



PARAKAI
SCHOOL

INFORMATION BOOK 2019



Yolanda Choromanski
Principal

Parakai School
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At Parakai School you can...Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It!

Parakai School is a friendly, welcoming school where children are happy and enjoy learning. Our vision is to grow GREAT citizens, empowered to live successfully in their personal and global lives. Being a GREAT citizen means:

- G - Giving and receiving the very best.
- R - Respecting ourselves, others and our surroundings.
- E - Excelling by setting high expectations and having a strong work ethic.
- A - Attitude of being open-to-learning.
- T - Thinking critically and creatively in a changing world.

The basis of our motto 'Dream It. Believe It. Achieve It' is aspirational:

- Dream it: This is about having goals and visions to progress oneself in life.
- Believe it: Believing your goals and visions are possible. Making a plan of action to achieve it.
- Achieve it: Committing to and taking positive action to achieve your goals and then reflecting on the journey.

We highly value connections with our parents and community. Building strong family and community partnerships enables us to maximise the learning and social experiences of our children.

WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL?

- Our warm, family-like environment where everyone counts!
- Our high expectations for our children to reach their full potential.
- Our committed, dedicated and caring staff who strive to make your child's learning and social experiences fun and meaningful.
- Base school for the HIPPY pre-school education programme.
- Large playing fields, hard surface areas, a huge covered playground area.

We are on a constant mission to make our learning environment responsive and exciting. We have:

- Fast, wireless access throughout the school.
- Multi platforms for ICT and learning: Mac, PC and Chromebooks.
- Option for BYOD (Bring Your Own device) for our Year 4 - 8 students.
- Senior classroom block is developed into a modern learning environment (MLE) with 4 classrooms surrounding an open, flexible teaching space which includes a computer suite and art area.
- Junior and senior school iPad pods and Chromebooks to support and extend learning.
- Interactive data projectors to connect and extend teaching and learning.
- Cycle track and a fleet of our own bikes.
- School Radio Station with student DJs.
- Media Suite and Green Room for movie making.
- Lunchtime sport programmes and special interest groups such as Music Room and Art Club.

A Little About Us

Parakai School is located 50km Northwest of Auckland in the small village of Parakai near the Kaipara River and the southern end of the Kaipara Harbour. It is well known for its natural thermal springs which draws many visitors. Historic Helensville is only 3km away, an important service centre for the village. The School was established in 1958 and has a proud history of serving its community well. It serves a supportive and active urban, rural and coastal community.

The school currently has a roll of approximately 210. It is a full primary school which adds to its special character. Most students who attend the school live north towards South Head as far as Crosslands Road, in the main Parakai Village or along one of the nearby rural roads off Highway 16. Many families live outside this area and choose to send their students to Parakai School, from Riverhead to Helensville to South Head.

2019 SCHOOL ORGANISATION:

Principal: Mrs Yolanda Choromanski

Deputy Principal: Mrs Sue Caltaux

Senior Syndicate Team Leader: Ms Tessa Fairchild

Junior Syndicate Team Leader: Mrs Sue Shields

Teachers:	Mr Tom Davidson	Year 7 & 8 - Learning Space 3
	Ms Tessa Fairchild	Year 6 & 7 - Learning Space 2
	Mrs Sharon Komene	Year 5 & 6 - Learning Space 1
	Mrs Shirley Armstrong	Year 4 & 5 - Learning Space 4
	Mrs Sue Shields	Year 3 & 4 - Learning Space 6
	Mrs Jackie Kindred	Year 2 & 3 - Learning Space 8
	Mrs Fiona Sutton	Year 1 & 2 - Learning Space 5
	Mrs Jackie Silby	Year 1 & NE - Learning Space 7
	Miss Andree Hunt	Year 1 & NE - Learning Space 9
	Mrs Alison Rowe	Release Teacher for Learning Space 7

Reading Recovery: Mrs Kathy McLeigh

Teacher Aides:	Mrs Sharon Dempsey	Ms Katie McNamara
	Mrs Fiona Brennan	Ms Shannon Mafi
	Mrs Joy King	Ms Francesca Salsone
	Moana Komene	

Secretary: Mrs Robyn Taylor

Principal's PA: Mrs Sam Wells

Caretaker: Mr Roger Sherriff

Resource Teacher: Deb Higgins

for Literacy:

