



At West Harbour School we stand tall, proud and confident, continually discovering and applying new learning. Together we encourage our learning community to realise its unique talents and aspirations.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS: The Board is very excited to announce the appointment of Anna Smythe as our school's new Principal. She will be taking over from the beginning of Term 4 from Vicki, who is retiring.

Reporting to Parents: The parent/teacher conferences went very well and we had some really good feedback from parents. The reporting schedule has reports going home at the end of Terms 1 & 3 (apart from Year 7/8) and the conferences are held in terms 2 & 4. The new system of logging in to book the conferences for your children was a huge success. Thank you to everyone.

From some of the feedback, we learned that the reporting on attendance was not as clear as it could have been. The tally is printed automatically onto the report forms at the time of printing, hence some variation between classes. The system looks at all absence, not just sickness or unexplained. Therefore, although your child may have had excellent attendance, it will still show some absences if the school is closed during term time, for example when we were instructed by the Ministry of Education to close the school following the Auckland floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. These are marked as justified absences, but still show up on the reports. We are currently reviewing how we report on attendance and will have something in place by the time your child's next report is sent home.

Professional Development Conference - held Monday 24 April: The pd learning sessions were organised by the Kahui (eight local schools). The teaching staff attended an all-day conference at Massey High School; our teacher aides went to Lincoln Heights; and the school caretakers had their first ever network meeting.

Farewells: At the end of Term 1 we farewelled Leanne Morrison-Jones (teacher, Rm 23) and Steve McCarthy (Learning Support co-ordinator). Steve has taken up a teaching position in Alice Springs. We wish both of them the best for the future.

Netball: The season commences this Saturday (06 May).

We are looking for parents of Year 6 or Year 8 children going to camp who might like to come along on a Saturday morning to run the BBQ and fundraise for your child's camp fees. If you are interested please contact the office.

Fees are \$35 per player and need to be paid by the end of this week

Notices Home: We send notices home in a number of ways - paper, electronically, on our Facebook page and through emails/communications from the classroom teachers. If you do not seem to be receiving any notices, please let us know so that we can check our contact details for you. We apologise for the mix-up last week that resulted in some parents not finding out about the puberty talks parents' evening until the day before. Again, we are reviewing our systems.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 04 May - Puberty programme, Y 7&8 students
Saturday 06 May - Netball season begins
Saturday 06 May - Coronation of King Charles
Monday 05 June - King's Birthday, school closed

2023 Term Dates

Term 2 - Wednesday 26 April to Friday 30 June. King's Birthday Monday 05 June, school closed

Term 3 - Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

Term 4 - Monday 09 October to Tuesday 19 December. Labour Day Monday 23 October - school closed

Puberty Programme: Begins this Thursday for all Year 7 & 8 students.

The Great Room 8 Easter Egg Hunt: Thank you to everyone for your support. We made a great profit of \$481.

West Harbour School is hugely grateful to Pierre Serindas and the good folk at New Zealand's premier commercial building company, Haydn & Rollet Construction (<https://haydnrollett.co.nz/>), who generously donated to us a number of high-quality desks, a boardroom table and various other furniture surplus to their requirements. Not only did they donate these items, but they delivered them too. This kindness will fill an essential need within the school and is therefore much appreciated. Haydn & Rollett – you guys' rock!