

FVHS Update to our school community - 23 February 2024

Kia ora, Kia orana, Warmest Greetings to you all!

Welcome to the 2024 school year, we trust you had a lovely summer break. Some of our students have certainly used the break to grow a lot taller! Things have been off to a hectic start with lots of activities and learning already happening. We are again thankful for the support shown to us by our community with large numbers of students and enrolments again this year. We are in a privileged position to work alongside your young people as they grow and develop into adulthood.

2024 has seen some mandatory changes made by the government for Education. These include changes to NCEA, Strategic Planning and also the ban of Mobile phones in schools. There has continued to be a determined effort by the government to increase the attendance of students to attend school everyday. We have implemented the banning of phones and this is working well so far. There have been some students flouting the rules with their phones being removed from them but overall it's been pretty good. Our new strategic plan is in place and is attached for you to view again.

Free Lunches:

We are delighted to confirm that our free lunches programme is again operating with all students being served a free lunch at 10:30 am each day. These lunches need to follow the nutritional guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education. Any spare lunches are then served at our second break at 12:40 pm.

If your child has a special diet and you have yet to let us know about this please contact the Food in Schools Team leader - Charissa Banfield: cbanfield@fvhs.school.nz

Breakfast Club:

This runs every morning in our Learning Hub from 8:30am. There is cereal and a variety of other foods on offer to students. Entry is through the far end of the Learning Hub corridor and all students are welcome to join in for this free breakfast.

Uniform Shop:

This is open each morning from 8:45am to 9:15am. We have a full range of items available. EFTPOS is also available in the Uniform shop. If you have any questions about uniform please make contact with Denise Brooks - dbrooks@fvhs.school.nz

Thank you for ensuring your children have uniforms for school. Students are looking great and the new dark shirts look awesome. If you are struggling to purchase uniforms please let us know and we can always find a way to support you. You can let Denise know this or your child's Arataki teacher or Kaitiaki. If you would like to donate preloved uniforms to us we would be happy to receive these and pass them onto other families in need.

Canteen:

We run a canteen for students to purchase items from at both interval and lunchtime. Students can pay by EFTPOS or cash. There is a wide range of items available. Students are not to leave the school grounds to go to a shop during the school day.

Changes to our hours:



Changes to how we work with you in 2024

*During school hours our **Priority** is to work with our students - we are sure you'll agree this is our core business. We have put the following structures in place to help us do this successfully:*

1. Our office hours are 8:30am to 3:00pm only
2. Parent / Caregiver meetings will happen only on a Monday from 2:30pm to 4:00pm. If you would like to schedule a meeting with us you will need to do this through reception or email and let us know in advance what this is about so we can have the correct team attend the meeting. Similarly if we would like to meet you it will be in this time period.
3. Enrolments are only available by appointment on Friday from 9am to 10:30am. Newly enrolled students can begin school the following Monday.

***You are welcome to call us or email us if you need our assistance .
Staff will be checking their emails Monday to Friday between the hours
of 8:15am to 4:15pm only***

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We appreciate that there are many parents who work and will need to reorganise your time and plan accordingly for meetings and events at these times. Teachers are part of a profession and also deserve to go to work and then go home to spend time with their own families and friends doing things they enjoy. In life we schedule appointments to see Doctors, Accountants, Lawyers and other professionals so they are able to complete their other core elements of their jobs. The teachers union has worked for many years to align the teaching profession with others - this is us helping with that mahi. We appreciate your support with this.

Student Behaviour:

Our focus at school is on Teaching, Learning and on getting young people ready for the world after school. We specialise in working with teenagers and we understand that at times they can make decisions we as adults find questionable. We provide clear instructions and outline our expectations to our students repeatedly so we know they have heard us and understood what is required of them. Students are here to learn. This means learning to get along with others we may or may not like, learning to work with different adults, perhaps in different classrooms around the school, learning to be kind and respectful to others, etc.

This year we have already had to stand down three students for anti-social behaviour and others are at home while we look into other issues. Students who cannot follow our rules will be sent home for up to five days while issues are investigated. This is under the provision of the Education Act 2000 - section 45. We will no longer be stopping our planned working schedule to investigate bad student behaviour in a hurry. Families will need to look after their students while the investigations take place. Please do not be abusive to our school staff if you receive a call to let you know this is happening for your child.

This message has been clearly related to students and is part of our Strategic plan. Students who are stood down or suspended also lose other privileges of being at school such as attending trips or camps in the term they have had bad behaviour.

