

P.O. Box 17622  
Colenso Street, Christchurch 8840  
Telephone: (03) 326 6546  
Email: admin@sumner.school.nz  
**Principal: Anna Granger**

Wednesday 30 January 2019

Tena Koutou e te Whānau,

Happy new year! Welcome back to Sumner School for Term 1, 2019. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead, filled with learning experiences and opportunities for your children to engage with. Our team of teachers in Year 3 and 4 this year, are Hannah Smaill (Team Leader, in Room 9), Alex Collins in Room 10, Kim Ristrom in Room 11 and Rachel Kahi in Room 12.

**Hannah Smaill (Room 9)**

Kia ora koutou,

In 2018 I moved back to Christchurch to be the team leader for Year 3/4 at Sumner School. I love being back in the South Island and have been really enjoy getting outdoors, tramping, mountain biking, kayaking and snowboarding. I have a passion for literacy and I am always on the lookout for new picture books to share with my students.

**Alex Collins (Room 10)**

Tēnā koutou! I feel very privileged to be beginning my teaching career as part of the Year 3-4 team here at Sumner School. I have a passion for the outdoors and love to be in the hills walking, in the ocean surfing or in the mountains snowboarding with my husband, Andy, and our dog, Max, whenever possible. I aim to integrate my love of the outdoors and passion for sustainability into my teaching while providing an engaging and challenging program this year.

**Kim Ristrom (Room 11)**

Kia ora,

I am excited to join the Year 3-4 team this year from Year 5-6. I live in South New Brighton with my partner Steven and we have enjoyed making the most of our local walking tracks over the summer. I have recently enrolled in a night photography class and I am keen to develop some new skills this year. My passions in teaching are in Science and Technology, and I love experiencing the awe and excitement of children taking part in science experiments!

## **Rachel Kahi (Room 12)**

Kia ora! As many of you know, I have been at Sumner for some time now and it is a privilege for me to teach siblings and whole families. I have three grown up children, two sons and a daughter. My sons have provided me with 6 grandchildren who are lots of fun. Living in Lyttelton, I enjoy waka ama, swimming, walking, gardening and great coffee. My passions in teaching are Māori, literacy and maths.

## **Term 1 Learning**

In Term 1 our learning will be focused on the overarching concept of Identity, integrated across the curriculum. This will include learning contexts that develop our understanding of our individual identity, family identity cultural heritage, language and place. Learning contexts this term will also include building on our Growth Mindsets and Character Strengths across the learning programme.

## **Stationery**

Thank you for having the stationery ready for the first day. Please ensure your child also has a small pencil case to keep their pens and pencils in order.

## **Home Learning**

Your child will bring home a sheet each week inside their Home Learning Folder. This will include a reading log, weekly spelling words and a range of optional activities for your child to complete. Home Learning will begin in Week 2. For now, we expect your child to be reading either independently or with a parent/older sibling every day for at least 20 minutes.

## **Library**

Our library day is Friday and begins in Week 2. This is an important aspect of our literacy programme and books need to be changed frequently. A library bag is essential to transport the books to and from school.

## **Home - School Communication**

The partnership between home and school is an essential part of your child's learning. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress please make a time to speak to your child's classroom teacher about it. We are available to talk to parents before school from 8:30am and immediately after school. At times it may be more appropriate to arrange a meeting time with the teacher. If you send us an email during the day, please understand that this is important contact time with our children and we will reply as soon as possible within 24 hours. If you feel that any concern you have needs further attention, a meeting will be arranged with our Team Leader and beyond this, a member of the Senior Management Team (Anna Granger - Principal, Rebecca Power - Deputy Principal).

All school-wide information is sent home via electronic newsletters which are emailed out on 'odd weeks' during the term. If you have not yet signed-up to our email database please do so as soon as possible as this is a key method for keeping you up-to-date with what is happening around school.

We have whole school assemblies every fortnight on Mondays, usually starting at 2.10pm in the hall. This is where we celebrate our student successes and share the children's learning. We would encourage those parents who have the time to come along to these assemblies. The next Assembly will take place on Monday 25th February. In Week 5, Team 3/4 will be hosting the whole school assembly.

