



Edgecumbe Primary School Newsletter

14 August 2018

What's Coming Up...

Waste Education Week

13-16 August



Teacher Strike

Wednesday 15 August

Tough Guy/Gal Challenge

Thursday 16 August

Rangitaiki Soccer

Friday 17 August



Daffodil Day

Friday 31 August

After School Touch Starts

10 September onwards



School Photos

Wednesday 26 September



TEACHER STRIKE

Edgecumbe School will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday August 15th as Teacher and Principal members of the New Zealand Education Institute (NZEI) have voted to strike.

It has been 24 years since the last Teacher strike. It is not a decision that has been made lightly. Media conversation about the strike will be ongoing, and you will hear a range of perspectives.

For our Teachers, this strike is not just about money. The Teachers will not be paid for the day of the strike, so there will be a direct impact on their own income and on their whānau.

Significant issues include:

- A Teacher shortage. A lack of pay, long work hours, and a dramatic increase in paperwork and Ministry of Education requirements have resulted in many Teachers leaving the profession, 40% fewer enrolments in Teacher training programmes, and fewer relief Teachers available for schools.
- A pay jolt. The Beginning Teacher salary for a primary school Teacher with a Bachelor of Teaching (3 year degree) is \$47,980 per annum. Of interest – in 1979, Backbench MPs and Teachers both earned around \$18,000. In 2018, the average Backbench MP earns \$164,000, while the top Teacher scale is \$78,000.
- Time to teach and time to lead. For example, the provision of time for each school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). There is currently no release provided for a Teacher working in this role to meet with parents, undertake additional assessments, meet with outside agencies, and to support Teachers and children with modifications to regular classroom programmes.
- Career pathways. To develop a range of clear pathways for Teachers to move into management.

We know that this strike will be inconvenient for parents and students alike. However, this is ultimately about putting the best people in front of every child, and having the support to provide every child with a quality education. We need the government to understand the important role that Teachers play in our country's future. Aotearoa New Zealand requires quality Teachers to be working with all of our children.

We thank you for your support.