

# HOW CAN MY WHANAU BE INVOLVED IN SCHOOL LIFE?

Involvement of the family in the life of the school fosters a strong relationship between home and school adds to a student's sense that education is valued by their family/whanau. It enables students to benefit from resources, opportunities and specialist skills which may not have been available except for a strongly supportive parent community.

Opportunities to get involved for the benefit of the students are many and varied:

## **New and not-so-new Parents' Morning Tea**

Each term a morning tea is organised to provide a way for parents to meet others in the school community. Young children are welcome and toys are provided. The date and time of the morning tea, located in the school staff room, is posted in the weekly newsletter and on the school website a few weeks' prior.

## **Parent-Help in the Classroom**

Many classes have opportunities for parents to be involved. These include:

- Reading with children.
- Helping during maths, writing, art or computer times.
- Sharing a skill.
- Out-of-class help, e.g. shelving resources, gluing activities into books, making resources

Please let your child's teacher know if you are available to help.

## **Class Day Trips, Sports Trips and Overnight Camps**

From time to time transport and/or supervision is needed for class trips, camps or sports trips. The organisers of these events will invite parents to assist. At all times whilst on the trip both the parents and students are under the authority of the trip's organiser, i.e. a registered teacher.

Parents offering transport will be required to verify that their driver's licence, vehicle registration and warrant of fitness are current and that they have sufficient seatbelts for the number of children being transported to and from the event.

Parents accompanying students on an overnight trip or camp, or on a day trip where they will have unsupervised access to children, are required to be police-vetted prior to being accepted as a parent volunteer. A signed permission slip will need to be returned to the school so that police-vetting can be carried out.

## **Cornerstone Gala**

The school community's main fundraiser is the biennial gala which typically occurs in early March in odd-numbered years. There is an expectation on school families to involve themselves in this fundraising extravaganza. During the weeks leading up to the gala the CFG informs parents of opportunities to be involved.

## **Cornerstone Fundraising Group**

The Cornerstone Fundraising Group (CFG) is a group of parents and staff who co-ordinate school fundraising; primarily the school's biennial gala. The group welcomes new members and seeks not to place a burden on those involved, i.e. each person contributes only up to the level that fits comfortably with their other commitments.

The officer-holder positions of chairperson, treasurer and secretary are elected every four years or on the retirement of the current office-holder.

The group advertises the date of its next meeting in the school newsletter and on the school website and would love to see you!

## **Sports Coaching**

Coaches and managers are required each season for a range of out-of-school sports teams, ranging in ability from beginners to accomplished young sportsmen and women. Parents will be notified of opportunities for involvement through school newsletter. If a parent is willing to establish and coach a sport that is not currently offered by the school, the teacher in charge of sport will be keen to discuss this possibility.

## **Sporting Events**

School-wide events such as athletics, swimming sports and cross-country require officials. Parents will be notified of these needs prior to each event.

## **Cultural and Music Groups**

Our ability to offer groups such as Kapahaka, worship bands and choirs to a wide range of age-groups is dependent on having adults to lead these groups. Parents with particular skills and knowledge should contact the Principal to find out whether there is a group which could benefit from their input and leadership.

## **Clubs at Secondary Level**

At secondary level we have clubs requiring specialist tutoring that parents with particular skills may be involved with, e.g. journalism club, mechanics club. Parents wishing to be involved should discuss this with the Assistant Principal (Secondary). If tutoring a club is likely to involve a parent having unsupervised access to children, the parent will be required to sign and return a permission slip to allow the school to conduct a police vet.

## **Parent Advisory Group**

Approximately once a month the Principal holds a forum with parents on matters of interest or concern. The date of the forum and the topic of interest to be discussed are advised in advance in the school newsletter and on the school website. All parents are welcome to attend.

## **Consultation with the School's Maori and Pasifika Communities**

The Principal consults with the school's Maori and Pasifika communities about their aspirations for their community of learners and the policies, plans and targets that the school has in place for improving student achievement. Consultation dates and venues are advised in advance in the school newsletter and on the school website.

## **Board of Trustees**

Elections for parent representatives occur every three years. Please refer to the [www.cornerstone.ac.nz/our-school/governance](http://www.cornerstone.ac.nz/our-school/governance) for further details.