



16th December 2022

Dear parents/caregivers,

What a wonderful Year 5/6 Celebration of Learning and Year 6 Graduation we held on Wednesday night. The theme of the evening was whānaungatanga. This value is the essential glue that binds people together, providing the foundation for a sense of unity, belonging and cohesion, and so much of Wednesday night reflected just how our school community provides just that function. At the bottom of my newsletter I have shared a **beautiful reflection from a parent**, of just how this concept is reflected as their last child leaves our school.

This ceremony was the very last in our hall which has served our community so well for some 27 years. The hall will be demolished in the first week of January, as well as old exterior cladding removed from the library and zone, so **please do be very careful if you are entering school grounds** as there will be a lot of large vehicles and demolition trucks entering our site.

You will have received letters with reports regarding start dates, office hours and stationery lists for 2023. If you misplace this information, details are available on the school website.

Although next year's classes have been announced, these December lists can only ever be considered a draft, as we are never entirely sure how many new students may enrol in the first week of school, or if there are ever any unexpected staff changes.

Farewell to our graduating Year 6 students and any students who may also be leaving our school today. We wish you every success, and don't forget your Albany Primary School roots (or our R.E.A.C.H. values). To our returning students, we look forward to seeing you all back at Albany Primary School on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

I wish you all a blessed family time over Christmas and a safe and enjoyable summer break—remember your sunscreen (when it finally stops raining), wear your life jacket if you are in a boat, and if on your bicycle, remember your helmet!

Meri Kirihimete (Merry Christmas) to all
Maree Bathurst
Principal

**“I would like to just pause for a minute to share some closing words on behalf of our family. Over the past nine years we have entrusted our three children's care, into the loving arms of the Albany Primary Community. There are just no words to express the gratitude we have for the role that EVERY staff member has played in this journey. (Past and present). With our family background we are well aware of the task that you all have. The last 2ish years could not have been easy for you. WE THANK YOU To echo your words from last night, family Community is key. And we definitely had that here. We take with us a bucket load of memories. Hand on heart, none of them bad. Our family lives by the motto, "it takes a village" And boy, what an amazing journey it has been in this village. Wishing you and all your staff a safe holiday and all, all, all the best for the new year. May you all continue to grow, nurture, protect and care for the youth of our future.
Warm regards on behalf of our village”**

TERM 1 2023—*Dates subject to change*
Initial dates for Term 1, to be added to at the beginning of 2023

26th January School open for enrolment enquiries, 9.30am-12.00noon
27th January School open for enrolment enquiries, 9.30am-12.00noon

WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY—THURSDAY 6TH APRIL

Monday 30th January Public holiday – Auckland Anniversary Day

Wednesday 1st February Term 1 start

Thursday 2nd February Pōwhiri welcome assembly, 9.10am

Monday 6th February Public holiday – Waitangi Day observed

Wednesday 15th February Partnership meetings, 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Thursday 16th February Partnership meetings from 1.00pm, **school closed from 12.30pm**

HOME STAY FAMILY REQUIRED

Our school is delighted to once again be able to offer Mandarin classes in 2023, with a teacher being supported by the The Confucious Institute and the Ministry of Education. We will have more information in the new year, but if you family would be interested in hosting this teacher as a paid home stay please contact Lisa Elder, email lelder@albany.school. regarding requirements.

2023 DATES

Please Note: The MOE and NZEI are currently negotiating teacher contracts. Next year dates may change if there are either mandated stop work meetings or Teacher only professional learning days supporting the introduction of the revised NZ curriculum.

TERM 1

WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY—THURSDAY 6TH APRIL

TERM 2

WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL—FRIDAY 30TH JUNE

TERM 3

MONDAY 17TH JULY – FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

TERM 4

MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER – TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER (TBC)