



Notes from Mr Sands:

Kiaora rā ki te whānau o te Kura o Midhirst. Greetings to the wider community of Midhirst School.

As this is the first community newsletter for 2018 we will have several notices to update you regarding the changes that have occurred at Midhirst School.

Our wonderful staff:

Miss Tett – Year 7/8 Paritutu Room, Ms McGregor – Year 5/6 Kaitake Room, Ms McKenna – Year 4/5 Panitahi Room, Mrs Anderson and Miss Moratti – Year 0-3 in Kāhui Class. We also have Matua Rangi, Mrs Chadwick, and Mrs Ryder (Reading Recovery) working part-time. Mrs Dalwyn Smart is our school secretary, and of course Sara Robertson (Teacher Aide and Admin work), Trish Frost and Bev Heine working with our children.

Last night the Midhirst BOT ratified the School Charter and Budget for 2018. We have 4 Strategic Goals: 1) Accelerated Student Achievement, 2) Student Centered Teaching and Learning (Students taking ownership of their learning), 3) Strengthened Relationships across the School Community, and 4) Governance and Leadership focused on Teaching and Learning. Under each of the four goals is a greater definition and plan of how we are going to achieve this. We will put this up on our website for you to have a look at.

Head Lice is an issue at school. Please help us to put a stop to the re-infestation by: **Check-** check your child's hair regularly; **Treat-** if you find live head lice or eggs, treat as soon as possible. Use a fine tooth comb every day. **Inform-** Let the school know so we can inform all parents.

We are currently looking into applying for funding to do a scientific research project. Some of the Year 6 children will be part of investigating "How can we create a Healthy Soil for fruit trees". This will involve the children taking soil samples and testing for the different microbes in the soil, looking at the nutrients and creating compost and seeing the effects it has on the microbe contents of the soil. Soil structure is another investigation we hope to do. All this is heading towards a 3 year project of having an orchard on the school grounds. (A focus will be on organic principles where possible).

Both Miss Tett and I are looking at doing the Technology this year with the Year 7/8 students. Some items will need to be brought from home and a small cost will occur every term to cover other items. Technology occurs every second Thursday and includes Food Tech (cooking), Fabric (sewing), Hard Materials (woodwork, metalwork), Computers, iPads, Biotechnology (plants), Crafts, Electronics and other awesome learning - basically a lot of hands on learning that involves understanding of how something is made, what it is made from, how we could make it better, why it is needed and ways to 'future proof' it or make it more sustainable for the future. Every term Technology fees need to be paid that term to enable students to make and bring home their items. I am looking at bringing in Coding (computer programming), Robotics (machines programmed to do tasks), and drones (flying machines programmed to do tasks). I know some parents have skills in these areas so I would like to ask you to help us. Please let me know ASAP if you are able to help in any of these areas.

Basketball notices have also gone home. Basketball is played in term 2 and is for Year 6-8 children. The number of teams will depend on how many parents can help manage/coach. Each child wanting to play should have brought home a notice. They can get another notice if they missed out. We will begin training in the next few weeks.

The Student Council is in the process of being elected/chosen. The job descriptions are being written up then children will need to apply for the position.

This position is for our Year 7 and 8 children. Good luck to those wanting to apply. Job descriptions will be out on Wednesday.

Aku mihi rā ...
 Nā Graham Sands
 Principal



**If the plan doesn't work,
 change the plan but never
 the goal!**

WHAT'S ON

Friday 2nd March	Swimming Sports School
Monday 5th March	Rural Schools 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	Kahui Assembly
Monday 9th April	Athletics Day
Tuesday 10th April	Postponement Day for Athletics
Friday 13th	End of Term one



Brady Reed

MIDHIRST SCHOOL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE EASTER RAFFLE

We are asking for donations to make up Easter baskets to raffle in the next few weeks. This was so well supported last year and we are hoping we can make up several baskets again this year. Can you please drop the Easter goodies into the Office.

Thank you so much for your support.

News from the Classrooms

Kāhui:

Kia ora Kāhui class whanau, and Community.

What a wonderful start we have had to the year! While we have loved seeing the deeper thinking and purpose of Play Based Learning, we are also very excited about the progress we are seeing in Literacy and Maths. Their passion for learning is infectious! We would just like to take a minute to introduce ourselves:

Hello everyone. My name is Julie Anderson. I have been teaching for 20 years. My career started off in Wellington for 10 years, and then another 8 at Stratford Primary School. I am Reading Recovery Training and before teaching I trained as a Nanny. I am really enjoying collaborative teaching with Caitlyn and know we are on one very exciting journey.

