

**Notes from Mr Sands:**

Kiaora rā ki te whānau o te kura o Midhirst, Nau mai haere mai. Warm welcome to our big Midhirst school family.

Firstly, welcome to Dalwyn Smart our new secretary and welcome back to Bev Heine who is working with one of our students. We also have Wendy McKenna a beginning teacher who will be working in Panitahi Class (Year 4/5). Welcome back to Miss Tett – Paritutu (year 7/8), Ms McGregor – Kaitake (Year 5/6), Miss Moratti – Taranaki (Year 2/3), and Mrs Anderson – Pouakai (Year 0-2).

This year both Mrs Anderson and Miss Moratti are joining classes to form Kāhui (gathering / cluster / wider group). They will be working collaboratively and inquiring into Play Based Learning. We have an information meeting about this next Wednesday at 11.00a.m. Research has shown that this pedagogy (teaching style) is very effective in accelerating children's learning. It is a massive undertaking for the two and a lot of hard work. I am so proud of them.

Welcome back Sara. Sara has been in school for the last 2 weeks helping Dalwyn to get settled in and sorting the uniforms etc. Thank you. Trish Frost is also back with us and she is a great asset to our school.

As you can see we have had a lot of work going on in the school over the holidays. Thank you to Adrian Drummond for spending time helping out when needed. Also, Michelle Frazier for patience as she has been wanting to clean the school but with the work going on it becomes dirty the next day. Michelle has also spent time in the gardens and they are looking very attractive at the moment.

We have had a new septic tank and soak area installed (Soak area is the flax shrubs by the staffroom) this will be out of bounds.

The main toilets (by the office area) now have hot water (Health and Safety requirement).

Weather tightness in the library and now Kaitake class and been fixed (hopefully!). Electrical Upgrade in Paritutu class also has been completed. The main contractors for these jobs have been Quintin Oakes and Penniall Jordan. For them to complete all this work over the holidays is a credit to them, thank you. The Radnor Room has new carpet – Thank you Adele for the organisation.

We have had an influx of new families into the area and wanting to come to Midhirst School. Our starting roll is 101 with another 7 starting this term.

Over the past week we have had 2 smoke alarms triggered at very odd times of the night we do apologise for this and appreciate Andrew Heal for keeping an eye on the school. The technicians should be in this week to correct the fault.

**Whānau Day - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 11.30 am.**

This is a day where our seniors (Year 7/8) run the activities and are the leaders in the groups. Grandparents / Parents / Uncles / Aunties and younger siblings are more than welcomed. We will have approximately 8 teams (mixed ages) rotating around 10 fun activities. All adults and siblings can join in and have a laugh and a giggle. This will go for about 1 and half hours. After that we will have a picnic lunch. The school will provide a BBQ Sausage sizzle / Bread / Sauce for everyone. If there are any adults who are able to help me cook and serve that would be appreciated. The Seniors (Year 4 – 8) will have a lunchtime swim and the Juniors (Year 0-3 or younger) will have the electric carts to ride and then swim at 2.10p.m. This is a family day so it is about participation and having fun....

Finally A brief reminder to all those using the pool...It is great that you are using the pool please enjoy as much as you can. Please remember those who are swimming must have someone 16 years or older supervising them at all times, also the filter is getting clogged up with mud/dirt etc... so can you check your clothing has no mud etc that way the filters do not get clogged, thank you.

Kiaora rā mo tō aroha

Na Graham Sands



**“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself”**

**WHAT'S ON**

Tuesday 6th February	Waitangi Day
Wednesday 7th Feb	Whanau Day
Friday 9th February	Stratford Swim
Friday 16th February	Stratford Swim
Friday 23rd February	Stratford Swim Paritutu Assembly
Friday 2nd March	Swimming Sports School
Monday 5th March	Swimming Sports
Friday 9th March	Kaitake Assembly
Monday 12th March	Taranaki Anniversary
Tuesday 20th March	Golf Whole School
Friday 23rd March	Panitahi Assembly
Friday 30th March	Good Friday Easter
Monday 2nd April	Easter
Tuesday 3rd April	Easter
Friday 6th April	Kāhui Assembly
Monday 9th April	Athletics Day
Tuesday 10th April	Postponement Day for Athletics
Friday 13th	End of Term one

