

Newsletter_term 1_week 6 2020

Parent-Teacher Interviews

A huge thank you to those parents who made it along to interviews this week. Staff have been very encouraged by your feedback, and by your commitment to partnership. If you were unable to make it along on the designated interview nights, please remember that staff are highly available by appointment.

Whanau/Student Survey ... Learning, Succeeding and Thriving.

Yesterday you will have received an invitation to participate in a survey run by Auckland University which explores how students learn, succeed and thrive at school. This is a rare chance to get a deeper insight into factors that contribute to success, and even into how we define success. **We hope you will participate in the survey, and that you will consent to your child's participation also.** The more children and parents who return survey forms, the surer we can be that our data is accurate. The children's survey will be administered in a week or two at school, you can do your survey (paper or online) any time over the next two weeks. All completed survey forms will be sent to Auckland University for collation and analysis, and **will be absolutely confidential.** **Having said all of this, you can refuse to give consent to your child's participation if you wish by returning the "I do not give permission ..." form sent home today or by emailing Kevin.** Your wishes will be fully respected. We cannot share the child's survey with you, but it is generally around their feelings about school, what success looks like for them, their goals etc.

We will share general findings with you down the track, as well as ideas on how we will use these findings to ensure school is as good as it can possibly be for all learners.

If you do NOT want your child to participate in this survey please let us know early next week.

Reducing the spread of illness - a co-ordinated response

Bacterial and viral infections are an unfortunate fact of life. If we are to minimize the effect of these on our school we need to work together. This week staff have been reminding students ...

1. **To wash their hands with soap and water for a minimum 20 seconds** after they have used the toilet and before eating, and to **spend 20 seconds thoroughly drying their hands** afterwards. We are also working to make sure that liquid soap and paper towels are available to all students.

2. **To cough or sneeze into their elbow.**

You can help by reinforcing these two key messages at home. It would be super helpful if you could view and discuss either of the videos attached ... especially with younger children.

- Teaches hand washing technique (UK NHS): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>
- Hand washing happy birthday (UK NHS): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGJNspLRdrc>

3. If your child has a cough, regular sneezing, a runny nose or temperature (38 degrees or above), diarrhea or vomiting you MUST keep them at home please. We suggest that you arrange a "plan B" in the event that your child is sick and you need a caregiver. We have a duty to each other to adhere to whatever measures minimize transmission of illness to others. If your child arrives with any of the above symptoms, we may need to put them in isolation and call you to pick them up. If in doubt, always err on the side of caution. Thank you in anticipation.

The coronavirus

... is presently not an issue of immediate concern but will likely become so. The Board will develop a Draft Pandemic Response Plan at its next meeting, and you will be advised of any changes shortly thereafter, and of any changes to the protocols outlined above. This plan will be based on the best advice available to us.

Picking your child up from school

If you do have to pick up your child from school please be sure to come to the school office and sign them out. Thank you.

Upper Carpark / Bus Bay / Roadside

Please stay clear of all yellow marked areas and move as quickly as you safely can when dropping off, or picking up, your child. Please never park on the yellow marked area adjoining the centre island in the upper carpark, as this has the potential to completely block the flow of cars. Remember that 3:15/20 is an ideal pick up time as there are plenty of parking spaces and a much freer flow of traffic.

Headlice

We are pretty close to nil infestation. Please check your children's hair weekly and act promptly in the event of an infestation. Regular checks by all parents help to greatly to delay their reappearance.

International Schools Competitions

A small number of parents have indicated an interest in their child's involvement in these competitions in 2020. Note that these are now done internally, and are not referenced to performances of children elsewhere. Official consent forms will be issued in a couple of weeks. Please let your child's teacher or the office, know if you want a consent form, and we will do our best to ensure that you receive one. These competitions are quite a bit of extra work, with completion of 2 practice papers expected per week, and so we suggest you only register your child if you know they (and you) are well-positioned for this extra workload.

Friday Lunches

Please note that, if your child orders and pays for a Friday lunch, and they are absent on the day, these cannot be transferred to a subsequent Friday as they are prepared and prepared off-site.

The senior school is in need of any of the following for one of our Tuesday Options Programme.

- Wool, cardboard tubes, tennis balls, rope, fabric/material (old sheets or blankets), beads, bells, dog and cat treats, small PVC pipe, shoe boxes, old pillows, egg cartons, feathers or pillow stuffing.

Please send it to room 11 (Mrs Gunson)



High viz bag covers

We have a limited number of high viz bag covers available for children to use. Priority will be given to children who cycle or walk to school. If you think this would be suitable for your child, please contact the school office and we will reserve one for your child.

Best wishes

... to our year 7 campers. We are looking forward to hearing about your adventures on your return. Thank you to the parent support team.

Finally

We had amazing feedback on the conduct and sportsmanship of our zone swimming team this week. A special thank you to all of those involved.

Nga mihi

Kevin and the Teaching Team

"Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."

Eph 4:29 (NLT)

Community notices

Ruatangata Indoor Bowls, starts Wednesday 11th March at 7:30pm

For more details contact Alan ph.4350141 or Ben ph.4351570

Mangakahia Rugby Club Rally Day 12th March from 5-7pm @ Mangakahia Sports Complex. A well run and resourced club with excellent coaches and teams in all grades from u6 through to u14 (IMB). All players welcome.

Opera in the garden 'Finale' Saturday 4th April at 2pm. Adults \$40 School age children \$15 **Kennaway's Operacado Orchard**, 643 Ngunguru Road, Glenbervie.
Tickets: www.eventfinda.co.nz, the Hub or gate sales.
Singers: Eliza Boom, Opera North & Kawiti Weatford

Classics at the Cove 12th April from 2.30-5pm. Adults \$25 Children free
Join us in our park like grounds overlooking Bream Bay at 566 Cove Road, Waipu
Singers: Sarah Kent Whittles, Ridge Ponini and Alofa, The Dream Girls, The Wind Chimes and Whangarei Youth Choir are joined by Opera North members and accompanists Mirabella Uphoff and Delwyn Rusk.
Tickets from eventfinda.co.nz or Waipu Hammer Hardware or gates sales.