



Letter #8

Thursday 3 February 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tēnā koutou Katoa

I hope that you enjoyed the power points teachers prepared for you and you were able to gain a sense of the class routines and programme. Normally I would introduce all the staff, especially important for new families and also for our new staff. I am sure we will have another opportunity for this soon. In this newsletter you will see some of the activities happening in and out of the school. Although we are in the middle of a significant Omicron outbreak we are trying to either retain or alter some of the activities and event that would normally happen at this time of the year.

A GREAT START TO SCHOOL FOR NEW ENTRANTS

Our new cohort of Year 1 students who had a fantastic start at the beginning of this year were officially welcomed to the school with a special certificate presentation this week and last week. This was carried out in two batches so we could welcome smaller groups of parents and caregivers of those students to be there. It was so nice that parents could share in this experience. A special welcome to families who are brand new to St Heliers School.

We say a special St Heliers School welcome to Finley B, Alexandra B, Felix B, Wilfred BH, Baltasar CR, Emily D, Summer D, Manuel E, Charles H, Soren H, Ella H, Iggy JB, Zach L, Dante N, Elijah P, Yining (Shanshan) R, Victoria R, Thomas S, Sienna W and Leo W .



PROGRAMMES START AFTER LONG HYATIS



It was great to see both Guitar and Drums start again this week. Mr Lih Foo tutors students for guitar and Mr Scott Wotherspoon is the tutor for drums.

It has been great to see some of our younger students participating in Ripa Rugby, coached by the Kiwi Sport team and our Year 5 students have been receiving swimming lessons at CLM. The Year 7 students are looking forward to Challenges Week starting 15 March.



PTA HAVE THE FIRST FACE TO FACE SINCE AUGUST

It was a pleasure for me to meet the PTA on Wednesday evening. It was a chance for us to introduce ourselves and for the PTA to update me on the ins and outs of the PTA. They have some great ideas for things to become more comfortable for parents to be able to interact and can be welcomed onsite in bigger numbers.

I find the PTA is a great way for new families to meet others and become more familiar with the school.

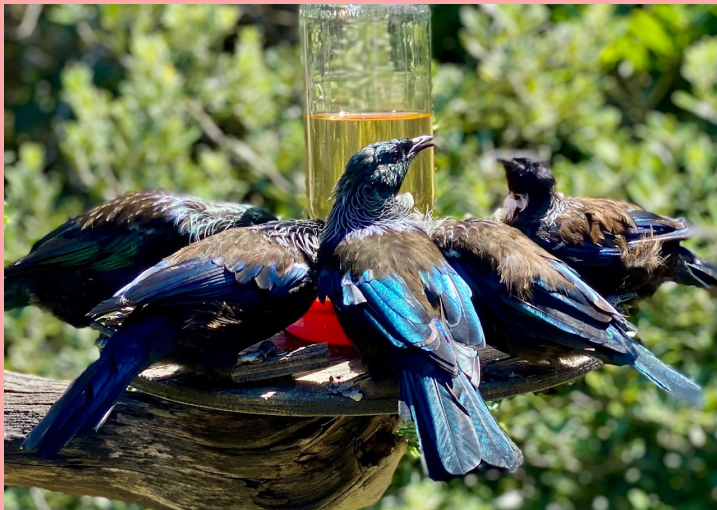
The next meeting is on Tuesday 5 April and the PTA would love to welcome some new parents.

TIRITIRI MATANGI

(by Miss Lizanne Franklin, Team Leader Year 6)

Year 6 are currently learning about Biodiversity as their Inquiry topic focus. During week three they were fortunate to attend day trips by ferry to Tiritiri Matangi which is a bird sanctuary in the Hauraki Gulf. We were welcomed by a Department of Conservation worker and volunteer guide who spoke proudly about the island. Students were in groups and were allocated a guide for the walking journey around the island. Students listened to the wealth of knowledge shared from the volunteer guides, identified native birds in their natural habitat as well as asked relevant questions to enhance their knowledge and understanding. Feedback from the guides was that the students were engaged, had lots of relevant questions, good manners and that the students were willing to learn.

We are very thankful to all of the parents who attended the trip, giving up their precious time for the day. Everyone enjoyed the learning experience and had an excellent time furthering their knowledge and understanding of native bird life in Aotearoa.



Rm 22



Rm 21



Rm 23



YEAR GROUP ASSEMBLIES

In non-covid times the school would have three assemblies per week. At the moment we are having four assemblies so that we don't have so many students gathered in one area. At these early morning assemblies it is a great opportunity for student who participate in out of school activities to share their achievements. They may have received Player of the day at their soccer tournament or were on the winning team at a cheerleading competition, or passed a music instrument exam or anything else. They can bring their trophy, certificate or medal on the morning of their assembly to Mrs. Torrie or myself. Here are the assemblies days from Week 6 (15 March):

Tuesday Year 1 and 2

Wednesday Year 7 and 8

Thursday Year 3 and 4

Friday Year 5 and 6



2022 ENROLMENTS

If you have a child who is turning 5 throughout 2022, and you live in our school zone, we would appreciate completing our school enrolment form as soon as possible.

This is to support senior leadership in the careful planning of class sizes and staffing as we progress through the school year. Enrolment forms can be accessed through our school office via email secretary@stheliers.school.nz or picked up directly from the office between 8 am and 4 pm.

We operate a cohort entry system for all our new entrants who are eligible to start school at the beginning or mid-way through each term (after they have turned 5) Children must be enrolled in a school by the time they turn 6.

If you have any questions regarding enrolment, our office staff or Alex Wood, our Assistant Principal, are here to support with this process.

SAFETY AT THE SCHOOL GATES

We are very conscious that our roads are busy at the end of each school day. We would really appreciate if all families could do the following:

1. Use the crossings that are supervised at St Heliers Bay lights and our Kea Crossing on Walmsley Road
2. If going to the Maskell Street shops, please cross at the lights.
3. If there are no parking spaces available, please go round the block as double parking causes problems.
4. Please do not park over our neighbouring driveways and

No U-turns close to our school crossing on Walmsley Road.

We thank you ahead of time for ensuring our children are kept as safe as we possibly can.



THANK YOU

A huge THANK YOU to Debra Savage for helping out the school by delivering learning packs to students who were isolating.



COVID UPDATE

As expected we had a number of positive cases at the beginning of this week, mainly as a result of being a household contact. We have many students isolating as someone else in the household has tested positive.

As of yesterday there were 78% of students at school. This is down significantly from well over 95 percent the school usually has attending at this time of the year. However, there are many schools who currently only have 40 to 50 percent of their children at school.

Phase 3 began at 11.59 last Thursday night and this meant a big change for the school with children not classified as close contacts. We then were not required to send out letters. Parents may wish to know how the school is tracking from day to day so we have placed the list of new positive cases each day on the school website in the newsletter section. This started on 1 March. Only the Room number is listed.

[Newsletters - School Newsletters \(stheliers.school.nz\)](https://stheliers.school.nz)

We are trying very hard to ensure classes are covered when the teacher must isolate. I have to say that the students have been amazing when adapting to different teachers.

I have appreciated parents consideration, co-operation and understanding during this difficult time

SCHOOL LIFE



Room 21 Sign their class treaty by re-enacting the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi



Room 17 learning outside



Children enjoying PE



Fun at lunch time

Enjoy the weekend and please look after yourself and your family. We are sure to reach the peak soon and look forward to seeing numbers of new cases fall.

Noho ora mai

Sean Valvoi