



13 May, 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Upcoming Strike by Teachers: Wednesday 29th May

New Zealand's Primary Teachers and Principals voted recently to reject the Government's latest collective agreement offer because it does not address the issues that have resulted in a crisis of recruitment and retention of quality teachers in New Zealand schools.

Primary Teachers and Principals also voted overwhelmingly to hold joint strike action with Secondary School Teachers. This will take place on **Wednesday 29th May**.

Our school will not be providing normal teaching services during the strike on that date. If this is difficult for families, a small number of non-union staff will be available to supervise students if required. Please contact the office to indicate if your child needs to attend school that day. Students requiring supervision should report to the hall on arrival.

While we regret the inconvenience we know this will cause, we need to send a clear message to the Government that we are standing strong for our students.

Already children's education is suffering because of the difficulty in recruiting teachers and relievers, and we must take bold steps to turn this around. The Government recently announced a \$1.75 billion surplus, so there is no reason to make our children wait while the situation deteriorates further.

Through our union, NZEI Te Riu Roa, we are asking for:

- More resources and staffing to adequately support children with additional learning needs – this will benefit all children because teachers will be freed to spend more one-on-one time with every student
- A significant increase in teachers' salaries so that they are properly valued for their qualifications and responsibilities and as a country we can recruit and retain teachers.

We appreciate your continued support on this important issue. For more information, please go to <http://campaigns.nzei.org.nz/time/>

Yours sincerely,

Kristen Walsham
Principal