

# Term 4 2021 Calendar

9	13 Year 8 Leavers Dinner	14 End of Year Reports Last day 2021	
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## Term Dates 2022:

Term 1: Wednesday 2nd Feb - Thurs 14 April

Term 2: Monday 2 May - Fri 8 July

Term 3: Monday 25 July - Fri 3 Oct

Term 4: Monday 17 Oct - Thurs 15 Dec

## Cohort Dates 2022:

Term 1 = 2<sup>nd</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March

Term 2 = 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June

Term 3 = 25<sup>th</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> August

Term 4 = 17<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November

**Subway Lunches:** Subway Wednesdays continue again this term. Orders must be in by Wednesday 8:55am. Order envelopes are available at the office.

The last day for Subway 2021 is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

First day for Subway 2022 is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of February.



## Postgate School Newsletter

Term 4: Week 9  
2021

### Mission Statement

## To Create Life-Long Learners

**“Ēhara tāku toa I te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini**

**My valour is not that of the individual, but that of the multitudes”**

### 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”**

**“Ma te mahi ngatahi,**

**ka tu pakari te matauranga”**

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December 13, 2021

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

**Lesleigh Snelson:** Lesleigh started working at Postgate in March 1984 and during this time she has worked for four principals with the current one being her most favourite, by far! I wouldn't waste this newsletter waxing lyrical about all the wonderful things she had to say about him.

Lesleigh's service to our school can only be described as OUTSTANDING. Her care for everyone and anyone who has entered our school is that of someone with the kindest, loving heart. Lesleigh has looked out for us all, and most will have no idea that Lesleigh was behind this kindness.

One of Lesleigh's key roles is to enroll every family that has walked through our school doors. This very personal contact has helped form very strong relationships with families which then flow through our school; each great journey starts with a single step. Lesleigh has been this first step for our school community.

On a personal note, I am very sad to say goodbye to Lesleigh. Her support, guidance, care, and love for me is something I'll always deeply appreciate and remember.

I am sure Kevin Mark, Julia, and the grandchildren will love having Lesleigh all to themselves.

**Denise and David Harrison:** In 1987 Denise was a parent of Postgate School and in 1991 started working in the library. During this time Denise has fulfilled many different roles within our school including being the Returning Officer for BOT elections and being our resource manager. During Denise's time at Postgate she has interacted with every child nearly every week. With approximately 300 children each year for 40 weeks multiplied by 30 years, that is one heck of a lotta kids to talk to.

During Denise's time here we have also been fortunate to have David join us every Wednesday in the library and share with us his very successful Boccia stories.

We wish Denise all the very best for her retirement and her stent surgery in early January.

**Postgate School Welcome:** We are pleased to welcome Jodie Gray and Adam Smith to the teaching team at Postgate School. Jodie will be teaching in Room 7, Year 4 and Adam will be teaching Room 4, Year 6.

**THANK YOU:** As this is the last official newsletter, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank:

~Our awesome kids. They make Postgate a very special place to work. Their energy and passion for learning are contagious. We are blessed to have wonderful students. Their smiles, joy for learning, and friendly personalities make my/our job a dream!

~You; our school community. The pride that reflects out of your child reflects their home environment. As a staff, we are truly grateful for your support of all things Postgate. From our Board of Trustees, Te Whanau Kaitiaki and Pasifika Advisory Groups, to the lovely ladies of our Fundraising Committee (all that planning for the Food Fair!), to the parents who tutor our children on a Friday for Kapahaka/Kalapu Pasifika, to the parents who regularly meet with their child's teacher, keeping engaged with the learning process.

~The staff at Postgate see their role here as more than 'just a job'. Their energy, passion, and commitment to your children motivates me in my role. Postgate is fortunate to have such wonderful people, who put the needs of the children before themselves. Their outstanding efforts during Lockdown were a clear indication of the commitment and passion they have for your child/ren.

~We wish Tina and Cheryl all the best for their futures, wherever they may go.

~Best wishes to Tomasi and his family with their move to Auckland and his time with the Moana Pasifika rugby team

~Happy families to Laura and the birth of her boy. Laura has been teaching in Room 10 every Friday

~Tara is moving out of home and down to Christchurch to study to be a teacher.

~To the families who are leaving Postgate School at the end of this year, we wish you and your family every success in your new ventures. To the families who have been with us for many years, we have many families who have been with us since their child was 5 years old, thanks for all your support over the years. Special mention goes to:

~Tina and Norm Mareko for their service to our school through the Pasifika Advisory Group. Tina and Norm have been outstanding members of our school community.

~Derek and Lynley Smith have been wonderful supporters of our school. Derek served on the BOT for over 6 years and was responsible for appointing me to the Principal role; yes, he is to blame!

~The Ahern family who have been with Postgate School for 18 years. Kristy will still be a very important part of our school community via the Before and After school care

~A special farewell to our Year 8's; your leadership and role modelling have been greatly appreciated. We know you will make us all proud of your achievements at college.