Swearing at staff, being abusive, threatening or intimidating to students or staff is not tolerated, violence is not tolerated. Substance abuse and other issues of this nature are also not appropriate. These behaviours are not tolerated in the workplace and cannot be at school.

I would like to remind us all that we have between 5 to 7% of students in any one year that meet this category. Of our entire school population this is a small number of students. We have the majority of our students who come to school with the right intentions and make the most of every day.

School Photos:

These will be available for purchase from Impact Photographics. Details will be shared once they are available and ready for purchase.



Meet the teachers:

Come along and meet our teachers!

School will close for students at 2pm.

The Mangakino bus will run at 2pm, our other bus will be delayed until the usual time. Students on the later bus can go to the Learning Hub.

From 2:30pm to 4:00pm you are welcome to join us for a sausage sizzle. You can see the classrooms your child is learning in and meet the teachers of our school. We would love to have you join us.



MEET THE TEACHERS

Forest View High School warmly invites the parents / caregivers and whānau of our new students to come in and meet our teachers.

Monday 4th of March
2:30pm to 4pm

School will finish at 2pm on this day for all students
All welcome. Free sausage sizzle will be running

Reorganisation of the school:

This year we have changed the structure of our school into the following:

- Junior School - Year 9
- Middle School - Year 10 and 11
- Senior School - Year 12 and 13

Year 9 and 10 students are each completing the majority of their learning in A block classrooms. We have a corridor for Year 9 and one for Year 10. The change to this structure with teachers moving to students has seen a more settled start to the year for our students. We look forward to learning more about this method of teaching as the year goes on.

A copy of our strategic plan will be sent out to all families which outlines the above and further details. We appreciate all the many voices which helped us to create this plan and the above ideas. Please always keep sharing your thoughts and ideas with us.

Building works and renovations:

Over the Christmas holiday period we had significant roofing works completed at our school. This saw more of our skylights removed and leaking roof panels replaced. Some new lighting was fitted and also more suspended ceilings were installed into classrooms. This work means learning spaces are warmer, drier and healthier for our students and teachers.

We have another project which we put out to tender last year through the Ministry of Education which is to remedy our toilets and alter further learning spaces. Sadly no one put in a tender. This has gone out to tender again and we are hopeful this time with an extended timeline we will have tenders submitted.

This project is for us to remove the communal toilets we currently have and to create individual toilets in multiple blocks around the school.

In order to help us with the Toilet situation at the moment we are going to split the toilet use into certain groups for various toilet blocks. Year 9 and 10 students will use the current A Block main Boys and Girls Toilets. Year 11, 12 and 13 Boys will use the toilets on the outside of A Block facing the Art room, Year 11,12, 13 Girls will use the Toilet in the main reception and in the Wellness Centre (when this is open).

Students who require additional toilet facilities for various reasons are able to see Mrs McGovern our SENCO.

Dates to take note of:

School closed on the following days

- 29th of March Good Friday
- 1st of April Easter Monday
- 2nd of April Easter Tuesday
- 3rd of June - Kings Birthday
- 28th of June - Matariki
- 28th of October - Labour Day

Staff only days (granted by the Ministry of Education to cater to NCEA changes)

- 31st of May
- 25th of October

Term Dates for Students:

- Term 1
 - 30th of January to 12th of April
- Term 2
 - 29th of April to 5th of July
- Term 3
 - 22nd of July to 27th of September
- Term 4
 - 14th of October to 9th of December

Some Important Dates already added to our school Calendar:

- School Ball 6th of April (Year 12 and 13 only)
- Year 12 Camp - 9th to 12th April
- 9th to 13th of September Derived Grade Exams
- Senior Academic Prize Giving 30th of October
- NCEA Begins on 5th of November and end on 3rd of December
- Junior Prizegiving 9th of December 11am

You are able to access other dates from our school website where our calendar is available.

Ball:

Our school ball is scheduled for April 6th. We are looking forward to holding this event and seeing our students looking their best. Tickets will be \$75 per person. The ball this year is only open to students in Year 12 and 13.

We are aware the ball is close to the Year 12 camp dates. Neither of these events can have the dates changed due to bookings and other calendar events. If there are financial issues with Year 12 camp please be sure to let Chris Teague know this when the camp information is sent out.

