



Patoka School

through our school we are one

Our values are T.R.U.E.E – Trustworthiness, Respect, Unity, Excellence and Enthusiasm

Date of Issue: 31 January 2017

Dates to remember:

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| 7 Feb – 17 March | Swimming lessons begin each Monday –Thursday |
| 10 February | Yr 7/8 Technology begins |

Save the Date:

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|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 17 March | School Swimming Sports 10.00am |
| 13-17 March | Learning Conferences |
| 7 April | Digital Photo exhibition afternoon |

From the Principal, Rachel Huggins

Welcome back to a new academic year! We hope that you had time to enjoy the change in routine and the warmer weather. I enjoyed the chance to visit family and friends in Christchurch and Tauranga over the summer, a chance to reconnect with special people, and both my sons celebrated their birthdays so there was much to enjoy over the holidays. All our belongings have finally arrived from France, and it is so lovely to set up our home and be surrounded by our own things again.

Before the students arrived, the teachers had two preparation days. During this time, we planned for our school wide units. Firstly, we will explore a unit about **Cyber safety** and learning to be responsible Digital Citizens. In the second part of the term we are all focusing on **Digital photography**. We are excited to announce that Patoka School have registered in the **Digiawards**, a large group of schools in Taradale submit digital work in Term 3. The competition consists of three categories: Digital Photography, Graphic Design and Animation. Our students will study one category each term and at school we will have our semi-finals, with finalists being entered into the Digiawards in Term 3. This is an exciting opportunity for our students, and the school will be supporting the staff in professional development opportunities to enable us all to participate. As a staff, we also reflected on our National Standards data from the end of 2016 and set priorities to ensure that each child reaches their potential this year. It was an intense two days and we feel ready and excited to begin working with the students.

We are excited to welcome you back to school and to welcome four new families to our school.

Isabella (Room 2) and J-J (Room1) have moved from the West Coast in the South Island. Kaleb (Room 3) and Jayden (Room 1) have moved from Dannevirke. Erinte (Room 2) and Taata (Room 1) have moved from Tauranga. We are excited to also welcome Charlie Newall to Room 1, from our Patoka Kindergarten.



Our teaching team has changed slightly this year and I am delighted to welcome all our staff back.

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| Room 1 (Y0-2) | Mrs Madelene Field |
| Room 2 (Y3-4) | Mrs Nicky Dawson (Wednesday – Friday) & Mrs Emma Lorentz (Monday and Tuesday) |
| Room 3 (Y5-8) | Mr Bidwell |
| Teacher Aides | Mrs Toni Turner and Mrs Luana Farquharson |

During 2017 I will have a new role in the school, working across each class and introducing a range of new programmes and possibilities for our students, including:

- Environmental projects
- RoboCup Junior
- Kid's Lit Quiz
- Alternative Writers
- Digiawards

The purposes of this new structure are:

- to provide additional programmes for the students to access opportunities beyond their classroom
- to raise the profile of Patoka School within the local community
- to provide extension / enrichment opportunities for students
- to focus on students who would benefit from extra support in a small group context
- to team teach in each class and support the Digiawards work for every student

From the teachers:

Room 1

Hi, my name is Madelene Field and I have lived in Hawke's Bay for nearly 17 years. I am married to Robbie and we have one son, Ryan, who is studying in Wellington. I thoroughly enjoy teaching and am very much looking forward to teaching at Patoka School. I am passionate about working with the younger age groups am very excited about meeting the Room 1 students (and their families). Please feel free to pop in and introduce yourself!

Room 2

Hi, my name is Nicky Dawson. During my time teaching at Patoka I have taught at every level and this year I am again in Room 2 with Years 3 & 4. This year marks the first in many that I begin teaching without any of my own children here at Patoka. I am really looking forward to not making school lunches anymore! This year I will be sharing Room 2 with Emma. We look forward to working together.

Hi, I'm Emma (Mrs Lorentz) and I'll be teaching in Room 2 this year on Mondays and Tuesdays. I have recently moved to the Hawkes Bay with my family and we're all enjoying the lifestyle this wonderful area has to offer. I enjoy the outdoors, sports, cooking and reading and am looking forward to being a part of the Patoka School Community.

Room 3

Hi, my name is Gerry Bidwell. I have taught the senior class at Patoka for quite a long time, and love being a part of the Patoka community. I am married to Viv and have two adult children and two grandchildren. My interests are: motorcycles, classic rock and blues music, fishing and hunting. Feel free to call in and visit Room 3.

Stationery

The teachers will be sending home today the stationery lists. If you would like to purchase the materials at school, please sign this list and return to school as soon as possible. This amount will then be added to your school account. You are welcome to buy these items elsewhere. Please ensure all students have their stationery at school by Tuesday 7 February.

Swimming

We are pleased to offer our students swimming lessons at the Community Pool from Week 2-7 (7 February – 17 March) on Monday – Thursdays. During the lessons for Room 1 students, we are pleased to announce that Rachel Train, a swim coach, will be working alongside Madelene Field. This provides our junior class with increased supervision and specialist teaching. Based upon our assessment, there is the possibility that we would include students from Room 2, at the beginner level, into this class for swimming lessons. We will bus the children to and from the pool. Please make sure that your child brings their named togs and towel each day in a separate bag. Our finale will be the swimming sports on 17 March at 10.00am. We will send you more details soon, please mark this in your calendar.

Year 7/8 Technology

We are delighted to announce that our Year 7/8 students will continue the tradition of attending classes at Tamatea Intermediate. They have technology classes scheduled for February 10, 17, 24 and March 3. The students have morning tea at Tamatea, attend their session and join the Tamatea Intermediate students for lunchtime before returning to school around 2pm. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to learn specialist skills and to experience life in a larger school context.

Music lessons

In addition to the students accessing group or individual lessons with Ross Turner, we are excited to announce that Ross will be establishing a school Rock Band and working weekly with the students. More information will be shared with the students about this opportunity.