Kia ora everyone. My name is Caitlyn Moratti and I am in my second year of teaching. Last year I taught in Taranaki Class with years 2-4 and this year I am loving teaching collaboratively with the wonderful Julie Anderson. I can't wait for another fantastic year! This week is our school swimming sports at the Stratford Pools. We are really looking forward to the day and having some fun and a few competitive races. Please make sure your child has their togs, googles, cap and towel on Friday. Thank you for the bits and bobs being sent into school for our Play Based Learning lately. We are very keen on construction with boxes at the moment - especially giant boxes! If you know of any boxes or have any we could take off your hands, we would love to build with them! **Caitlyn and Julie**

Pānitahi:

Kia ora koutou,

Week five was a busy week in Panitahi. We have now got a big chunk of our testing done and can start settling into our learning routines. Our writing this week is focused on 'The Panitahi Project' and we are finishing off letters to Mr Sands explaining the boundaries in our class and our understanding of respect. We are also starting some journal entries on how we feel about being in Panitahi class so far. We are focusing on planning for writing and developing skills in self and peer editing. In maths we are developing our number knowledge, exploring concepts such as ordinal numbers, basic fractions, skip counting and use of symbols such as < >. We are also about to start having a go at some self portraits this week using the printing process and exploring concepts of light and dark which should be lots fun! We will be sure to show them off when we have finished them! Have a great week! **Wendy McKenna**

Kaitake:

In Kaitake Class we have twenty four students, twenty two of them were in Kaitake Class last year with two new students joining us at the beginning of the year. We have ten boys and fourteen girls. We think we're the best class in the school :-). Walking around the Stratford main street looking at the Americarna cars was as exciting as the children had anticipated. The children enjoyed seeing the unusual vehicles such as the old caravan with the BBQ in the back and the old yellow school bus. They thought the 'Woody Deluxe' was interesting because most of it was made out of wood. The Mustangs, Camaro's, Chevrolets, Corvettes and the old convertibles were all favourites too. We did wonder how they manage to park in today's parking places.

The children's swimming is going from strength to strength with eleven students moving from the middle pool into the big pool - this is a great improvement and will be great for our Midhirst Swimming Sports this Friday.

We have been interested to see that just as we are beginning our "Reduce, Reuse, Recycling" Topic Study that there is a debate regarding the plastic bags in supermarkets being banned - something the children in the class think is a good idea. The weather has been a bit of a shock this week - cold and rainy. We have our fingers crossed that the hot weather hasn't completely gone away.

Students of the week: Avah Busby and Lukas Anderson for the great way they have fitted into Midhirst School and Kaitake Class. Caden for the excellent progress he has made with his swimming. **Wendy McGregor**

Paritutu:

Congratulations Paritutu Students, week 4 was awesome, you presented a superb Assembly, were fantastic role models and buddies to Kāhui and Panitahi students at Americarna and were fantastic helpers cleaning up around the school after Cyclone Gita. A huge thank you to the parents who assisted us at Americarna and helped us to have a fantastic, safe time. We look forward to our school swimming sports this Friday at the Stratford pools 10:30-12:30pm, we hope to see you there! If there are any brave parents who would like to take the plunge and swim against the two Turnbull Cup teams, please bring your togs and towel along on Friday. I look forward to another fantastic week.

Students of the Week: **Kodie Murfitt** for being up-to-date with work, kind and helpful to everyone. **Victoria** for attempting new skills and making great progress in swimming. **Colleen Tett**

SCHOOL GATES

Our school gates are starting to fall apart. We would like to replace them and we are asking for donations to help replace the gates.

Thank you.

MIDHIRST FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Grocery Raffle Winners - CONGRATULATIONS

Week 48 Ticket No. 96
Alan McCullough
Painter

JOB - GROUP MOWING SCHEME

The Group Mowing Scheme is looking for a Tractor Driver to mow school lawns. Approximately 16 hours per week. To obtain more information please contact Dean Dodunski on 027 270 0229



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NEWSLETTER

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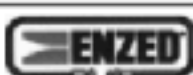
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