Parent Portal Login details:

All families were emailed out login details for the parent portal. This access provides you the ability to track your child's attendance, results and other information. If you do not have access to this you are able to make contact with Jason Jowett who can send this information out to you - jjowett@fvhs.school.nz

Having a login is important as this is where we will be sharing student achievement and results. This will be in place of a formal report you may be used to receiving. The use of this system provides accurate, timely results with a comment from the teacher. Further information will be emailed out to you about how to find this information and how to understand it. The previous style of report always provided information which was about 5 weeks old by the time you received it. We also feel that teachers' time is better used on the quicker marking and moderating of student work.

NCEA and JCL information sessions:

We warmly invite you to come along and find out information about NCEA. There have been changes this year for NCEA Level 1. If you are not sure about NCEA or just need a refresher then feel free to come along to listen to the presentation and ask some questions. These sessions are held in our Auditorium. Each is a repeat session so you only need to attend one if it suits your schedule.

28th of February - 12:30pm to 1:30pm (NCEA)

28th of February - 6:30pm to 7:30pm (NCEA)

5th of March - 12:30pm to 1:30pm (NCEA)

5th of March - 6:30pm to 7:30pm (NCEA)

We will also hold two information sessions on our Junior Certificate of Learning (JCL). JCL is for students in Year 9 and 10.

14th of March - 12:30pm to 1:30pm (JCL)

14th of March - 6:30pm to 7:30pm (JCL)

Head Students:

We have announced our Head Students for 2024 and would like to congratulate all students who put themselves forward for these positions. Applying, interviewing, speaking to assembly is all very nerve wracking but they did very well.

This year the Head Students are:

Georgia Gill, Krizza Gabay and Solomona Fuimaono.



Congratulations and we look forward to working with you all throughout the year.

Kapa haka:

This year we have changed how Akoranga works and runs. This is now only available to Year 10 and 11 students with a focus on completing NCEA learning activities which count towards Literacy and Numeracy required for gaining certificates at all levels.

This has then left a gap where we would normally run Kapa haka. Since we know that there are other cultural and sporting opportunities students want to take part in, we have decided to continue running Kapa haka during the Akoranga slot. This is available for all students in any year level BUT we need parent permission for students to attend. If students attend Kapa haka they will miss out on Akoranga if they are in Year 10 and 11. In order to gain Literacy and Numeracy they will need to sit and pass the Common Assessment Activity or have already gained it last year. Students in Year 9, 12 and 13 are welcome to attend Kapa haka but will miss out on the classes they would normally have had during Tuesday period 2 and 3. The teachers will not be able to catch them up on the learning they miss during these times. Students who are attending a trades course sadly must make this their priority and cannot attend Kapa haka.

If your child wants to attend Kapa haka and you are comfortable with the above we require an email to be sent to Chris Teague so he can change their timetable. Please email him on cteague@fvhs.school.nz Kapa haka will begin on Tuesday 27th of February and run for the remainder of the year.

Meet our Senior Leaders:

My name is Jason Jowett, and I am the **Assistant Principal** here at Forest View High School. I was born and raised in Tokoroa, and have been a part of this kura since 2020. My roles at Forest View include overseeing NCEA Achievement, being the **Kaitiaki for our Year 13** Students, and organising and running both the Teach First Programme and our Homework classes. My background is in the teaching of History and English where I have a real passion for social justice, reading and local history. I am also interested in a range of sports, and over the years I have coached Rugby, Basketball, Football and Cricket, and look forward to coaching again this year.



Kia Ora! Ko Cherie Merrylees-Clarke tōku ingoa. I am proud to be an **Assistant Principal**, as well as the **Head of Arts and Languages Faculty** here, at Te Kura O Te Wao Nui Ā Tāne - Forest View High School. It's lovely to serve in the same high school and community that raised me. I love making connections with our students and their whānau - and helping our students along in their pursuit of learning for their life journeys. This year, I am living my best life teaching Te Ao Māori and English.

Kia Ora my name is Katharine McGovern and it is my privilege to be a **Deputy Principal** at FVHS. I have lived in Tokoroa since immigrating from the UK in 1990.

I have just started my 35th year at our school and currently hold the portfolios of Careers and Transition, SENCo, Events, Student Leadership. Also I am relishing being back in the classroom as Arataki Teacher for the mighty 10 Kea. Health and fitness is very important to me and I love living in the South Waikato with all the great opportunities it offers! I have four daughters all of whom attended our kura - their high school experience was great and their learnings have led to varied and exciting career opportunities. Continuing to contribute to the community which has embraced me is my drive and passion.



