



Leading The Way - Arahina Ki Te Ara



Information Booklet

2009

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Website – www.ararimu.school.nz

Integrity

Passion

Excellence

Leadership

Respect

Welcome to Ararimu School,

The Board of Trustees, staff and I would like to extend a warm welcome to parents and children joining our Ararimu School Community.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with the information you will need to get your child started at our school. We hope that it contains answers to the questions you may have. If you still have a question, then please contact the school and ask us directly.

At Ararimu School we are very fortunate to have a dedicated staff and very supportive Board of Trustees. We provide children with an excellent learning environment that is stimulating and fun. I am positive that your child's time at Ararimu School will be a rewarding experience.

Regards,

Blair Johnston – Principal



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Ararimu School Organization 2009

Principal	Mr Blair Johnston	principal@ararimu.school.nz
Deputy Principal	Ms Carol Morrissey	carol@ararimu.school.nz
Room 1 – Year 7 & 8	Mrs Jane Marshall	jane@ararimu.school.nz
Room 3 – Year 5 & 6	Mr Mark Thomson	mark@ararimu.school.nz
Room 4 – Year 3 & 4	Ms Carol Morrissey	carol@ararimu.school.nz
Room 5 – Year 2	Miss Kirstie Campbell	kirstie@ararimu.school.nz
Room 6 – Year 1 & 2	Mrs Nelly Duthie	nelly@ararimu.school.nz
Teacher Release	Mrs Sheilah Lendrum	
Reading Recovery	Mrs Joan Clout	
Secretary	Mrs Vanessa Pegrum	office@ararimu.school.nz
Teacher Aides	Mrs Helen Davenport Mrs Jennifer Cassidy	

Term Dates 2009

Term One

Tuesday 3 February – Thursday 9 April

Term Two

Monday 27 April – Friday 3 July

Term Three

Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

Term Four

Monday 12 October - Wednesday 16 December

Ararimu School Board of Trustees

Chairperson	Paul Phillips
Secretary & Deputy Chairperson	Andrew Sweney
Treasurer	Maria Ward
Property	Stuart McCulloch
Community	Darrell Cooper
Staff Rep	Carol Morrissey
Principal	Blair Johnston

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Ararimu School A – Z

Everything you ever wanted to know about Ararimu School (well almost everything!). If you can't find the answers to your questions here then please feel free to ask.

ATTENDANCE / ABSENCES

Children are expected at school before 8:55am each day. Absences should be notified by a telephone call to the school office prior to the commencement of school. It is customary to supply a written note to explain all absences. If you have not contacted the school by 9:20am we will ring you to confirm pupils' absences. If a child is late to school then a parent or caregiver must sign them in at the office. The school answer phone operates 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

ASSEMBLIES

Whole school assemblies are held once a fortnight. These are usually held on a Friday afternoon from 12:00 – 12:30pm.

BEHAVIOUR

A high standard of behaviour is expected at all times. A copy of the school rules and consequences will be displayed in all classrooms.

The school rules are;

1. **Be Kind** - Don't hurt anyone by what you say or do. Don't punch, kick, hit, swear, name call, or hurt people's feelings.
2. **Be in the right place at the right time doing the right thing** - Play in the correct areas. Don't leave the school without permission. Be in the classroom at all appropriate times. Orderly behaviour is expected in and around the school.
3. **Respect Property** - Look after school property and other people's property. Put all rubbish in bins.

Playground consequences;

All consequences will be recorded in the duty notebook. All stages last for 10 days. If you do not break any rules within 10 days then you will be removed from the stages programme.

Stage 1 - Verbal reminder about the school rules.

Stage 2 - Grounds duty

Stage 3 - Think sheet completed by student which is sent home to be signed by parents.

Stage 4 - Parents will be asked to come to school to meet with the Principal.

Any severe behaviour deemed to be serious enough to extend beyond the school wide consequences will be dealt with by the principal. All Ministry of Education guidelines and procedures on stand downs and suspensions will be strictly followed.

School wide positive reinforcement;

Children will be rewarded for good behaviour. All children are able to earn points for their house. House points are tallied each week. At the end of the term all of the children in the winning house receiving an ice block. At the end of the year the winning house is presented with the house cup. Teachers will also reward good behaviour with 'Gotcha' awards. The children are able to place their gotcha award in the box in the office. At the weekly assembly children's names are drawn from the box to play 'It's in the bag'. This game gives the children the opportunity to win prizes as positive reinforcement for their good behaviour. Teachers will develop their own class behaviour management programme including rules, consequences and positive reinforcements.

BOOK CLUB

Scholastic NZ Ltd runs a book club offering book specials on a monthly basis. A special Scholastic newsletter is sent out to notify children and parents of upcoming events. Closing dates are advertised in the school newsletter.

