

Patoka School Newsletter

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Summer Sports Notices

Hockey

Summer hockey - Term 1 for Year 7 & 8 on Wednesday nights. (6 aside).

Please let Mrs Dawson know if you are interested.

TAC Triathlon

This is to be held on 13th March. More information to come next week.

Community Notices

Parents & Friends Meeting

Monday 9th February at 1.30pm in the staffroom at school.

All welcome.

Plasback /Agrecovery - Balage and Silage Wrap Collection

Anyone needing their wrap collected please ring Lisa Chittick 8398684 as Plasback will be up in the near future for collection.

Are you up for a challenge! (Parents and children)

If you can work out these puzzles, write it on a piece of paper or email it to me. I will put all of the correct answers in a hat and draw out a winner who will receive a prize.

principal@patoka.schoolzone.net.nz

Good luck!!

This week =

				3		8	5	
	1		2					
		5		7				
	4				1			
	9							
5						7	3	
	2		1					
			4					9



Patoka School

is holding a...



This is an event for all members of the Patoka School Community. It is an opportunity to meet other families, spend some time together, meet the teachers and join in with some fun and challenging games....a great way to start the year.

Bring your own tea, a blanket and plenty of energy.

Events to be run include: Parents vs Children Tug of War / Sack Races / Three legged races / Egg and Spoon Races / Egg toss and other fun events.

When: Thursday 12th February

Where: Patoka School

Time: 4-6pm

The picnic will be postponed if wet. A decision will be made on the day.



Patoka School

Issue: 1

Wednesday 4th February

Quote of the Week

Every day is a new **beginning**. Stay away from what might have been and look at **What can be!**

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Trustworthiness T.R.U.E - be true to yourself Respect Unity Excellence Enthusiasm

The importance of our Teacher Aide

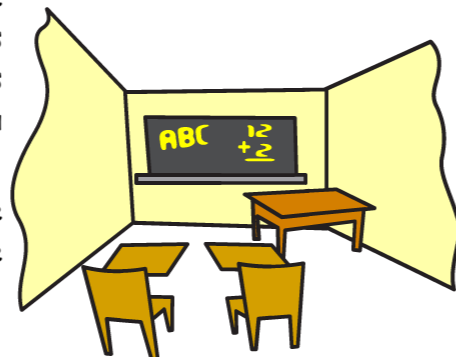
All schools have children who require extra support in some way. In order to meet these needs schools can choose to employ teacher aides to work with these children. It is a well known fact, and one that is backed up by research, that the greatest resource a school can have is the teachers and support staff they are able to provide.

At Patoka School we are extremely fortunate to have Toni Turner working with us as our Teacher Aide. She works closely with our teachers to ensure that those children who require extra assistance and support can get it. We are proud of the support programme that we are able to offer and see it as a vital component in the success of our school. This was a point that was highlighted in our recent ERO review.

Each year schools are provided with an operational grant that is used to cover the costs of running the school including the support staff that are employed. Schools are expected to make their own decisions on how many hours they offer and the number of teacher aides they choose to employ. The Board of Trustees at Patoka must be congratulated for making such a strong commitment to providing as many hours of teacher aide time as they can. Without this level of support we would not be able to enjoy the services of our Teacher Aide. We are currently able to offer 17 hours of support time per week.

One of the key areas that we are looking to develop further in this programme this year is the connection between the families of those children who have been identified as needing extra help, and the school. This year we intend to invite all the parents of those children who are on Toni's timetable to attend a meeting at the start of the year. We strongly encourage all parents who receive an invite to attend this meeting as we will be using it as an opportunity to provide details on the programme that Toni offers and to suggest ways that you can provide support at home.

We are committed to providing a quality special needs programme and to having a teacher aide who is highly skilled, knowledgeable and open to new ideas supporting these children in our school.



School swimming begins

Our classes will begin swimming in week 2 of this term. This year we are very excited to be able to welcome Rachel Train on board as our tutor for our younger children. I would also like to thank Bruce Porter for constructing a new portable barrier that we can use to keep our younger children safe in the pool.

Room 1 will be swimming from 12:45 to 1:20, Room 2, 1:20 to 1:55 and Room 3 2:00 to 2:35. We will be swimming Monday to Thursday. We would ask all the children to bring their togs each day.

We would also like to encourage all children to bring a swimming cap and goggles if they have them. We are also looking for as many 2 litre empty milk bottles as we can get for floating aides. If your child is unable to swim for any reason, please send a note to school.



Our school swimming sports are scheduled for the 27th February. There is a possibility that the cluster sports may be before this however no final decision has been made as yet.

Patoka Community Swimming Pool

It has been great to see the Patoka Community pool being used over the holiday period. It is a wonderful asset for the community and provides many hours of fun for all those who use it.

On a couple of visits to the pool I was saddened to see some senseless acts of vandalism that had taken place. The tables in the pool have been tagged and a large number of float boards that were provided for younger children had been needlessly thrown over the fence and into the trees. As well as this there was a lot of litter, smoke butts and bottles left lying around.

Please remember that there are many hours of volunteer work that go into maintaining the pool and the area around it. Your help in keeping it tidy, not smoking in the pool area and also discouraging the vandalism would be appreciated. If you see any inappropriate behaviour, please have a word with them or report it to one of the pool committee.

We want to continue to enjoy using the pool for many years to come. Thank you for your support.



Lending a helping hand

In one of the last newsletters last year we inquired to see if there was anyone who was prepared to give up some time to come and read with our children. We would still like to extend that offer. We would also be keen to hear from anyone who wanted to help out during the day. It may be in a classroom, running a game at lunchtime. We are happy to accept any offer from a 1 off to a regular slot. If you have a passion that you want to share with our students then please contact the office.



Up and Coming Events

Waitangi Day	Friday 6th March
BOT meeting	Tuesday 10th February
Year 8 EIT visit	Tuesday 10th February
Community Picnic—Patoka School	Thursday 12th
Swimming sports	Friday 27th February