



EVERGLADE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday 05 February 2020

01/2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The dust is beginning to settle as the new school year kicks in. Classes are under way, new pupils are settling into the Everglade environment, and we look forward to 2020 being our best year ever.

Much has been said and written about the Coronavirus, which is making its presence felt world-wide. Again, we exhort all our families to be highly vigilant, regardless of whether you travelled overseas or not during the holidays.

Despite this looming presence, we look forward to 2020 with high levels of optimism. It will be a mixture of tried and true alongside innovation, as we continue our quest to always be 'better than before.'



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Mark this date!

On **Thursday 20 February** we will be having our **Parent Orientation and Picnic Day**. It's a mixture of 'getting to know your child's teacher' and getting to meet other families in your child's class.

Here's how it works:

- ★ 3.30 to 4.30pm 'meet the teacher' format in classes. This is where the key messages for the year will be communicated, and the nuts and bolts of learning for 2020 explained.
- ★ 4.30 to 5.30pm is a repeat session. This is to cater for those who have more than one child at school, or who cannot be at school for the earlier session.
- ★ 5.45pm a BYO picnic on the playing fields. This is a time to socialise and enjoy some food with your family and others.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

School Dates for 2020

Please note the term dates for the year:

Term One: Monday 03 February to Thursday 09 April

Term Two: Tuesday 28 April to Friday 03 July

Term Three: Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

Term Four: Monday 12 October to Tuesday 15 December

There are a few changes you will notice...

- **Your start of year costs are much lower!** We signed up to the government's 'School Donations Scheme' which starts this year. While it doesn't make any extra money for the school, it does mean that you pay less. We will not be asking for any money for 'curriculum' activities. This includes class trips etc. We will also not be asking for school donations or materials contributions. This is great news for our families.
If you genuinely wish to make a donation or payment (as some people have already asked) please note that we do not ask, but will accept any donations or contributions that people volunteer to make.
- **The playing fields are about to change!** The Board of Trustees has approved the installation of an artificial grass (or 'turf') area on part of the field. This will enable classes and teams to enjoy regular skill and game learning opportunities without so much interference from the weather. This is a major project, and the fact that it can be achieved is a tribute to the financial management of the school under the current and former Boards of Trustees. Their efforts will benefit your children.
Work on the artificial turf will begin very soon, possibly even next week. Note that there will be an impact on the four car parking spaces at the top of the rise, overlooking the fields.
- We will also be seeing **some fencing improvements** being done around the school perimeter. This is partly a safety issue, and partly a maintenance matter. This has come after considerable discussion with the Ministry of Education, who will fund the project directly.
- **This newsletter is about to change!** We are moving into the smartphone era with our communications. This will enable more direct communication to your smartphone screen, and less reliance on those small pieces of paper, or the email chain. More on this soon!

While some things stay the same...

- ❑ Our bell times haven't altered. **Children should aim to be in class by 8.50 am each day.** The creeping condition called 'late to school' has to be actively fought against. A child who is late to school (regardless of who caused the lateness) is a child whose life chances are being limited. If you want the best for your child, work with them to get to school on time.
- ❑ **Our school uniform remains.** Please be advised that in general terms we expect children to wear uniform each day. This includes the winter terms, when we often have to deal with all sorts of 'alternatives.' Right now, we should not be seeing jerseys and jackets (uniform or otherwise), as this is the hottest month of the year.
- ❑ **Sunhats are required** by everyone! Between 10.55am and 3.00pm, it is mandatory for children to wear a suitable sunhat if outside in open areas. We strongly recommend that each child brings a **named sunhat** (it doesn't have to be a 'school uniform' hat) and leaves it at school each day. Staff will be wearing sunhats when outside at these times, to model correct behaviour for our children.

WHO DO I CONTACT IN 2020?

From time to time you may have a need to discuss something regarding your child. Please use the following table to check who your first contact should be when you have a concern.

If your concern is about.....	Please contact...
A Classroom Matter	Your child's teacher
An unresolved Classroom Matter	*See below
Attendance Matters	Mrs Powrie
Playground Behaviour Matters	Mrs Roberts
Student Welfare (Pastoral Care) Matters	Mrs Powrie
Special Needs Educational Programme Support	Miss Naidoo
School Operations and Policy Matters	Mr Robinson

If you have discussed a classroom matter with your child's teacher, and you feel it has not been resolved or concluded, please ask at the office to speak with one of the Deputy Principals: Mrs Roberts or Mrs Powrie, or with the Principal, Mr Robinson.

Note: No School tomorrow! It is the Waitangi Day Holiday.

As this first newsletter concludes, I wish every pupil and family a highly successful year.

Next newsletter: Wednesday 12 February

Regards,

John Robinson
Principal

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