BUS SERVICE

A school bus funded by the Ministry of Education is available to eligible children free of charge. Eligibility depends on the age of the child and distance they live from their nearest school. To find out if your child is eligible for the bus please contact the school office. Ineligible children are able to catch the bus for a small fee to be paid termly.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our BOT meets twice a term at 7:00pm in the staffroom. All meetings are open to the public with dates being announced in our newsletter.

CALF CLUB

This annual event is held at the end of September and is the major fundraising event of the year. Students show their calves, lambs, kids, piglets or horticultural skills.

COMMUNITY USE OF THE GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

Our grounds and facilities are open to the children at all times for the children to play – not loiter.

No motorised vehicles or horses are to be in the grounds at any time unless on school business.

People using the grounds out of school hours do so at their own risk.

Please note the signs displayed around the school.

CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES

Schools can be a breeding ground for infections and illnesses. Please keep children away from school if they have a bad cough or cold, diarrhoea or vomiting, feverish or are very tired after an illness.

The following chart may be of help to you in diagnosing some of the common childhood illnesses.

Illness	Incubation	Symptoms	Infectious until
Chicken Pox	11 to 23 days usually 14 days	Fever, crops of spots which blister, become itchy and form scabs	Disappearance of spots
Mumps	12 to 26 days	Swelling of face just in	2 weeks from onset or 1

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	usually 18 days	front of ears, can be one side only, usually both, pain on swallowing	week after swelling settles
Impetigo (School Sores)	Until sores have healed (Highly infectious)	Small red spots	Disappearance of rash
Rubella (German Measles)	14 to 20 days usually 18 days	Mild illness, short-lived rash, 1 – 2 days	Disappearance of rash
Measles	7 to 21 days usually 10 days	Cold, runny nose, red eyes, fever, very miserable, marked rash, blotchy, for 4 days or more	Disappearance of rash
Hepatitis	2 to 6 months	Mildly unwell, off food, dark urine, occasionally jaundice (yellow skin and eyes)	Very variable, obtain doctor's advice
Hand, Foot and Mouth	7 to 21 days	More common in pre-schoolers, tiny pin point red or white spots on palms and soles along with a number of mouth ulcers	Disappearance of rash

CONTACT NUMBERS

Public Health Nurse – Please contact the school office for a current contact number.

DENTAL CARE

The school does not have a Dental Clinic on site. All Dental Health queries can be dealt with by phoning Val Graham- **Ph: 2989370**.

DISPUTES

Should you have any concerns or queries regarding your child's education, please make an appointment to see the **teacher concerned**. On-going discussions may be required to achieve an appropriate solution to your concern.

Should you feel after several visits that little progress is being made please make an appointment to see the Principal.

The final course of action is addressing your concerns formally to the Board of Trustees should this be deemed necessary.

ENROLMENT

Children may legally be enrolled at school from the time they turn five. (Please bring your child's birth certificate and a copy of their immunisation record upon enrolment).

Parents may wish to familiarise their children with school life by visiting the new entrant class for periods up to one day per week six weeks prior to commencing school.

All particulars should be discussed fully with Mrs Duthie prior to beginning your familiarisation visits.

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FUNDRAISING

To supplement our Governmental Operational Grant, our PTA organises regular activities to raise funds to purchase new equipment, apparatus and materials. The PTA meets once a month at the school. The major fundraising event each year is our Calf Club. Keep an eye on the newsletter for dates and times of PTA meetings.

HOMEWORK

The main focus of homework is to develop literacy skills. Therefore all children are expected to read every night at a level and for a length of time appropriate to them. Class teachers will be able to give guidance with this. Children will also have individual spelling programmes that are relevant to and in context of their learning. This will range from basic sight words through to crosswords to increase vocabulary. We encourage parents to help their children with basic facts including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. There will not be any other compulsory homework activities set by the teachers. We believe in the importance of children being well rounded individuals, therefore activities such as baking, creating, going for walks, imaginative play, sports, drama and dance all play a vital role in developing the child as a whole.

HOUSE SYSTEM

We operate four houses, Mango, Tuatara, Kotuku and Pohutukawa for classroom activities and sports competitions. Senior children have the responsibility for being house captains. The houses compete for the house cup which is awarded at the end of each year.

LIBRARY

Each child may borrow up to 2 books for a period of two weeks after completing the borrowing process. If a school library book is lost, parents will receive an invoice requesting the replacement cost of the book.

LITTER

Ararimu School prides itself on its wonderful environment and surroundings. We ask the pupils to help look after the school grounds by either putting their rubbish in the bins or by taking it home.

LOST PROPERTY

All clothing worn to school must be named. Lost property is gathered together and placed in a drum held in the cloakroom. Lost property not collected by the end of each term is donated to local cancer bin collections.

NEWSLETTER

Our School Newsletter is published each Wednesday and is a valuable source of communication keeping parents informed of school events. Please check for this each week and take note of important dates and events.

