

A MESSAGE FROM NZEI TE RIU ROA (EDUCATION WORKERS UNION)

We all want the best for our kids.

Our teachers love what they do, but not enough funding for schools means that they don't have the time they would like to support all kids to thrive.

We can fix this though. NZEI Te Riu Roa primary teacher and principal members are making the case to the Government for the best investment in tamariki. Smaller class sizes, more time for individual students and more specialist learning support staffing would make a huge difference.

Keeping and retaining teachers is top of mind right now, and this term, our teachers will also be meeting to consider a pay offer – and assessing if it's enough to make sure that teaching is valued and is an attractive profession.

The teachers at your school will be attending paid union meetings on Monday 27 February at 1.30pm.

When we support our children to learn and succeed, we are supporting whānau and communities to thrive. We look forward to another great year in 2023 – and together with your support building the case for better investment in our tamariki.

Teachers in our school will be attending the paid union meeting on Monday 27 February. The purpose of this meeting is for teachers to discuss the recent offer that has been made by the Government.

We ask that students finish school at 1.30pm on Monday 27 February to uphold the right of teachers to participate in their union meeting while also ensuring the least disruption to your children's learning. Students will eat their school lunches prior to going home at 1.30pm.

If you will not be able to make suitable arrangements for your child(ren) to go home at 1.30pm on 27 February, please inform the school office or your child's class teacher so we can organise supervision until 3.00pm.

NETSAFE PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS

Netsafe is a New Zealand based, independent, non-profit online safety organisation. By taking a technology-positive approach to the challenges digital technology presents, they work to help people in New Zealand take advantage of the opportunities available through technology by providing practical tools, support and advice for managing online challenges. They aim to keep people of all ages safe online by providing free support, advice and education.

Netsafe is coming to Wiri Central School on **Tuesday 14 March at 5.30pm** to present a session for parents. At this free session they will provide advice and support to help keep our kids safe online. Come along, get some free online safety ideas and go in the draw for movie vouchers. Refreshments and childcare will be available.

WWW = WIRI WHĀNAU WAY

Why do we come to school? We come to school to learn.

To do this well we need to make sure that we always demonstrate our school values of **kotahitanga, manaakitanga, whanaungatanga and rangatiratanga**. Upholding our values supports our own learning and allows others to get on with learning. At Wiri Central School we use the Wiri Whānau Way to help everyone demonstrate the values and focus on learning.

By now every child should have brought home a copy of their class and our playground expectations. Parents, you have an important part to play in supporting the Wiri Whānau Way. Ask your children to tell you about the expectations and how they can achieve them. Encourage your child to demonstrate the expectations and earn whānau tokens. In the middle and at the end of each term the winning whānau will enjoy an afternoon of reward activities. At the end of the year, the winning whānau will get to participate in a fun, reward trip.

SWIMMING

The Pools in Schoolz portable pool is filled and ready for swimmers. Learning to swim and water safety skills are not only a part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum, but an important life skill. It is very sad that so many people drown in New Zealand every year. Developing water confidence and learning to swim helps to reduce the risk of drowning. The pool will be leaving Wiri Central at the end of the term so we are keen to make the most of the time that we still have for swimming.

Each roopu has a day of the week when they swim.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Roopu Toroa	Fofoa i Vaese	Roopu Tūi	Roopu Pūkeko	Mōkai Āwhina

The pool is heated and covered and life jackets are available for use by smaller/younger students if required. As well as bringing their togs and a towel students need to bring a plastic bag to keep their belongings in. Shorts and tee shirts/singlets are suitable for use in the pool.

We require spotters to assist with swimming. Spotters are an extra pair of eyes watching the students while the teacher is taking the swimming lesson. If you are available to be a spotter, please let your child's teacher know. All classes must have at least one spotter to be able to swim.

All students are expected to participate in swimming - it is part of the compulsory school curriculum. If there is a medical reason why your child cannot participate in swimming please inform the class teacher or the office by phone call, text, email or a written note.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Student attendance, along with effective teaching, has the greatest influence on student engagement and achievement.

Regular attendance is important if children are to make progress in their learning. If your child must be absent for any reason, please contact the school to let us know your child is going to be absent. You can contact the school by

- phone 09262594
- text message 0272679825
- Skool Loop app



Our Attendance Officer, Sandra, will contact you if she has not heard from you. The office staff will inform the classroom teacher.

KA ORA, KA AKO! FOOD IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Our school is part of the Ka Ora, Ka Ako Food in Schools programme. Through this programme every student is provided a healthy, free lunch, every school day. The programme is funded by the Ministry of Education and our contracted lunch provider is Libelle Group. The lunch menu changes each week so students get to enjoy a variety of lunch options. You can view the menus on their website: www.lunchbylibelle.co.nz Lunches are delivered to classrooms each day, fresh and ready for students to enjoy.

Our school is also part of the Fruit in Schools programme that provides a piece of fruit for every student daily. Fruit is distributed to classrooms in time for morning tea each day. All students are encouraged to eat the provided lunches and fruit - we always have plenty. Children do not need to bring additional food to school and unhealthy snacks are discouraged.

Libelle are able to cater for a wide range of dietary needs for individual students. If your child has any dietary requirements please make sure to share this information with the class teacher or the office staff.

YEAR SIX CAMP 2023

Our Year 6 Camp is happening this week, **Wednesday 22 February to Friday 24 February**. This camp is a fantastic experience for all Year 6 students. Campers are expected to arrive back at school before 3.00pm on Friday.