

Tauraroa Area School
Newsletter 21 April 2020

Kia ora koutou,

I hope that Term 2 and our distance learning programme has been a success for you so far. We know there will have been any number of challenges for you to deal with but we have been getting some great feedback about the learning that is happening and thank you for all your support.

Yesterday the Government decided that we will move into Alert Level 3 on 28 April. That means we will be open to receive students from the 29 April.

The key message for you is that *if you can, you should keep your child at home*. You should only physically send your child to school if you need to. If your child has a health condition that means they are at a greater risk of a severe illness you must keep them at home. If your child is sick please also ensure you keep them at home.

Parents will be asked in the next couple of days whether or not they intend to send their children to school. It is essential that we get accurate information on this, so that appropriate onsite staffing and facilities can be organised.

In order to ensure the safety of those children and our staff who do come to school, we will be operating with strict enforcement of health and safety measures. To keep students safe by reducing contact with shared surfaces, I ask that they bring their **own laptop or Chromebooks** to school (if available) and their **own drink bottles**.

Due to the need to maintain school groups (bubbles) of no more than 10 students, it is unlikely that buses will be available from 29 April. However, this is still to be confirmed.

I want to assure you that we will continue to support your child's learning at home.

The Ministry of Education has advised that they are working closely with the Ministry of Health to develop clear guidance that will support schools to safely re-open their premises to students and staff. This will help us work through the public health requirements that we all need to meet. As you will be doing, we want to be sure that what we do will keep our community as safe as possible.

For now, we will continue to support your child's learning by distance while we progress our planning for what Alert Level 3 will mean for you and for our school. We will be in touch again soon with more information. As you have been doing, please keep connecting with your teachers with any questions you might have.

Cornerstone Value Term 2: Pa-te-aroha / Compassion: To help, empathise with, or show understanding and support to those who suffer. I have been really impressed with the many examples of this seen in our community in recent weeks. As a community, compassion calls us to do a little extra, hold back on making judgements and show patience at times.

Violet Blomfield (Year 12) had her long locks removed in aid of the Auckland/Northland branch of the Cancer Society and in memory of her former teacher, Ann-Marie Anderson. Her compassionate act raised \$2059.

Music Lessons

Students who were taking school music lessons are continuing to receive them via zoom or video tutorial. This includes guitar, trumpet, trombone, flute clarinet and sax, drums and vocals. If you would like your student to get Zoom lessons and have not already received information about how to do this, please email Mr Hopper at derek.hopper@tauraroa.school.nz and he can get you started.

Student emails

All Year 7-13 students who have access to the internet should be checking their school email accounts and responding to emails daily to keep up to date with communication from their teachers. Where possible, emails are cc'd to parents. However, due to the range of learning platforms we are using, be aware that other means of communication are also being used (eg SeeSaw, Google Classrooms)

I do want to thank you for the support and participation that has been evident in our off-site learning. I know our students are getting plenty achieved, in spite of the unusual circumstances. I am very grateful for the professionalism and commitment shown by our staff in ensuring the continuity of learning and teaching in difficult circumstances.

Nga mihi nui,

Grant Burns
Principal