honoured to be part of the Patricia Avenue school community and look forward to a wonderful year ahead.



Introducing



**Teresa Simonsen
Physiotherapist**

Kia ora, my name is Teresa Simonsen, and I am excited to return to Patricia Avenue School after a four-year period away. Previously, I worked alongside the Therapy Team as an assistant; however, I have now returned as a qualified Physiotherapist.

After working at Waikato Hospital for just over two years, I am settling into a different pace and enjoying getting to know new faces while reconnecting with some familiar ones.

What drew me back to Patricia Avenue School was the opportunity to develop strong relationships with students and their whānau, and to support each individual to build on their strengths in their own unique way.

Outside of work, I enjoy paddling Dragon Boat and Waka Ama here in the Waikato. I love travelling to new competitions and meeting new people along the way. I hope to share this passion with some of the students and staff here at Patricia Avenue School.



**Gabrielle Simpson
Speech Language
Therapist**

My name is Gabrielle and I am very excited to be here at Patricia Avenue School. I am a Mum of two young boys and I'm thoroughly enjoying this delightful and oftentimes chaotic season of life! I have worked as a Speech Language Therapist for over ten years, primarily in the health setting with adults, however I am happy to be returning to special education

after a decade long hiatus. I bring enthusiasm and fun to the team and I look forward to getting to know the lovely students and staff here at Pat Ave, who have already made me feel quite at home.

Ko Ngati Ruatakenga, ko Pirirakau, me Te whānau a Tauwhao ōku hapū.
Ko Whakatōhea, ko Ngati Ranginui me Ngaiterangi ōku iwi.
Ko Teresa toku ingoa.

Classroom Feature

BASE ROOM 5

Room 5 has been exploring science through hands-on sensory experiences and exciting experiments! Students enjoyed creating colourful shaving foam paint art, investigating reactions with coloured ice, and watching fizzy effects of vinegar and baking soda. We also explored how pepper reacts on water when dishwashing liquid is added, watching the pepper quickly move away from the centre of the dish. These activities encouraged curiosity, creativity, observation, and plenty of smiles as students discovered how different materials can change, mix, and react. It has been wonderful to see students engaging, exploring, and learning through play-based science experiences.

Zac Newell-Chard - Teacher

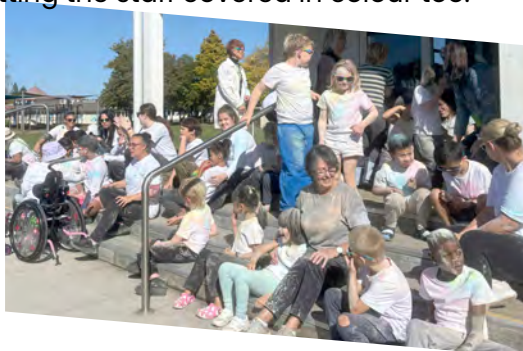


Events

Colour Run – Juniors

The junior satellite units all got together for a joint event at the Silverdale Normal School unit. This fundraising event was a celebration of colour where students got to greet old friends and make new ones. Art activities, a photo booth, and a picnic lunch rounded out the event.

It was wonderful to see students engaging in a messy activity and each and every one of them showed their enjoyment with lots of smiles and laughter, especially when getting the staff covered in colour too.



Award Ceremony– Silverdale

As part of the EOTC Passport scheme at school students undertake different Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) activities to work towards gaining different levels of awards.

How awesome to see Silverdale students receiving their medals and awards that they worked hard to achieve over the past 18 months. Fabulous work team!



Parent Info



Hero – Student Management System

This year we have moved our fortnightly reporting of students' progress onto HERO. Our school's Seesaw account will close at the end of May. At this time, you will lose access to your child's Seesaw Journal Posts from previous years. If you would like to download these for safe keeping, please follow the instructions at

<https://bit.ly/downloadjournal>

If you have not yet signed up to HERO to receive your child's Learning Stories from this year, please download the HERO app.

To ensure you receive all up to date notices/posts it is recommended you clear the notification icon (read or view as read.)



View all and then mark all notifications as read will clear all.

MEDICATION

Parents, please note an updated procedure for sending medication to school. The transport company no longer permits bus drivers to deliver medication on behalf of families.

Please send all medication in your child's school bag, stored in a locked box. We recommend a suitable, low-cost option available from Bunnings. This type of box allows one key to be kept at home and a second provided to the school.

A reminder that all medication must be in its original packaging, with a prescription label clearly showing the student's name, medication name, strength, dosage, and administration time.

This will not apply if parents deliver medication directly to school themselves.



Reminder, if you know or suspect your child is sick please keep them at home to avoid the transmission of any bugs as we have a number of vulnerable students.