Corey Kinera  
Bonnie Petch  
Sophie Wheeler-Stead  
Lukas Anderson

# News from the Classrooms

## Kahui:

Kia Ora Midhirst whanau! Welcome back to school for 2018! We are very excited to introduce to you our new class- **Kāhui**. Kāhui Class will consist of years 0-3 students and we will be using both Taranaki Room and Pouakai Room as our learning areas. Both Miss Caitlyn Moratti and Mrs Julie Anderson will be teaching together within the two areas. The name Kāhui means "cluster" or "group," as together we are one group of learners. Together, we aim to create a student led learning environment where students are learning through problem solving, creativity, imagination, collaboration and most importantly love learning! We will be holding a presentation in Kāhui class on whanau day, Wednesday 7th Feb, if you would like to come and learn more! Everyone is welcome! We look forward to a fantastic year together!

If anyone has any boxes, tube rolls, dress ups, pipes, long planks of wood or bandages for a Dr's dramatic play area - we would love to use them. **Caitlyn Moratti and Julie Anderson**

## Panitahi:

Tena Koutou katoa, my name is Wendy McKenna, I am excited to beginning my teaching career at Midhirst School. Having worked in professional areas such as early childhood education, and parenting education, being an educator is something I am very passionate about. I have a Degree in Psychology and have recently completed my Graduate Diploma in Teaching. I feel really excited to start a new adventure at Midhirst School with my two children Maia and Reuben with heaps of great support from the Midhirst team. I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know your amazing tamariki. **Wendy McKenna**

## Kaitake:

A big welcome to Term 1 of 2018. I hope everyone had an awesome time during the school holidays and enjoyed the amazingly hot weather that we had. At least we know we've had a summer this year, so different to 2017.

What an exciting year we are going to have with our new staff members and our new Kahui working environment. We have lots to look forward to.

It was great to see the excitement of the students as they arrived back at school and caught up with their friends. They are also enjoying being back in the 'old' Kaitake Classroom, especially with the make-over that it has had. We owe a massive thank-you to all of the people who worked so hard on it, but especially to Mr Drummond and Mr Sands who put the pressure on to make sure that it was completed ready for the start of the new school year.

We have twenty four Year 5 and 6 students in our class with twenty two having been Kaitake Class students last year - it's really exciting to be working with them all again this year. We have welcomed in two new students - Lukas Anderson who has moved to Stratford from New Plymouth and Avah Busby who has returned to Midhirst School after spending three years in the Marlborough Sounds - I know they will have a great time at Midhirst School.

2018 is going to be an amazing year.

For those who remember her I caught up with Miss Purves (Jen) in the holidays - she has returned to Waihi Beach School and is having a great time. **Wendy McGregor**

## Paritutu:

Welcome to Paritutu Room 2018. We have some amazing things planned in Paritutu Room this year, please assist your child with their learning by ensuring that they complete set Home Learning tasks Monday to Thursday nights starting officially next week. Please ensure all labelled and named stationery arrives promptly to school please. I look forward to a fantastic year of learning, challenges and fun. **Colleen Tett**

## MIDHIRST SCOUTS & CUBS

Midhirst Scouts & Cubs first evening back on the 8th February at 6.00pm.

Bring togs and towel as it will be water, water and water.

New comers welcome. Contact Bev Heine 765 5056

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**Bread tags** Please collect used bread tags and send them to school. We are keen to help the Red Cross collect as many bread tags as possible, when they have collected the weight of a wheelchair in bread tags one wheelchair is donated to a deserving person in the community. Please encourage your neighbours, friends and family to keep saving bread tags for you and bring them to school.

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## SWIMMING

All classes will swim daily as part of the curriculum.

Please provide a note if children are not swimming.

Starting Friday next week classes will be going to the Stratford Pools (on Friday) for lessons.

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