

## SCHOOL ACCESS

Yesterday some work to replace a section of the walkway between the school and the Wiri Community Hall was started. Unfortunately the Council did not let us know that this work was to take place so we were unable to make other arrangements and let you all know. Today I have been able to find out that the work is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete.

Until further notice, the gate behind Room 17 will remain closed for school access. We will open the gate beside the playground (closer to the Great South Road) for access in the mornings and after school. We encourage vehicle drop off and pick ups to continue from the Community Hall carpark, however students will need to walk along Inverell Ave and enter through the Inverell Ave gate.

A reminder also that the school carpark is for staff only.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

At the start of the term we informed you about the review of our emergency management procedures. We have engaged with a specialist company to review our procedures and help us plan for unforeseen events. We were to be holding a "lockdown" exercise on Monday 26 August. This has now been rescheduled for later in the term and will be held on Tuesday 24 September. The purpose of the lockdown exercise is to ensure that everyone is familiar with what to do should a real emergency situation arise. We will share further information about the exercise closer to the date.

## 5 YEAR OLD ENROLMENTS

It is important for your child to start school on or soon after their fifth birthday. Children get a better start to learning if they start school as soon as they turn five years old. You are more than welcome to come into school before your child's fifth birthday. This is an opportunity to see what paperwork is required and to have a look at the class before your child starts. We will help you to complete the enrolment process and can organise some classroom visits for you and your child if you would like.

## WE ARE A HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL

We are **SMOKE FREE/VAPE FREE** and **SUNSMART**. Children are encouraged to put sunscreen on at home and to wear a hat in the playground. Sunscreen is also available at school. If you do not want your child to use school sunscreen, please talk to or write to your child's class teacher.

Wiri Central School is part of the '**Fruit in Schools**' programme. Every child receives a free piece of fruit every day. If your child is allergic to specific fruit, please tell the class teacher.

We request that students drink **only water** at school. A named water bottle can be kept at school for your child to refill.

Students receive a **free, healthy lunch** every school day. Any dietary needs should have been recorded at enrolment however, if your child's needs change, please let the class teacher or school office know of any special dietary needs or food allergies.

Wiri Central School is part of the **Mana Kids programme** to prevent Rheumatic Fever and skin infections. Nurses are at school every morning to check any student with a sore throat or skin problem. If medication is required parents are contacted by the nurses. You are welcome to come and talk to the nurse at school about any medical concerns for your child.

**PLEASE NOTE: NO SWEETS, CHEWING GUM, BUBBLE GUM OR CHOCOLATES ARE ALLOWED AT SCHOOL.**

## WHAT IS TRUANCY?

Regular and consistent instruction helps students to progress in their learning – this means coming to school as often as possible will help your child to learn.

When a student is absent from school without a justified reason they are considered to be truant.

This means if your child is absent from school and the reason is **not acceptable**, the absence will be recorded as **truancy**.

Acceptable reasons for children to be absent from school include:

- Hospital appointments
- Childhood illnesses (chickenpox, scabies, etc)
- Serious illness or injury

**Unacceptable reasons** for children to be absent from school include:

- Sleeping in
- Going shopping
- Getting a haircut
- Having no lunch
- Wet or cold weather
- Stayed at a friend or relatives house overnight
- Having visitors at home
- Going to the airport

If your child is absent and you have not explained the reason, our student management computer system automatically records the absence as truant from school. Children who are often truant will be referred to the Truancy Service and a truancy officer will investigate the situation. It is therefore very important that you let us know the reason your child was absent, as soon as possible.

It is also a requirement from the Ministry of Education that reasons for absence are given. Explanations need to be given by parents/guardians, not by children. If your child really has to miss a day of school you can let us know the reason by phoning the school, calling in to the classroom or office, writing a note, sending a message through the Skool Loop app or by sending an email or a text to the school office.

## COMMUNITY NOTICE

Love Tennis - Open Day at Jellicoe Park Tennis Club, Marr Road, Manurewa on Sunday 8th September 2024, 10-2pm. All Welcome. Lots of activities and giveaways.

Junior coaching starts Friday 13th September 2024. All queries please phone Peggy on 021 201 8824 or email us on [jellicoeparktennis@hotmail.com](mailto:jellicoeparktennis@hotmail.com)



**LEA FAKA-TONGA  
EVERYDAY**

2024 PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEKS

18 - 24 August  
Tonga Language Week

Ministry for Pacific Peoples