Our school website [www.sumner.school.nz](http://www.sumner.school.nz) is a great source of information about the school and about how you can support your child's learning at home. You will find all of our policies and procedure information along with our school charter and annual plan.

**Please note: All important class notices will be emailed home.** If anything needs to be returned to school e.g a permission slip, a paper copy will also be sent home with your child.

**Goal Setting Learning Conferences** - Following feedback from our Assessment and Reporting consultation and feedback during 2018, we have moved the timing of our Goal Setting Learning Conferences back further into Term One. This year Goal Setting Learning Conferences will be held on Tuesday 5 (from 1.40pm - 8pm) and Thursday 7 March (from 1.40pm - 6pm). Please note that classes will cease at 1.30pm on these days. The decision was made to move the Learning Conferences to allow us more time to get to know your child and their individual learning needs before meeting with you to discuss these. These 10 minute Learning Conferences are child-led, but time will be set aside at the end for you to be able to talk to me without your child present if you wish. An email and form will be sent out closer to the time with booking details for this.

### **Emergency Text Alert Service**

The school uses an emergency text alert system to communicate with parents in emergency situations. It is very important that all parents and caregivers subscribe to this system. If you haven't already done so simply text 'sumner' to 570 (normal text rates will apply). For more information on our emergency procedures and a list of frequently asked questions please visit <http://www.sumner.school.nz/emergency-procedures-faqs.html>

### **Sun Safety**

In Terms 1 and 4 every child is expected to wear either a wide-brimmed or bucket hat (blue, as it is part of the uniform). The wearing of sunblock is also encouraged while playing outside, particularly during lunchtimes. Each classroom has a supply of sunblock, but it is also a good idea for them to bring their own sunblock along to school with them. We will remind children about doing this as part of our ongoing sun safety procedures.

### **Swimming**

We will be swimming everyday in Term 1, so please ensure your child brings their named togs, rash top and towel in a swimming bag. Please note that rash tops are compulsory for all swimming lessons. The only exception to this rule will be on swimming sports days where children will have the option of wearing their rash tops during races.

**Property update** - As you will have seen, there have been a few exciting changes in the landscape at Sumner School over the summer holidays. Our Administration block has now been demolished and our two storey block and Library Wellbeing Centre are beginning to emerge. If you haven't already done so, please take the time to have a look at our build page on our website to see what this area of the school will look like once it is completed.

These exciting changes do mean that key areas of the school have had to be moved temporarily until our new administration block has been completed. The main entrances to the school are now via the Dryden Street entrances and the school Office can now be found in Room 8 at the back of our school Hall. A new map of the school grounds has been emailed to you and can also be found in all the classrooms.

### **Crossing Safely on Colenso Street**

As we shared in the last newsletter of 2018, we have made the decision to remove the Student Led road patrol which operates on Colenso Street. We felt that due to the positioning of the crossing and the increased level in

construction traffic within this area it would be asking too much for our Senior Students to be able to lead this safely. **There will still be an adult on duty on Colenso Street from 8.30am - 9.00am and again from 3.00pm - 3.15pm each day who will support students with safely crossing the road.** Please note that this crossing support will be further down Colenso Street by Hardwicke and Thorpe Streets.

### Parent Help

Parent help is always welcome. If you can help with anything - reading, maths, cleaning, putting away books, vegetable gardening, cooking - please let us know. We appreciate the support of our parents who can help with this.

### Important Dates

6th Feb	Waitangi Day (school closed)
13th February	Beach Education Rooms 10/12
14th February	Beach Education Rooms 9/11
27th February	Splash and Dash (28th Feb postponement date)
5th & 7th March	Learning Conferences
18th March	Aupaki Cluster Teacher Only Day (school closed)
12th April	Last day of term

Please come and introduce yourselves to your child's classroom teacher and feel free to pop in before school if there is anything you need to know. We look forward to seeing you at our first learning conferences.

Thank you for your support.

Ngā mihi nui,

Hannah Smaill Room 9	Alex Collins Room 10	Kim Ristrom Room 11	Rachel Kahi Room 12	Kathryn Blunn & Bridget Scoular Release teachers
-------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	---