Social Worker: Renata Pollard

Board of Trustees:

Tony Adolph	Chairperson
Yolanda Choromanski	Principal
Sue Caltaux	Staff Trustee
Tammy Downer	Trustee
Paul Barrett	Trustee
Angelene Wood	Trustee
Nicole Hill	Trustee

CURRICULUM, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

At Parakai School, we teach all seven of the essential learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum. These are: English, Maths, Social Sciences, Science, Physical Education and Health, the Arts, and Technology. The children also learn the basics of Te Reo Maori. Our aim is to provide our students with an exciting, innovative curriculum. At the heart of our curriculum is Thinking-Based Learning. This means that our students are actively taught critical and creative thinking as part of their learning.

To develop 21st century learners we place an emphasis on the '6Cs' of deep learning:

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Character Education
- Citizenship

Our learning philosophy places emphasis on children being involved in all stages of the learning process. We ensure they are aware of their own successes and individual needs. In doing so, our hope is that children will take more responsibility for their own learning now and later in life.

YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

In Term 1, at our Family Fun Evening, parents have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher and discuss

the Learning Space programme.

In Term 2, full academic reports are sent home and a 3-Way Conference held with the child, parents and teachers.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet with families to share achievements and set goals. At the end of Term 4

parents will receive a second full academic report detailing their child's achievement and progress in the main curriculum subjects throughout the year.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact their teacher.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



All classes have access to IT equipment. The school is networked and wireless and students have supervised access to the internet for research and learning purposes. As part of our online safety protocols, children from Year 4 upwards and parents of these children are required to sign an Internet Agreement.

BYOD - Learning Space 1, 2, 3 and 4 students may bring their own device such as a laptop or tablet to school. This opportunity is to help enhance their learning. We have sets of iPads, Chromebooks and desktop computers available for students who do not have access to their own device at school.

DRESS CODE

We take pride in our appearance. All students will be required to wear the full school uniform and sports uniform in order to attend Parakai School. All school uniform items except for the black sandals and lace up shoes can be purchased at the school. Students are not permitted to wear mufti items under or over the uniform. Pupils must wear the school hat in Terms 1 & 4. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and protective clothing are encouraged during the hotter months of the year.



- No jewellery—apart from watches or plain ear studs. Generally children will not wear necklaces under their uniform. However these are admissible for cultural reasons.
- No adhesive tattoos
- No open backed footwear
- No nail polish unless clear
- No make up is permitted at school
- Black or blue hair ties only
- A copy of the full uniform policy is available at the school office.

ENROLMENT

Parents wishing to enrol children are invited to meet the Principal for an appointment and should bring the following information when enrolling their children:

- The child's Birth Certificate (if it is their first time at school or arriving from abroad)
- The child's Immunisation Certificate
- Parent / Caregiver's information (address, occupation, telephone no.)
- Emergency Contact (name, address, telephone no., relationship)
- Family Doctor (name, address, telephone no.)
- Specific medical information (medication, allergies, etc)
- Any custody arrangements

Children may be enrolled at five years of age, but must be enrolled by the age of six years. Preschool children due to start school within one month are invited to visit and be part of their new class. Parents are welcome to contact the school for these visits.

TECHNOLOGY

The Year 7 & 8 children travel to Kaipara College for their Technology lessons which include hard materials and food technology. A fee is charged to cover the costs of materials used throughout the year. Technology classes occur during the first 3 terms at allocated times.

ALSO WORTH KNOWING...

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Parakai School, children are given the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. We strongly encourage our students to take advantage of these as it enriches their learning time at school and provides another way to make friends and be involved:

- Sporting Teams including Netball, Touch, Rippa Rugby, Triathlon, Swimming
- Extension activities including Music Lessons
- Radio DJs at our very own radio station
- Mural group
- Robotics Club
- Art Club
- Gardening Club



HEALTH AND MEDICATION

If your child has a medical condition e.g. Allergies, asthma etc, it is important that the staff know what the condition is and also what action needs to be taken should the need arise. This information is held in the school office.

If a situation occurs when a child needs to take medication at school, such medication should be given to the secretary and held at the office. Children would then come to the office to receive the medication.

ILLNESS AND ABSENTEEISM

If your child is ill and will be absent from school, you will need to notify the school. If your child will be absent for any other reason, we ask that you contact the school with the reason for their absence.