My name is Chris Teague and I am the second **Deputy Principal** at Forest View High School. Being born and raised in Tokoroa, I am passionate about providing opportunities for our tamariki that helped me grow and develop into the person I am today. As a Science teacher, I love taking our students into the outdoors. Leading our Forest View camps is one of the roles where I can constantly provide opportunities for our students to test themselves in environments they may not be comfortable in. This year, I am also the Timetabler, **Year 12 Kaitiaki** and the Arataki teacher of 11 Tongariro. The final position I hold in 2024 is the Principal's Nominee. This role puts me in charge of NZQA policy and procedure. In the coming weeks I will be running

information sessions on NCEA and encourage you to attend these sessions to gain the knowledge you need to assist your student with their achievement.

My name is Jocelyn Hale and it is my honour to be the **Principal** of Forest View High School. This is now my 6th year in this position. I was born in Auckland and raised there and in Te Aroha. I have taught and held various positions over the years at Hauraki Plains College, Elizabeth College in Guernsey, Te Aroha College and Paeroa College.



I am a mother of two- (Boston and Ella) and soon to be Nana which I am very excited about. We have two dogs called Riggs and Sarge. I am married to Steve.

This year I am the proud Arataki teacher of 9 Kowhai.

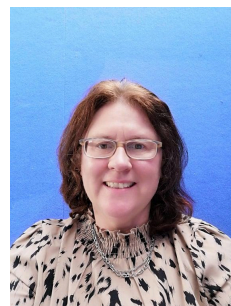
Meet our Middle Leaders:



Head of the Humanities Faculty My name is Taura Patterson-Te Maro. I moved to Tokoroa 3 years ago with my Husband Hatarei and our four young children. I was born and raised in Ōkauia, a small community at the foot of the Kaimai ranges near Matamata. I have been a Social Sciences secondary school teacher for 13 years and am teaching Geography, Social Studies and English this year.

Head of the Mathematics and Business Faculty and Year 9 Kaitiaki

Kia ora, ni hao ma, and hello! I'm Ms Victoria Wolfe, delighted to return to Tokoroa and FVHS after a decade teaching in the Waikato area. Reconnecting with the whanau and working here feels like coming home. I'm relishing the warmth and friendliness of this community, where I previously raised my two Eurasian children, and where my parents instilled in me a deep sense of community spirit. With experience in deaning, curriculum planning, leadership, and school logistics, along with insights from my Masters of Education (Hons) and Maori and Indigenous Studies papers, I look forward to serving in Mathematics and Business Faculty and kaitiaki positions.



Year 9 Kaitiaki, Maori Inclusion and Teacher in Charge of Kapa Haka

Ko Kaia Church tōku ingoa, he uri tēnei nō Ngāti Tūwharetoa, nō Ngā Rauru ki Tahī, nō Te Atihaunui ā Pāpārangī hoki. I am a mother to my six-year-old son - Mākaurangi. I love my whānau, horses, rodeo, kapa haka, hunting, and my culture – Te Ao Māori.

Head of Science and Technology Faculty My name is Elise Tilsley and I grew up in Ngaruawahia, studied in Dunedin and Waikato and I have had the pleasure of teaching in Tokoroa for the past 5 years. During the day, you will find me in the science labs, organizing outdoor education trips and experiences or working with our rangatahi to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Outside of school time, you will be able to find me hiking or mountain biking and exploring our beautiful backyard. I have a passion for getting our rangatahi excited about learning and offering them rich learning experiences that allow them to move outside of their comfort zone and build resilience.



Tershwin Raubenheimer is our **Faculty Leader for Health and Physical Education**. He joined us last year and is a proud South African. Tershwin is an experienced teacher and has taught at a number of schools in NZ including Whangarei Boys High School and Te Aroha College.

Cameron Rea is our **Year 11 Kaitiaki**. Cameron is in his third year of teaching. He has lived an interesting life living in various parts of the country and world. Cameron is a teacher of workshop and design subjects.



Morgan Buchanan is now in his third year of working at Forest View High School. He moved to our school from Auckland. He is a teacher of Health and PE. Morgan is one of our two **Year 10 Kaitiaki**.

Chantel Tavai joined Forest View High School last year. She is an experienced Health and PE teacher for a number of years. Last year she led our students to their victories in Turbo Touch. Chantel is also a **Year 10 Kaitiaki**.

