

# PAAPUA

## TERM ONE

### NEWSLETTER

Kia ora, Talofa, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Taloha ni, Ni sa bula, Namaste, Nǐ hǎo.

Welcome back to a brand-new year at Conifer Grove School! We are absolutely thrilled to reconnect with our students and whaanau as we step into 2025 together. This year is set to be filled with exciting challenges, meaningful learning experiences, and opportunities for growth. We hope you had a fantastic break, recharged, and are ready to dive into everything this year has to offer!

#### **Stationery**

As in 2024, the school will provide all necessary stationery for students, including books, pens, pencils, glue sticks, and other essential supplies. Students must take responsibility for their stationery, and if any items are lost or broken, they will need to replace them.

#### **Hats**

With Term 1 falling in the summer months, all students are required to wear a red bucket hat or CGS cap during outdoor activities, including break times and Physical Education sessions.

We can't wait to embark on this journey with you, supporting and celebrating each student's success throughout the year. Let's make 2025 an unforgettable one!

Ngā mihi nui,  
Team Paapua



#### **Term One Important Dates:**

- **Week 1**, Thursday 6th February  
- Waitangi Day
- **Week 4**, Wednesday 26th  
February-NC Tag
- **Week 4**, Wednesday 26th  
February- Whaanau fun night
- **Week 5**, Friday 7th March- NC  
Swimming
- **Week 7**, Thursday 20th March-  
NC Cricket
- **Week 9**, Tuesday 1st April- NC  
Football

#### **Teacher emails**

**Shaman Singh:** Shaamans@cgschool.ac.nz

**Dwain Samuels:** Dwains@cgschool.ac.nz

**Kamlesh Ram:** Kamleshr@cgschool.ac.nz

**Suzanne Pope:** Suzannep@cgschool.ac.nz

# Team Paapua



**Shaman Singh**

Room 20 Teacher  
Pedagogical Leader

My name is Shaaman Singh, and I am the Pedagogical Leader for Paapua. Originally from Fiji, I moved to New Zealand with my family at the age of 14. As a passionate educator with 15 years of teaching experience, I am committed to fostering an environment where every student can thrive. I am also an avid football enthusiast and a dedicated Manchester United supporter.

I look forward to working alongside you to support your child in reaching their full potential. As William Butler Yeats once said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." Let's ignite that passion for learning together.



**Dwain Samuels**

Room 19 Teacher

I am Dwain Samuels. I am a South African-born teacher. I have been teaching for the past 10 years. My immediate family consists of my wife, my son, and my daughter. I enjoy spending my free time making music behind the piano, spending time with my family, going on walks/run, and binging on a good series.

I aim to build a love of learning in my students that will last well into their adult lives. Dr Seuss said, the more you read, the more things you will know. the more that you learn, the more places you'll go.



**Suzanne Pope**

Room 21 Teacher

My name is Suzanne Pope and I am new to Conifer Grove School in 2025 having taught in several other schools in our local community over the years. I have raised my family in Papakura over the past 23 years where I now have grown children. Having been a dedicated parent I am pro family and believe that optimum learning includes family involvement so I look forward to ways to extend whanaungatanga with my delightful new class. I enjoy teaching in a variety of curriculum areas and have recently enjoyed a focus on such things as mathematics, social science, and visual art, always looking for ways to make learning meaningful and fun. In my personal time I enjoy the outdoors including walks and fun runs, as well as swimming and kayaking with my family.



**Kamlesh Ram**

Room 22 Teacher

My name is Kamlesh Ram, and I will be the teacher in Room 22 this year. I am excited to embark on this teaching/learning journey together and look forward to a year filled with growth, curiosity, and achievement. My goal is to create a supportive and engaging classroom where every student feels valued and inspired to learn. Communication and collaboration between school and home are essential for student success, so I encourage you to reach out with any questions or concerns.

**Paapua - Well-grown with spreading branches**

# Term One Learning

## **Concept: Identity**

**Big Understanding:** CHANGE OCCURS IN DIFFERENT WAYS WHICH MAY INITIATE REACTIONS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND/OR CHALLENGES

This term our students are exploring the concept of change—how it happens in different ways and can lead to various reactions, opportunities, and challenges. Our focus is on the Polynesian Panthers, a movement that played a key role in advocating for social justice in Aotearoa. Through this inquiry, students will learn about the challenges faced by Pasifika communities, the actions taken to create change, and the lasting impact of the movement. This will help students develop a deeper understanding of activism, fairness, and equity in society.

## **Mathematics:**

In Term One, the Paapua Years 6–8 team will prioritise deepening students' understanding of Place Value, Addition, and Subtraction while exploring fundamental Measurement concepts. The focus will be on enhancing their ability to apply strategies effectively when solving Measurement problems involving length, weight, and time. Additionally, the strategies acquired will equip students with the skills necessary to comprehend and solve number word problems with confidence.

## **Writing:**

Students in Years 6–8 will have the opportunity to write narrative pieces on topics of personal interest or those linked to their learning. They will develop their ability to construct diverse sentence structures while ensuring correct punctuation usage. As the term progresses, the focus will shift towards incorporating a rich and varied vocabulary to enhance their writing.

## **Reading:**

In our reading sessions, students who are learning to read will focus on developing their ability to apply letter-sound knowledge to decode new words, improve reading fluency, and use questioning techniques to demonstrate text comprehension. For those who are already proficient in word reading, we will introduce a range of reading strategies, including prediction, inference, and drawing conclusions, to further enhance their reading skills and deepen their understanding.

## **P.E.:**

In Years 6–8, students will refine their skills in various large ball activities throughout the term. They will focus on mastering techniques such as striking, catching, throwing, and kicking with large balls. These skills will then be applied in practical game situations, with an emphasis on active participation in both large and small games during the North Counties competitions.