HOMEWORK

We endeavour to have a balanced homework programme as we believe children work hard at school and require time to wind down. All children are required to read during week nights and learn spelling words from Year 3 onwards. To help maintain classroom learning objectives, teachers will let you know the class homework programme at the beginning of the year. Children will sometimes bring work home to finish what they were unable to complete in class.

SUN SAFETY

We are well aware of the dangers associated with the sun and all children **MUST** wear a school hat when outdoors during Term 1 and Term 4. Please ensure you purchase a school hat from the office. Sunblock should be applied before they come to school. Sunglasses and hats may only be worn outside.

LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

The students are provided with many opportunities for leadership. Roles for leadership include:

- School Leaders and House Captains
- Librarian
- Sports monitors
- Peer support
- Bike monitors
- Health monitors
- Computer monitors
- Journalists
- Student Councillor

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE WITH THE SCHOOL AND ACTIVITIES

NEWSLETTER

School newsletters are produced every alternate Friday. They keep you informed about what is happening at school and the wider community. Newsletters are emailed to you. Please notify the school office if you are not receiving a newsletter and would like a copy. People are able to advertise through the newsletter for a minimal fee. Contact the school for further details. Copies are also posted on our website www.parakai.school.nz.

FACEBOOK

We have an official Facebook page which celebrates and shares our day-to-day events. As this is a closed group, please request to join by clicking on the link below: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/parakaischool/>. The school's Facebook site is called 'Parakai School (Official)'. We welcome you to join our facebook family where we post notices, share celebrations and events. Please note that this is a public forum to inform and celebrate the life of our school. Should you have anything to share please help us uphold our values by ensuring all comments are positive and constructive.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND ABILITIES

SPECIAL ABILITIES

A number of children enter our school who are talented in some area/s. To help them meet their full potential, we endeavour to provide extension programmes in their area/s of strength within the classroom. Your child's teacher would be happy to discuss this with you.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Some children have special needs and may require an individual education plan and extra assistance to help them meet their potential. These children are identified in the first term of the year. If the school identifies particular needs for your child, you will be notified and consulted on how these needs can best be met. The school and Ministry of Education can fund a range of special needs programmes. If you are aware of special needs for your child, please ensure that their teacher is fully aware.

LAUNCHPAD (Formerly BIBLE IN SCHOOLS)

We have Launchpad every Tuesday afternoon in the Junior Classes (years 1 to 4). It is a 30 minute lesson run by trained volunteers. Please refer to the enrolment form to give permission to attend or not to attend.

PARENT DONATIONS

Parent donations have been kept to a minimum. These are \$120 per family and \$80 for 1 child for the year. These can be paid with the stationery lists at the beginning of the year or alternately at the beginning of each term. This donation is vital in providing excellent programmes for the students.

ROAD SAFETY: WALKING AND RIDING TO SCHOOL

Children may ride bikes or scooters to and from school at the discretion of their parents. Any unsafe riding will be addressed through the school. Children must wear a helmet (by law) when riding a bicycle to school. Bikes should be stored and padlocked in the bike rack during the day. Parents must ensure their child's bike is in safe working order.

All students who walk to and from school must use the pedestrian crossing on Parkhurst Road.

SCHOOL BUS

There is a free rural school bus service available to qualifying students. Please enquire at the office to see if your child is eligible. All students who go on the bus must fill out a Parakai Transport Network Bus Travel Contract.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Students are expected to bring healthy food and are not permitted to bring bottles of fizzy drink. Parents are also able to order lunch online through Parakai Four Square - www.ezlunch.co.nz. Check with the office for details for this. As a bonus, all students get free milk every day.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE & HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

sKids (Safe Kids in Daily Supervision) run an After School Care Programme. The programme runs from 3pm to 6pm at the school hall. It includes afternoon tea, homework supervision and planned activities. They also run a School Holiday Programme. To book, go to www.skids.co.nz and click on Parent Login. For any queries, you can send an email to parakai@skids.co.nz or phone 021 023 76188. Work & Income NZ OSCAR Subsidy will be available.

SCHOOL HOURS

School commences at 8.45 am and finishes at 2.45 pm. It is very important that your child is at school, on time so learning is not disrupted.

Interval: 10.40 am - 11.00 am
Lunch: 1.00 pm - 1.40 pm