



# Motupipi

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter 8 December 2021

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou,

The last newsletter of the year -- and what a year it's been! I feel like I've been on a roller coaster at Disneyland.... never knowing what's around the next bend, loving the highs and dreading the sudden drops! It's been a year of indecisiveness - with none of us really understanding or knowing what was coming. We've had the pleasure of welcoming great new staff, and the sadness of farewelling colleagues and friends.

As we are in Level 2 as a school (until January), we are unable to have parents and community at our final assembly next Wednesday, though I'm very pleased to be able to welcome our leaving parents to celebrate the end of the Year 6 Leaving Dinner evening with us on Monday (as numbers will be so much lower there). Please see the note in the newsletter about protocols for that. Because I won't be able to speak to you at the final assembly, please bear with me as I share some of what I'm going to say next week with you here.

Firstly, thank you. Thank you for your understanding and your patience. It's been a very tough year, made more so by the school's inability to speak out about a lot of staff changes while they were taking place. I know that this has been frustrating for some (and for us, too). On behalf of the entire school staff, I'd like to thank all of our school community: parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends - you support us by volunteering, driving to events, attending our events, supporting our students, supporting our staff... we wouldn't be who we are, without you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jack Winter for all the work he's done on our school pool (and beyond) for the past year. You were game for anything, Jack, and we are so appreciative of all the work you did for us.

Jodie, as you all know, has taken leave until the end of 2022. We miss your enthusiasm, your energy and your laughter. We hope that you have a wonderful year off and look forward to seeing you around the community (and back at school in 2023).

Thomas - it's just not going to be the same around here next year without you and your ever-present guitar or ukulele. We will miss your dedication and passion and we wish you and the family nothing but the best for your new adventures in Christchurch.

Amanda, you've been a lifeline to us in the New Entrants class for the past two years, but also to the school as a parent for many years before that. We hope that you, Angus and Charlie enjoy life over the hill and come back to visit us when you get the chance.

Mark - I bet you didn't think you'd be back again - yet here you are! Thanks so very much for stepping up and stepping in so seamlessly and supporting not just the students, but the staff, too. You're wonderful.

Finally, to Lynnette... who has been with us for over 30 years! Lynnette - you never fail to show up without a smile and a positive attitude. You're up for absolutely anything that we ask of you. The students love you. Whanau love you. We love you. We hope that life in Christchurch with your family (and new grandson) is filled with love and laughter each and every day.

Finally, a personal thank you to the Board of Trustees members: Cherie Prystie, Nina Griffith, Bridie Griffiths, Nadine Bott and Abbie Langford. Your perseverance and dedication to your role as trustees is to be commended. You give so much of your time (much of it unnoticed and behind the scenes) to the school - I feel blessed to work alongside you. Thanks for all that you do for us.

Have a truly wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season. To those moving on, we wish you all the best. For those returning, we look forward to seeing you on 1 February 2022.

Ngā mihi,

Lisa Malones

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD..

2021 has been quite the year for us all, both personally and as a school. But the great thing about it is that the strength and resiliency that is core to our Motupipi spirit has stayed throughout the year and we are finishing the year strongly!

Change has certainly been the theme throughout 2021, but as the saying goes, change is not always bad. This was clearly shown at the beginning of the year when we started back at school with a substantial upgrade of the office area (as well as to Room 1 and 2 teaching block). The office area in particular has been hugely successful as it is both practical and welcoming to anyone coming into the school, it gives our teaching staff a usable workspace and allows the Principal open access to the school. We would like to acknowledge the vision and effort that Lisa put into making this happen.

We have had some significant staff changes this year as well, which has been both challenging and exciting. We want to acknowledge the fact that Lisa, whilst planning to be home with her Mother in the New Year, has agreed to remain at school until March and help us navigate the staff changes. We can't thank her enough. We are saddened that we lost the amazing Judy earlier this year after over 20 years of teaching at Motupipi; and will be losing some more wonderful teaching staff at the end of this term, including Thomas, Lynnette and Amanda. We are however excited that they are moving onto the next stages of their life journeys and wish them well in their new endeavours. Another significant loss is that of Jodie who has taken a year's leave, and while we are sure she is making the most of her time away she leaves a huge gap in our school and is sorely missed. We look forward to seeing her back in 2023. We are excited for Petra who is on maternity leave until August 2022 and we are sure she will keep us updated with visits and cuddles with her gorgeous boy, Charlie. Finally we have welcomed some wonderful new staff this year with Anna and Natasha joining the Motupipi whanau earlier this year; and now we have Lesley and Scott ready to start next year. So yes some major changes but we are feeling optimistic for 2022 and looking forward to new energy and relationships and learning opportunities.

We are currently advertising for a new Principal and will keep you updated with our progress. We will be using the information we received from parents and students at our previous consultation to help guide the recruitment process.

We want to acknowledge the incredible support we have from our school families and the wider Golden Bay community. The fundraising committee (aka PTA committee) have spent considerable time and energy organising weekly school lunches, sausage sizzles, and of course the annual plant sale to raise significant funds for the school. Among other uses, this money goes towards school camps and upgrading our swimming pool complex so it can be enjoyed by our learners and indeed people throughout Golden Bay.

