

MOONSTONE NEWSLETTER TERM ONE 2019

Nau mai, haere mai parents and caregivers of Moonstone Block. Hope everyone had a refreshing holiday filled with special memories with your tamariki. We (Ashton, Rachel and Julie) are really excited to be teaching in Moonstone and look forward to working with you this year. Email is the easiest way to communicate with us, or pop in for a visit- our door is always open.

INTRODUCING MR STUART



My name is Ashton and as well as my role as Deputy Principal I am teaching in Moonstone for most of the week. I am very happy to be back at Birchville school for my second year after a relaxing and summery holiday, where my wife and I acquired a new fur baby! Here's a little bit about me: I've lived in Wellington almost 10 years and have spent 12 years teaching in various schools and in Wellington and Auckland. I love music and have played in various bands all my life. I play piano, guitar, and drums. I am passionate about integrating digital innovations into teaching and learning in new and exciting ways. I also love exploring the outdoors, especially tramping, skiing, and camping- so I can't wait for the adventures that await this year in Moonstone!

INTRODUCING MRS MCLEARY



I'm excited to be back at Birchville School this year and back in Moonstone block with an amazing new team of kaiako and tamariki! I have been teaching since 1997 - a mixture of full time teaching, relief teaching, part time and being a Mum to my three boys Caelum (15), Aidan (12) and Quinn (2). I will be working Monday - Thursday in Moonstone this year, leaving my Friday's free to spend quality mum time with Quinn. This is my fourth year living in Upper Hutt and we love getting out as a family exploring what our beautiful part of the world has to offer. I am a keen gardener - but not a very successful one! I am really looking forward to getting to know your children and finding out what interests and passions they will bring to our learning space this year.

INTRODUCING WHAEA JULIE



Kia ora, ko Julie Barry au. This is my first teaching job after completing my three-year bachelor degree last year. I am excited to be teaching in the Moonstone block this year and being part of the Birchville School community. Having grown up in Ōtautahi (Christchurch) and moving to Whakatū (Nelson) several years ago, my whānau moved to the Hutt Valley in June 2018. I am married to Brad (teacher in Sapphire block) and we have two boys, Ben aged 12 and Noah aged 10. We love exploring this region and all it has to offer. My interests include finding achievable ways to live more sustainably (which fits in well with our Make A Difference theme and Enviro Schools project for this year), sharing my love of te reo Māori, and I quite enjoy maths! I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child in 2019.

DIGITAL LEARNING



In Moonstone we have a mix of school owned Chromebooks and B.Y.O.D (Bring Your Own Device) where children bring in their own approved devices. Digital technology is one of the many tools for learning and we will strive to provide a healthy balance between screen time, written work, and hands on learning. If you are interested in purchasing a B.Y.O.D device for your child or you have any questions please see Ashton.

HOMEWORK

Numerous educational studies have proven that task based homework does not contribute to greater academic achievement. After a full day of learning at school it is far more important for children to play, follow their passions (sport, music, dance etc), and have quality family time. However It is beneficial for your child to read for 15-20 minutes every night and be exposed to enjoyable authentic home experiences in writing and maths. See us if you want some ideas on how to do this.

CONTACT US - OPEN DOOR

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or you just want to know how your child is doing please don't hesitate to contact us. We are available most mornings (except Thursday) and most afternoons (except Monday and Wednesday) for a chat. Our door is always open. If you would like to help out in any way in Moonstone please see one of us too.



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To see the latest Moonstone news, photos, and the occasional live video make sure you are a part of the Facebook Birchville School Noticeboard.