



TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

## *Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)*

Welcome to Week 8. Life at school has moved quickly into something resembling normal and lockdown is becoming a fading memory, at least for us here. We are still officially in Level 2 with all of the restrictions that it brings and we still have one or two students away but in the main, life at school goes on. My thanks to all of you for adhering to the constraints around access to the school. It may well be all over soon, fingers crossed.

## *Awhina - Supporting others*

We had our first assembly in 11 weeks last Friday. It was great to have the whole school in one place at the same time and we tried something new by live streaming it to our parent community. We could see that there were about 30 families who streamed in to watch it live. It worked so well we will make it a regular feature of our assembly.

We don't record this event so once assembly is over it can't be accessed again. We will send out the live link via seesaw, just before assembly next time and we will also let parents know if their children are receiving an award so they can make sure they see it.

Kapa Haka started again last Friday and the children came along full of enthusiasm. We ran through songs we haven't done in a long while. I was very impressed with how the students had retained the waiata and Te Reo.

## *Ngākau Pono - Trust, honesty and loyalty*

The planned roadworks for Woodlands Road this week have been postponed due to the amount of water lying around. These will start next week now. During the work Woodlands Road will be closed from Gordonton Road to Law Road. If you are coming from the village you will still be able to get to school however if coming from the Law Road end you will need to take a detour.

Construction on our front fence will commence this week. This project was shovel-ready prior to lockdown but can now start. You may have seen the safety fence out the front and gear being accumulated.

## *Ako - Teaching and Learning*

We are currently exploring what the students mid-year report will look like. Obviously this has been a unique first half of the year and you have had significantly more insight into what and how your children learn. Also there has been a significant reduction of in-school time due to the lock-down so the report will be more graphical in displaying progress and achievement with much of the narrative around the key competencies. For those who provided comments on their children's learning this will be also included where possible.

We will design this one-off report and commence work on it once the Board of Trustees has approved it.

As I'm writing, the photographer is outside working hard to beat the weather and get all the classes done. Looks like winter is here.

That's about it for this week. Stay safe and warm.

*Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī (That's all for now).*

Keith O'Donnell, Principal



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## Young But Ancient

*Flipping and twisting this unique object in my hand. Noticing all the strange marks on this mysterious leaf. Wondering how this item got all these scars, that must tell an interesting story. With a broken bone at the top, it must be hurting inside.*

*As I observe all the fights this young, but ancient leaf has been through, I also recognize a slight split in its seagull-like foot.*

*Bunches of clovers in the paddock, with dead, brown leaves, was this leaf's skintone. Thinking that this story-teller should belong on the Canadian flag. Looking like sharp, knife stabbing, pointy edges, but really felt like bendy, toy knives. Examining all the holes and cuts, this young, but old thing has been through alot.*



*Wrinkles in the front and back, I knew that this leaf had had its day. Feeling both sides, it reminds me of black leather with texture. Scrunching it up, in my fidgety hands, hearing a little kid squealing in my ears. This is a very fascinating, young, but ancient leaf.*

*By Hayley*

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