



Silverdale Normal School  
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Dear Parents

Silverdale Normal School values the principle of Whanaungatanga. This means that if you are connected to our school in anyway, you are part of our school family. No matter your culture, religion or background - you have a home here. It is our hope that no matter who you are, you have a sense of belonging and know that you are welcome here.

After the tragic event of last week, I have been looking at our school with renewed hope. I see the way our learners - in all their beautiful diversity - value and appreciate one another. Children play sport together on the fields at lunch time - showing language is no barrier to having fun and building friendships. Learners find out about each others' cultural festivals with interest and excitement, learning from one another - seeing similarities and differences and celebrating these. There is so much hope out there. I am so very proud of our community of learners and the way they have responded in love and kindness - this is what the principle of whanaungatanga is all about.

If you are wondering how to talk to your family or children about what happened over the weekend, please visit our school website.

There are some links and information that you might find helpful. As a school we have chosen to focus on the way our communities have come together in such a powerful way to show support and kindness to those affected - reinforcing unity.

As part of this response, we will be joining with the Christchurch City Council and raising money to contribute to the Mayoral Fund - "Our People, Our City". This Friday, please come to school dressed in something colourful and, if you can, please bring a donation to contribute - what ever you can afford. We will be having a short gathering at around 1.35pm under the canopy, where we will join with the rest of the country and observe 1 minute's silence. You are very welcome to join with us for this event. There will be NO regular assembly in the morning this Friday.



"Making a Positive Difference"

# LEARNING THROUGH PLAY IN OUR JUNIOR SCHOOL

Curriculum | Executive Functioning | Engagement

## What is Learning through Play?

At times during the day, children direct the learning using spaces and materials thoughtfully chosen or arranged by the teacher to encourage their personal interests and inclinations.

## How does this help our students learn?

Teachers observe closely, usually without interrupting the play. They then use this information to develop provocations for the following days or weeks, or identify ways to extend the learning through direct instruction or using further resources in future sessions. As the children have led the learning in this direction, they are usually engaged and eager to learn. This interest can also be drawn out into curriculum areas where direct instruction is already occurring – reading, writing and mathematics.

## Provocation

Experiences set up in response to children's interest or ideas to provoke thinking. It is usually a hands-on exploration.

## But why?

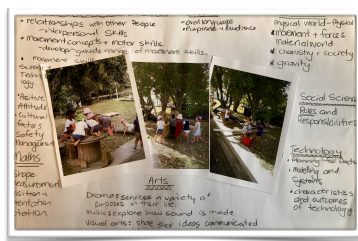
In the past, children would go off in groups on their own for hours and play for long periods of time without adult

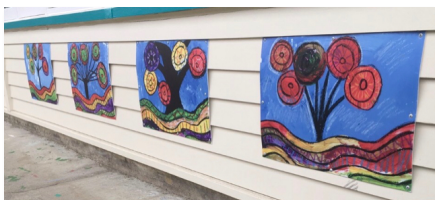
interruption, but the world has changed for our children.

Whether they are at school, after-school activities, in front of screens or being watched on the playground, this new generation is not getting enough uninterrupted child-led play, and this is a problem.

Play is crucial for developing the brain. It is in these uninterrupted (by adults) and unstructured play times that mental processes develop that help us work toward achieving goals - like planning, decision making, manipulating information, switching between tasks, and inhibiting unwanted thoughts and feelings. These processes are an early indicator of school readiness and academic performance.

The more time spent in structured activities the less children are able to make decisions, regulate emotions and behaviour and set goals. The teachers set up time for children to have unstructured play and draw the learning out of the experience, highlighting it for the child, gifting vocabulary for development and valuing the learning within the play. When children see their interests taken seriously, they take learning seriously.





artwork chosen to be printed and displayed around the school. Their focus was promoting sustainability and caring for the environment. Millie and Leslie who are now in Room 11 clearly have an eye for colour and appreciate the native birds of New Zealand. All children are welcome to attend Thursday lunchtime and there are no fees or enrolment required.

### Lunchtime Art Club

This runs from 1.00 to 1.45 pm every Thursday in Room 10 with Ms McMillan.

Last year some talented students had their



### Welcome to our School

We are extremely lucky to have sixteen first year student teachers who have joined us for 2019 at Silverdale Normal. They are in eight classrooms across our school. Welcome Paige, Chantelle, Lewis, Hannah, Tiffany, Casey, William, Brittany, Megan, Danielle, Gareth, Carla, Cullen, Katrina, Leon and Mikayla.

We are pleased that you are part of our Silverdale whānau this year !

### PTG News

- ▶ Tupperware Fundraiser ends this week. Orders due by Friday, 22nd March. You can use the drink bottle form, or order any Tupperware product online through <https://empower.tupperware.com.au/OrderSystem/partyregistration/registrationEntry.htm?token=Wc2LzCgZ27>. 10% of your purchase goes to our school.
- ▶ Disco! Friday, 29th March, 5.00 to 7.00pm. Flyer accompanies today's newsletter. Parent help needed! Each class will 'adopt' a stall and we are asking that parents volunteer to man the stall for 30 mins.
- ▶ We are after nail polish for the disco - any colour, any type, please bring into the Office.
- ▶ Want to get in touch with us? Please email [ptg@silverdale.school.nz](mailto:ptg@silverdale.school.nz) or join our facebook group "**Friends of the PTG - SNS**".

### Classroom Item - Room 10

Room 10 showed their love and support to families in Christchurch by writing cards and drawing pictures. Their cards have been added to the other messages showing whanaungatanga and aroha at Waikato University.



### Postponement of Paid Union Meetings for NZEI Te Riu Roa members covered by the Primary Teachers Collective Agreement and the Primary Principals Collective Agreement

A decision has been made to postpone union meetings in the week of March 25th.

Michael Harrop - Principal

### Community Notices

A red poster for the YMCA Holiday Programme. At the top left is the YMCA logo. To its right, a blue banner says 'Special Invitation To'. Below this, the words 'Holiday Programme' are written in large, white, stylized letters. Underneath, the words 'FRIENDS', 'FUN', 'FOOD', 'MUSIC', and 'PLAY' are listed in small white boxes. The main text reads: 'Join us this holidays for a fun and engaging Easter Holiday programme. Explore wacky science, have a go at icing easter biscuits, create some crazy crafts and join in the YMCA Olympics!'. Below this, it says: 'Check out our website for a full brochure and to find a location near you!'. The website 'www.ymcahamilton.org.nz' is listed. At the bottom, there is a yellow smiley face icon and the text 'Special Dance and Gymnastics days available' and 'See You Soon'.

### Varsity Taiohi Junior Rugby Registration/Weigh-In

Ages 5-11, Tuesday, 26th March from 6.00 to 7.00pm. FMG Stadium (Seddon Road, Gate 2). New players require a copy of a birth certificate or passport. Subs are \$25.00. Contact Billy Cribb on 027 8583111  
[bill@clb.co.nz](mailto:bill@clb.co.nz)

Training is every Thursday from approximately 3.30 to 5.30pm at the University fields below the pools. Start 2nd May.



### Hillcrest United Football Club - 2019 Season

Registration is still open for the 2019 season. Please see [www.hillcrestunited.co.nz/register](http://www.hillcrestunited.co.nz/register)

for registration links and fees information. All registration is to be done online via MyCOMET. Please register by 22nd March to guarantee a place in a team.

