

# Term 4 2020 Calendar

|    |  |   |  |  |   |
|----|--|---|--|--|---|
| 6  | 16                                     | 17  | 18   | 19                                       | 20  |
| 7  | 23                                     | 24  | 25   | 26                                       | 27<br>Final Disco –<br>Year 8s organising                           |
| 8  | BOT Meeting <sup>30</sup>              | Wellington Regional Athletics <sup>1</sup>                                | 2  | Year 8s visit Aotea College <sup>3</sup> | Family Merit Assembly<br>2020 Helpers Lunch <sup>4</sup>            |
| 9  | 7                                      | 8   | End of Year Reports<br>Go home. <sup>9</sup> | 10                                       | Middle Block with<br>2021 teacher<br>Fun Assembly 2pm <sup>11</sup> |
| 10 | Year 8 Leavers<br>Dinner <sup>14</sup> | Final Day for 2020<br>Final Assembly<br>School finishes 1pm <sup>15</sup> | 16   | 17                                       | 18  |

## Term Dates 2021:

Wednesday 3rd February – Day 1 for students 2021 – Easter is during Term time. - Friday 16th April - End Term 1

Monday 3rd May - Term 2 starts - Friday 9th July - End Term 2

Monday 26th July - Start Term 3 - Friday 1st October - End Term 3

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Start Term 4 - Tuesday 14th Dec – Last day 2021

**SUBWAY LUNCHES** – Still happening every Wednesday. Same system as last term. Drop off your order anytime but before the bell on Wednesday morning.

**2021 Enrolments:** This term has seen a crazy number of families looking to enrol their child at Postgate. Our roll for 2021 is full. Unless families live inside the enrolment zone, we cannot accept anyone.

**SunSmart Policy:** No hat equals no play! No exceptions! Or as Mr Duff says, “Yes Hat, Yes Play!”

**Thank You:** Thanks to the families who attended Friday’s Family Merit Assembly. Your support of your child is greatly appreciated by the staff and more so by your child; they have just forgotten how to show it.



## Postgate School Newsletter

Term 4: Week 6

2020

### Mission Statement

**To Create Life-Long Learners**

**“Mauira te pono  
Believe in yourself”**

### Supporting statement:

**We will promote life-long learning in our children by developing their social, intellectual, emotional and physical skills in a creative and caring environment.**



**“Together, We Learn and Achieve”**

**“Mā te mahi ngātahi,  
ka tū pakari te mātauranga”**

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### ERO Report:

<http://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/postgate-school-17-05-2016/>

## **Kia ora mai anō tātou katoa whānau**

Friday afternoon I sent home, via Seesaw a message for whanau who have children in Years 5-8. The focus of this message centered around anti-social behaviours happening at school and outside of school.

The main source of these behaviours stems from social media or as I view it, anti-social media; a license to do and say whatever you like, when you like.

As I see it, there are two main problems.

1. Children are up till late, sometimes until 1 – 3am in the morning, either messaging other students or playing games online. We are seeing very tired children who are making poor decisions due to not being able to think clearly. This creates a zombie-like student at school.

It seems like most families are collecting phones in at night, which is the right thing to do. However, from my own experiences and from what Postgate students have told me, kids are sneaking their phones back during the night, handing in a fake phone, plugging in their phone case without the phone inside, handing parents their laptop bag with a book inside or using their brother or sister's electronic device. At home, I take in my children's phones (checking that it is their phone) and I unplug the Wi-Fi and take the box with me. Helpful hint: Take a photo of where the plugs go before you unplug!

I trust my children, however, I'm also well aware that their phone/electronic device is a drug to them. Our phones are addictive and if your brain is still developing, phones are dangerous.

The use of anti-social media for cyber-bullying is very high. People shut away, without face to face interaction, making hurtful/extremely damaging comments/remarks. I'm sure if we were at a park and someone made them to our child, we'd be in there quick smart. But, kids are in the next room and we are none the wiser of what is being said and by whom.

From my own experience, children can have more than one Facebook, Instagram, or whatever social media account they like. They are easy to set up and easy to keep secret with no easy way to know.

2. Allowing children to grow up before their time. When a child is 12, it is very important they are allowed to be a 12-year-old. However, if we allow children to be older than what they are, it generally leads to future problems; children engaging in older student behaviours. Most social media channels have an age limit and for a reason.

We have been made aware of children vaping at home and at school. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to find the vapers at school. In my day, if

you smoked you were easily identified, nowadays, you smell like a chocolate bar or a florist.

We know being a parent can be hugely rewarding and also challenging. As parents we do need to be aware of what we are giving our child; materially, emotionally, and spiritually. What we invest now we reap the rewards in later life. Invest your time in positive communication, talking with your child/ren about their daily lives, sharing experiences, telling them that regardless of the situation you'll always love them and that you are always there for them. Positive communication, on a regular basis, is vital. Planning for possible experiences is wise; I call it Deja vu thinking. Making time for our children is a given.

If for any reason you are worried about your child's health, physical or mental, your first port of call is with your GP

**Key Dates 2021:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February- Day 1 for 2021

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February- School Picnic - Waikanae Pool

**Child Safety:** A polite reminder that due to Health and Safety children should not be arriving at school before 8:30am; as a teaching staff we cannot be responsible for them before this time. We have children arriving as early as 7:50am!

**Year 8 Organised Disco:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November is our first and last school disco for the year; I know, our first disco! The disco is led by our Year 8 students which helps fund their Leavers Dinner in the last week of term. I believe we will be back to the normal disco times with the Junior School and Senior School having their own separate disco's. Junior Disco is from 5pm till 7pm with Years 4-8 running from 7:15 till 9:30pm. There will be combo deals, more details next week.

**Postgate School Helpers Lunch:** This is set for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December starting at 12noon. Letters inviting parents to the lunch will be sent home next week. We would love to see you there. The support we receive from our community is tremendous and we would love to thank you. Sometimes we do miss people who have helped us, just come along as well. It's just an oversight if you do not receive an invitation, however, we will try our best to invite everyone. Please, if you have been helping out, keep Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> free. Come for lunch and then stay for Family Merit Assembly.

As always, lunch is supplied by Subway, so any special dietary requirements, please let me know.

**Thanking you for your support of Postgate School.**

**Mauruuru kotahi ano koutou mo to koutou tautoko o Postgate School.**