So many parents donate their precious time to assist in the classrooms, and with other events and activities in the school and for this we are so grateful. It epitomizes the culture of Motupipi and is what makes us a special community. We simply would not be able to achieve all that we have this year without this commitment from so many people.

So we wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas/New Year break with whanau and friends and we look forward to seeing you all back in 2022.

Motupipi Board of Trustees



## YEAR 6 LEAVERS DINNER PARENT INFORMATION

A reminder to parents that our Year 6 leavers Dinner is on next Monday 13th at 6pm. Children will enjoy an evening meal and entertainment before coming together with parents at 7.30pm for the Graduation Ceremony.

Parents, please arrive on time so that you don't miss out on seeing any of the ceremony! Because we are still operating at Level 2 the ceremony is restricted to parents only, masks are mandatory and seats will be 1m apart. We appreciate your cooperation with these restrictions and look forward to seeing you there!

Lesley came from the UK 15 years ago and loves living in New Zealand. She is very pleased to be returning to the Tasman district after spending a year in Christchurch teaching new entrants. Lesley has been teaching for twelve years, is passionate about Mathematics, and is looking forward to being in Room 4 next year. Before teaching, back in the UK, she worked for Apple and then became a research psychologist, helping children with severe learning differences. In 2004, Lesley was invited to Chicago to present her research findings to the annual International Meeting of the Cornelia de Lange Foundation.

Lesley has three grown up children and a grandson. Her happy place is being on the water or a horse. Lesley kayaks, fishes, and sail boats (including living on a boat for over five years). She's had horses all her life, and hopes to ride on the beach as much as possible. She also enjoys hunting (especially with a crossbow), cycling and reading. Music is a huge part of her life. She is a big RAP fan, especially Tupac, Eminem and Macklemore. Lesley has recently been teaching the school choir and they include a couple of RAP songs (student appropriate of course!) in their repertoire. She's also a country music fan (yah!) so we are looking forward to a great Motupipi School Choir next year complete with a lot of different musical genres.

**Get to know our new  
Room 4 teacher.....**

**LESLEY  
JEPHCOTT**

**WELCOME  
TO OUR NEW  
TEACHERS!**



**Get to know our new  
Room 2 teacher.....**

**SCOTT  
RALSTON**



Kia ora Motupipi School community!

It is my pleasure to be joining the teaching staff at your school from the start of next year. I have a fun, enthusiastic, outgoing personality and simply can not wait to get stuck into school life in Motupipi. I am a born and bred Cantabrian but am thrilled to move to the beautiful Golden Bay after spending many holidays as a child camping at Pohara.

I discovered my passion for championing youth through working at a special needs camp in Texas, which inspired me to pursue a teaching career. I am coming to Motupipi with lots of fresh ideas and am excited to share these and have a genuinely positive impact on students. As a teacher I aim to facilitate growth, provide opportunities and support students in all of their pursuits both in and out of the classroom. I am a passionate sportsman and am eager to become an active member of the local sporting community both as a player and coach. If you see me around please come and say hello, I would love to meet as many new people as possible! I wish everyone a safe and happy summer, I am looking forward to seeing you all at school in the new year.



Today we enjoyed listening to some of the marvellous musical talent we have here at school! Thank you to Hennie for all your dedication and commitment teaching the children, we all love watching them learn and develop a love for music.



... and in Room 4 the children have been making some fabulous Christmas artwork. Be sure to stop by their class to look at their art display!







## Meanwhile in Room 2.....

Maki came in last week to teach the kids how to write their name in Japanese. I was very impressed with the results. The children took their names home, so you've probably seen them already but at the top of this post is a picture of the final results. The only down side is that now all the kids are naming their work in Japanese and I'm not sure whose work I'm marking!

Marlee and Mori have also been teaching the class some greetings in Dutch, which has been very cool. All the kids are better at picking it up than I am and, again, I've very impressed with what they're capable of. Ka pai Room 2!

LIFE SKILLS THROUGH ADVENTURE



## School Holiday Canoe Camps 2021 - 2022

### My First Canoe Camp: 9-10 year olds

#### SPRING

Thurs 7th - Fri 8th Oct  
Mon 11th - Tues 12th Oct

#### SUMMER

Thurs 13th - Fri 14th January  
Thurs 27th - Fri 28th January

#### AUTUMN

Thurs 21st- Fri 22nd April

### Wilderness Canoe Camp: 11-13 year olds

#### SPRING

Sun 3rd - Tue 5th October  
Thurs 14th - Sat 16th Oct

#### SUMMER

Sun 9th - Tue 11th January  
Sun 23rd - Tue 25th January

#### AUTUMN

Sat 23rd - Mon 25th April

Email to reserve a place or visit our website for more information

[info@canoejourneys.co.nz](mailto:info@canoejourneys.co.nz)

[www.canoejourneys.co.nz](http://www.canoejourneys.co.nz)