



# ABERFELDY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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January 2024

Greetings to all Parents, Caregivers, and whanau,

Welcome to 2024 at Aberfeldy School! We are looking forward to an exciting new year and welcoming some new students and a new Principal!

## **PRINCIPAL:**

The Board of Trustees is very excited to announce that Shondel Mackie is our new Principal. Shondel has relieved at Aberfeldy School in the past and the children all love her. We will be having a morning tea at school on Tuesday 30th January at 10.30am, to welcome Shondel - all whanau and community members are welcome to attend.

*Kia ora Aberfeldy whanau (family) and friends,*

*It is with great pleasure and excitement that I would like to introduce myself. My name is Shondel Mackie and I have been given the amazing opportunity to lead Aberfeldy School in 2024 and beyond.*

*I originally was born and raised in Wanganui and began my teaching career at Whanganui Intermediate School in 2014. Our family then moved up to Taumarunui in 2018 as my partner, Michael, gained his first top dressing job at the base there. I joined the Taumarunui Volunteer Fire Brigade at the end of 2018 which has been an amazing experience and has helped me grow as an individual.*

*Last year I was the Deputy Principal at Manunui School and learnt so much working alongside the current principal which I will build on here at Aberfeldy School.*

*I have three beautiful children, Kaspen (21), Cayden (11), Mylah (7) and a wonderful partner Michael who works for Ravensdown Aerowork.*

*Living in Taumarunui has given me a lot of experience in rural communities which I hope to build upon here. I will miss the amazing relationships I was lucky enough to build up there but look forward to building new ones with the families within our community.*

*I have an open door policy and look forward to meeting you all very soon.*

*Nga mihi kia koutou, (Warm greetings to you all)  
Shondel*

## **PRINCIPAL RELEASE TEACHER:**

Regrettably, Richard Pedley has also left our school to take up full time employment at Wanganui Intermediate. We are currently advertising for a new Principal Release teacher and hope to appoint one as soon as possible. In the mean time Raewyn and Jaime will be helping Shondel in the classroom.

## **START OF YEAR 2024:**

School starts on Monday **29th January 2024**. The van will start its first pick up at 7.30am (Indee and then Kaleb), then will pick up Myah at 7.45am, Quinn at 7.50am and the Frith children by 8.00am. Meaning we should be at school by 8.30am. Please contact Raewyn before 7.30am if your child is not going to be on the van ph 027 2114886.

School will finish at 3.00pm so all children should be home between 3.30pm and 3.45pm.

Please ensure that all students bring togs and towel to school every day as swimming is part of the school curriculum and we will be starting this from day one of the term. Children should also bring along shoes for playing outside and taking part in sporting activities as there will be plenty of bees around at this time of year.

In addition to stationery children do need to bring a **WATER Bottle** (we are a water only school) and a **sun hat** to school each day.

A reminder that there is no lollies or chewing gum to be brought to school please.

## **SCHOOL DAY:**

The school day is reverting back to 9.00am to 3.00pm.

9.00am	School starts
10.30am - 11.00am	Morning tea break <i>With a 10 minute eating time</i>
12.30pm to 1.30pm	Lunch time <i>With a 15 minute eating time</i>
3.00pm	Home time

## **WAITANGI DAY - No school on Tuesday 6th February 2023.**

There is no school on Tuesday 6th February - but you are welcome to come along to the Working Bee and Community get together.

## **STATIONERY :**

This year we are going to trial the school supplying stationery packs - please ensure you make payment for these into the following bank account - (different to van account number).

The cost per pack is \$40.00 per student and should cover most of your child's stationery needs for the year.

**BNZ account number: 02 - 0792 - 0329292 - 02**



### **Working Bee:**

We are having a **WORKING BEE** at school on Waitangi Day - **TUESDAY 6th February from 9.30am** (*this is a public holiday so no work*)

and we would like as many parents, whanau, past students and/ or their whanau, friends of the school to attend as possible.

We want to give the school a quick spruce up, tidying up gardens etc and it will be a great opportunity for new parents to meet other parents and our new principal; this will also provide a time for parents to talk about the school curriculum, charter, fundraising and other ideas.

There are plenty of things that need doing, so bring along hammers, tools, weed eaters, gardening tools etc. Our main focus will be cleaning out the lane, gardening / trimming shrubs etc and general tidy up around the playground and some water blasting etc. If you have a weed eater, chainsaw or ladder please bring it. Please provide your own PPE gear - we want you to be safe! If you can't physically help with the working bee you can still come along and provide support by helping with the lunch or watching children in the pool. Or, if you are unable to attend then, you could send along some baking to feed the troops. We will be providing a sausage sizzle etc at lunch time and the swimming pool will be open for the children, but only with an adult in attendance.

**Start time will be 9.30am.**



### **SWIMMING:**

ALL students are to take part in swimming, unless they have a genuine reason (accompanied by a note, or phone call, from home).

We are extremely lucky to have a swimming pool at Aberfeldy School and along with our daily swimming lessons we will also be taking part in our Rural Schools Cluster swimming sports and other swimming opportunities.



### **SCHOOL VAN:**

The school van fees remain at **\$25** per week for one student but will increase to **\$30** for 2 students and **\$35** for more than 2 students.



**These fees MUST be paid in advance** so please look at getting these set up NOW—bank details are as below. We no longer receive MOE funding for the van so we need to set up a fundraising committee for the van, with all van users playing an active role in this.

**As we have limited van seats, if your fees are not paid and kept up to date, your child will not be picked up.**

Van account details: Aberfeldy School

**BNZ account number: 02 - 0792 - 0329292 - 25**

### **SLIP, SLOP, SLAP:**

Aberfeldy School is a Sun Smart school and students need to wear a sun hat when outside as per our Sun Protection practices -

- We ensure that sun protection is considered for all outdoor school events and activities, on-site and off-site, including sports and EOTC. We try to plan outdoor activities to minimise exposure to the sun (UVR) during the summer (i.e. we consider timing and use of shade).
- Students and staff are encouraged to make use of shaded areas when outside. Students eat lunch in the shade or inside, as appropriate.
- We encourage students and staff to keep hydrated by drinking water.
- We require students to wear hats that shade the face, neck, and ears whenever they are outdoors during school hours and/or activities, e.g. interval and lunch breaks, P.E., sports days, outdoor EOTC trips, and other school activities. Students at school without a hat must remain in an allocated shaded area or (if allowed) inside at break times.
- We encourage students and staff to protect themselves with broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen of at least SPF30. The school provides sunscreen.
- We encourage students to wear clothing that protects the skin (e.g. long sleeve tops, rash tops) when at risk of extended sun exposure (such as at sports days, school camps, and picnics), or when swimming outdoors. Staff are encouraged to model appropriate sun protection practices.

### **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:**

The Board of Trustees are in the process of updating our school charter and annual implementation plan and would like to seek input from our community members. We are also currently developing new school values that will align with our future visions and goals.

We will be sending out an on line survey shortly and would also welcome any additional feedback. This will help shape the future of our school and we would really appreciate your thoughts and ideas. You can contact the school or talk to us at the working bee.

### **PROPERTY UPDATE:**

The painting of the school building is nearly complete and the sports shed and changing sheds have been re-ramped with new linings.

### **SCHOOL LUNCHES:**

We are pleased to advise that we have changed service providers for our school lunches and we will now be getting our lunches from Pita Pit. We hope that all students will try, and enjoy, the new lunches. The first three weeks menu will be sent out shortly.



*Enjoy the remaining days of your holidays.*