POLICIES

All school policies are available for viewing, please call into the school office and ask us.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

The school closes for secular education on Friday mornings from 9.00am – 9.30am. Bible in School teachers, sing songs, do activities and read Bible stories to the children during this half hour.

Attendance is at the discretion of individual parents and non-attending pupils are the responsibility of parents from 9.00-9.25am until school recommences in its usual non-secular mode. The library is open and supervised from 8.55 – 9.25 to assist working parents.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

We operate an open door policy where parents can discuss their child's progress by making an appointment to meet with the teacher. More formal parent/teacher interviews take place in June. Formal written reporting is scheduled for June and December.

SCHOOL DONATIONS

These donations assist the Board of Trustees and staff to deliver higher quality programmes than would be possible if we relied solely on our Government funding. The donations are tax deductible, so please retain your receipt for tax purposes.

Suggested Donations

\$160 per child

\$10 photocopying donation

SCHOOL STATIONERY

Stationery packs are available at the school office from the first day of school. Children will not receive a pack until payment has been received. Any further stationery required throughout the year can be purchased at the school office. The following prices are for the pack your child will need to get started.

Room 1 – Mrs Marshall	\$36.00
Room 3 – Mr Thomson	\$25.00
Room 4 – Ms Morrissey	\$28.00
Room 5 – Miss Campbell	\$35.00
Room 6 – Mrs Duthie	\$25.00

In addition to the above all Year 7 children need a 20 pocket clear file for technology and a scrap book. Therefore an additional \$3.00 should be added to the Room 1 total above.

SCHOOL OFFICE

Mrs Vanessa Pegrum operates our school office from 8.30am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Ararimu School provides a balanced curriculum in Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Physical Health and Well Being, The Arts and Taha Maori. Our programmes aim at developing each child academically, physically, emotionally and socially.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ZONES

Rosehill School Zone	Steel Road Turner Road Ararimu Road (from Dunn Road Intersection heading back to Ramarama) Totara Road left side (Heading towards Ararimu School)
Pukekohe High School Zone	Dunn Road Totara Road (Right side heading towards school)
Papakura High School Zone	Markham Road and adjoining roads Ararimu Road (from Dunn Road intersection back to Paparimu / Hunua) Sinclair Road Gellings, Aldridge Road and adjoining roads
Strathallan Private School	Enrolments by arrangement. Bus pick up and drop off at Ramarama

SICK BAY

We keep our Sick Bay well stocked with an up to date list of emergency contacts and specific individual Health Concerns.

Please inform the school immediately of any changes of address or phone numbers.

All staff have current first aid certificates.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES AT ARARIMU SCHOOL

We provide the Bright Spark Programme for Year 1 children working daily with our Teacher Aide on a one to one basis to give our Juniors a head start to their reading and writing.

Our Teacher Aides also work on a one to one with children throughout the school assisting with special individual programming required. We also employ a Reading Recovery Teacher. Children are tested for Reading Recovery at six.

A buddy system also operates at Ararimu School pairing senior and junior children whom together aim to solve any problems or dramas that may occur as well as forging friendships and a sense of responsibility.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Through staff training and cross class curricular we aim to assist each child's specific needs and educational desires. We have special budgets and programmes to nurture pupil performances. Our teacher aides are all involved in teaching programmes to meet needs and reduce teacher / pupil ratios.

E.O.T.C PROGRAMMES

Education outside the Classroom programmes are provided for all children in the school. We run an outdoor education programme annually in the senior school, generally in November. The junior school has a camp week at the same time as the senior camp based on a central theme e.g. safaris, clowns etc, this camp is school based.

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SPORTS

We are involved in the East Counties Sports Group and meet regularly for sporting ventures. Senior pupils are involved with sporting exchanges in swimming, soccer, netball, athletics, gymnastics, cross country, cricket and hockey throughout the year.

SWIMMING

This is an important part of the physical education curriculum taking place in late November – late March depending on the weather.

Pool keys are available for out of hours use. Please contact the school office for more details.

TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

Our Year 7 and 8 pupils are involved in Technology sessions every Friday from 9.00am to 11.00am. A bus provides transport to and from Rosehill Intermediate in Papakura.

A materials charge is required from each pupil as they progress through woodwork, metalwork, sewing, cooking and music.

TRIPS / VISITING PERFORMERS

We try to organise a visiting performer or school trip for each term of the school year to enhance the children's learning and enjoyment of school. We try to fit trips around school wide studies. Plenty of notice will be given prior to each trip informing parents of the cost and dates.

UNIFORM

Ararimu School has a compulsory uniform. All students are expected to wear the uniform, which can be ordered through the school office. A copy of the uniform policy can also be obtained from the school office.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

All visitors to the school are asked to report to the school office first.

WEBSITE

The school has a website which can be viewed at www.ararimu.school.nz

WORKING BEES

Our Board of Trustees arrange a working bee around the school grounds and buildings approximately once a term. All help during working bees is greatly appreciated.