

Tauraroa Area School
Newsletter 15 April 2020

Kia ora tatou,

Term 2 is underway today, but not looking like what any of us would have imagined only a short time ago.

The Minister of Education has indicated a *possible* return to school for some students on 29 April. An announcement is due from the government on 20 April on how realistic this timeline might be. This uncertainty makes effective planning very challenging!

I am very grateful for the efforts being made by teachers and parents (supported by the Ministry of Education) to keep learning going for students. Achieving something worthwhile everyday, while maintaining a healthy personal schedule will have definite wellbeing benefits for students (and their parents). Teachers are doing their best in these uncertain times to meet the needs of their students. I'm sure that many of you will appreciate that they, themselves, are dealing with their own children (and other issues) at this time. Please be patient but do contact them if you have any queries or concerns.

Our **Learning Support Coordinator, Klasina Sewell**, will be phoning the parents of senior students in the coming days to check on how learning is going for your student(s) and to offer her support and practical assistance. If time allows, she will make contact with the whanau of younger students, once she has contacted our Year 11-13s.

The Ministry of Education is developing a very good website to support learning from home. It is aptly named <https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/>

As a rough guide, I would expect primary students to be spending 1- 2 hours per day, Year 7-10 students 2-4 hours per day and Year 11-13 students 4-6 hours per day on learning activities and course work *in addition to recreational reading*. NCEA subject teachers should therefore be setting work for 30-60 minutes a day, where this is practicable. Of course, learning activities will take many forms, depending on family circumstances and other factors. Learning activities certainly don't all need to be based on a page or screen, with much worthwhile learning possible in household activities (eg cooking). Senior students may have some scheduled video conferencing occurring in their subjects' usual timetabled slots.

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV is being broadcast, free to air, on TVNZ channel 2+1 and on TVNZ on Demand, as well as on Sky Channel 502. It can also be found at tvnz.co.nz It runs from 9am to 3pm on school days with programming for children and young people aged 2 to 15, *as well as for parents*. (I particularly recommend the Aotearoa History Show as relevant for adults and students.) Māori Television will also be broadcasting te reo educational programmes (for ages 2 to 18) from 9am to 3pm on school days. Programme details can be found on <https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/> . Check the updates page of the site for daily programming information.

Once more detail of content is known, teachers may be asking students to watch selected episodes. All of the programmes feature highly experienced teachers and presenters, along with wellbeing and movement experts.

New web portal for whānau Māori

Kia Manawaroa is a new web portal for whānau Māori on education.govt.nz. This brings together information from the Ministry of Education and other education agencies, to support iwi and Māori audiences to increase their knowledge about educational choices available. This will therefore provide opportunities for whānau to be more actively involved in supporting their children's learning.

Welcome

I would like to warmly welcome **Allan Logan** to the TAS teaching team, as he joins us to provide long term cover in the Mathematics and Statistics department. Mr Logan has already contacted the parents and caregivers of his students in preparation for classes getting underway.

Free internet safety filter for parents

While children are learning from home, they are away from the online safety and security services provided by Network for Learning (N4L) at school. So together with N4L and Netsafe, the Ministry of Education has launched www.switchonsafety.co.nz - a free way to block the worst of the web for students.

Netsafe

Netsafe provides comprehensive support and information to support everyone to stay safe as they work, learn and play online. Netsafe has new and updated resources for parents, whānau and students at <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/staying-safe/>

Laptops and Chromebooks

Our survey undertaken prior to the shutdown indicated that a large majority of our students have access to computers or Chromebooks. Approximately 60 machines have been loaned out by the school. If, however, a student in your household is having difficulty accessing a suitable device for school work, please let us know by emailing ross.mccartney@tauraroa.school.nz and a request will be made to the Ministry of Education for a machine. Priority will go to senior students initially.

Pandemic Information

Remember, the government's website is the best place to go for up to the minute advice and facts on the pandemic: COVID19.govt.nz . A daily update and news conference with the Prime Minister is broadcast on RNZ National at 1:00pm everyday

Getting Along With Your Family

This is a short, entertaining video aimed at students aged 10+, made by the excellent 'Attitude' presenters. There are four very clear points made:

1. **You can't change your family but you can change your approach to them.** *Brayden helps explain the importance of this perspective and empowers young people to focus on what they can control.*
2. **Act like an adult and you might get treated like an adult.** *Tamatea presents the options that young people have when they stuff up, make mistakes or clash with a family member. We highlight the benefits of taking responsibility vs. shifting blame.*
3. **Try talking to your parents as if you actually like them.** *Rory gives this helpful and sometimes counter-intuitive communication tip which can transform relationships at home.*
4. **Notice the things about your parents that you do like.** *Jannah points out how easy it is to only see the annoying things about our parents. However her tip is that if you choose to notice the positive about this situation then your relationship with your parents can improve.*

[Click here to view video](#)

Thank you for your support as we work together to provide for our tamariki at this time. Please contact the school by email or Facebook Messenger if you have any queries or concerns. Emails sent to general@tauraroa.school.nz will be redirected to the most relevant staff member. Alternatively, teachers and managers may be emailed directly with firstname.familyname@tauraroa.school.nz

Please contact the school if you need support for your children. We know that this period of confinement will increase stress in some home settings. From overseas, this [25 Mental Health Wellness Tips during Quarantine from Eileen M Feliciano, Psy.D.](#) is a good list and highlights some things particularly important for children. Remember the rules of New Zealand's level 4 lockdown still apply.

Nga mihi nui,

Grant Burns
Principal
[Tauraroa Area School](#)

In this video we recommend **4 Tips** that young people can use to help get along with their family better.