#### Reflection:

**He hono tangata e kore e motu; ka pa he taura waka e motu  
Unlike a canoe rope, a human bond cannot be severed**

The last two years have not been as we'd like to operate as a school. Keeping people at arm's length and saying only come into school only if you have to is not the Postgate Way. Postgate School thank you for your cooperation and support. This hasn't been the way at many schools.

What I am immensely proud of is how we have responded as a school community. The manner in which we all worked together, sorted ourselves, and prepared for Lockdown is something we can all feel proud of.

The energy, enthusiasm, passion, and drive from our staff helped lift us all. The Saturday we were at school handing out devices, books and food is something that is a career highlight. Watching our staff and community come together with smiling faces and total energy helped remind me as to why Postgate is a special place.

***He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tamariki, he tamariki, he tamariki.***

***You ask me what is the most important thing in the World?***

***I will tell you it is the children, it is the children, it is the children***

I believe this focus has not changed nor have we let it. In all our dealings with staff the focus remains on the children; if it is not about the good of the children, why is it of concern? For our school, we keep with the mantra, "If it is not good enough for our own children, why is it acceptable for Postgate". Having a focus like this can create current issues that impact right now, however, for the continued success of our children, it is something we are unrelenting about.

The next six weeks are vital that we unite as families, ensure our kids are kids, and limit the amount of social media available to them. In these C-19 times, our face-to-face interactions is even more important. *Kanohi ki te kanohi*. Ironic eh?

COVID is going to cast a shadow over our community and country for a while yet and it will have an effect in 5-10 years' time on our student's academic achievement, our social disposition, and on our country's economic outlook. While I don't want to be an alarmist, the first half of next year will be very tricky as we navigate what will be a very uncertain and confusing time. We

will have COVID in our community and we must continue to do what we can to protect ourselves and our tamariki.

Postgate will be like water. We will move with the situation and ensure we remain in a safe environment.

**Year 8 Leavers Dinner and Prizegiving:** This is being held on tonight, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December, in our school hall. The Year 8 Dinner will start at 6pm and the prizegiving section will start at approximately 7:30pm.

**This will be an unvaccinated event.**

Year 8's will be allowed to invite two family members to the prizegiving section. By doing it this way, we can have a prizegiving. The expectation is that all Year 8s are supported by at least one adult at the prize giving.

Tickets will be available from the school office.

Please wear a mask.

**End of Year Final Assembly:** This will be held tomorrow, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, with an 11:50am start. Please note that school finishes at 1pm on this day.

Only families of Year 8 pupils will be able to attend the assembly and they will be limited to two tickets; the only way to enter is by way of a ticket.

**This will be an unvaccinated event** as we will have a number of our Year 8s and some Year 7s, who are 12 or older, who are unvaccinated.

If you are coming, please wear a mask.

We are aware that some families may be worried/concerned about having unvaccinated people together in one place. If you wish to keep your child/ren home on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, we totally understand. Please let us know.

Please be assured that if the health risk changes in Wellington, we will change our plan. We would not put any person in our community at risk.

Our end of year assembly is very special to us and is our way to farewell our pupils and families, some of whom have been with us for the past 18, 19, 20 years.

School closes at the end of this assembly or at 1pm; whichever comes last. Please note the earlier time so, fingers crossed, we are all done come 1pm.

**End of 2021 School Year: School closes at 1pm this Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December.** There will be no staff at school, once 1:30pm rolls around as we are going out for lunch and any 'lost' children will be placed in afterschool care, at the expense of the parent.

**POSTGATE SUMMER CHALLENGE:** This year Literacy and Numeracy have combined forces to come up with the ultimate Postgate Summer Challenge;

Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. It has been split into a Year 1-3 and Year 4-8 challenge. Your child/ren will each get a copy of the challenge that suits their current year group.

So, grab your family and friends and get ready to take on the Postgate Summer Challenge 2021/22, and help your child collect points that will tally towards winning certain prizes.

The 'summer lag' continues to be a very real barrier to children's academic success; time spent away from school can set a pupil back a number of months. Please find some time to help your child with their learning journey over the next six weeks.

**Day One 2022:** Wednesday 2nd February. A full school powhiri for new students, families, and staff will start at 9:30am

**School Picnic at Waikanae Pool:** Waikanae Pool has been booked for Monday 21st February, please take this day off work and join us for a family day out. Please note that public pools have their own COVID policies in place and Waikanae Pool is a vaccinated pool.

#### **Teachers and teams for 2022**

Year 7/8- Cecilia Kennar (Team Leader), Tamara Mitchell, Kayne Leighton

Year 4-6- Alex Duff (Team Leader), Samantha Rutherford, Jodie Gray and Adam Smith

Year 2/3: Kelsey Flett (Team Leader), Kylie Joseph, Jo Riley, Heather Browne

Year 1: Nicole Mitchell (Team Leader), Ruby Scott, Catherine Bland

Still here – All other staff including Theresa, Lana, Carly, Lianne, Ma, Maureen, Tracy, and our Language Tutors. Along with Glenn, Kelvin, Deb, Ginelle, Ashley, Asmita, and anyone else I've missed.

Any questions, please let me know.

**Thanking you for your support.**

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