



TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ,

Nga mihi o te ra (Greetings of the day)

Manaakitanga - Care for others

Covid-19 - Coronavirus.

Many of us will be reflecting on the implications and ramifications of the developing global pandemic that is Covid-19. The media - including various social media are painting a very bleak picture of what we are to expect, talk of self-isolation, quarantine, food shortages and economic impact which will no doubt be the dominant subject of conversations wherever people gather. I don't think anyone is advocating that this is not a serious situation, however, care must be taken in what advice we follow. Unqualified opinion and scaremongering only serves to confuse rather than enlighten people. New Zealand is front-footing its response and the Government appears to be doing all it can to limit the impact.

Globally, in places where this virus has taken hold, schools are firmly in the frame as potential transmission sites and we are hearing of closures and quarantines. No such directives have been given in New Zealand and I receive daily updates of how the Ministry of Education is tailoring its response initiatives. In times of widespread concern a cool, calm and informed response is what is necessary.

My view and that of Principal colleagues I have spoken with is that, should school-closures become a reality then it will be because there is no alternative. Already discussions are being conducted nationally to establish things like the ability of students to learn at home with work provided on-line by teachers, and how we can still operate the school remotely if required.

Please rest assured, any school decisions made around this crisis will be made at the Government table with the health, safety and wellbeing of the children and staff at their centre. My enduring hope is that a viable solution is found soon and we can continue unobstructed with the business of learning. In the meantime, keep up with the diligence around coughing and hand washing and if your child is sick, please keep them at home.

Ngākau Pono - Trust, honesty and loyalty

Winter Sports

The winter sports registrations have closed and we are preparing for competition to start in Term 2. The sports committee are meeting tonight and finalising teams and coaches/managers. If you have an opportunity to help out supervising a team please let us know. It's not too late to offer your assistance.

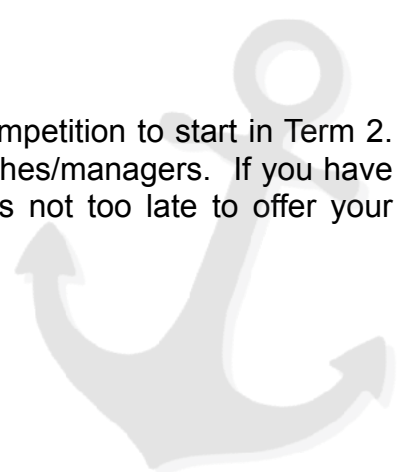
Awhina

Supporting others

Kids for Kids

This concert is currently being organised. For those who are unfamiliar with it, it is the formulation of a massed choir of school students who accompany a named performing artist in presenting several contemporary songs in harmony. It is something to behold and the children love the experience. Some children will have brought home notices in regard to this. My thanks to Mrs Grayburn for leading this experience with the children.

Our enduring hope is that this event is able to proceed despite the looming virus alerts.



Ako - Teaching and Learning

Te Rākau Camp

Te Rākau (Intermediate) team left this morning on their camp adventure to Vertical Horizons in Taranaki. A bus and several cars full of excited children and parents departed school on the promise of what should be a week of challenges and learning - often about themselves. This is a change for us to be going to camp this early in the year and for a whole week. The potential personal growth and interpersonal relationships that emerge from such an experience can only enhance learning through the rest of the year. My thanks to the parent volunteers who have given up their time to attend and help support the students.

Leading local curriculum

Mrs Rogers and I attended day one and two of a year long course on developing a localised curriculum a fortnight ago. This week, the course leaders will be visiting us at Gordonton to look at what we do and how they can help us realise ongoing success in this area. In order to be effective the curriculum has to be relevant to our learners. More on this as we develop a pathway.

Finally a picture of the children in Room 12 presenting their poem at assembly. When you see this happening, it reminds us of why we are here and what we do. Well done Room 12, I loved your recital.

Have a great week everyone

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

Keith O'Donnell, Principal

WHAT'S COMING UP

MARCH

16-20 Te Rākau Camp

23 Year 7&8

immunisation

25-27 Te Māhuri Camp

APRIL

9 Last day of term 1



Latest Prime Minister's announcement.

Prime Minister announcement on 14 March

The Prime Minister has announced new and strong protective measures to keep individuals, families and communities safe and healthy. The measures come into effect from 1am Monday 16 March 2020 and are as follows:

- Travel restrictions remain in place for people arriving from or who have been in mainland China and Iran over the prior 14 days (Category 1A)*
- In addition, all travellers coming from all parts of the world, except parts of the Pacific, will be required to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival in New Zealand. This also includes Australia and French Polynesia. This self-isolation requirement applies to New Zealand citizens, permanent residents and their families (Category 1B)*
- All travellers coming from the following parts of the Pacific will be required to self-isolate if they show symptoms, within 14 days of arrival. This includes all Pacific Islands Forum members (except French Polynesia, category 1b), Associate Member Tokelau, and Observer Wallis and Futuna. (Category 2).*

Those in New Zealand thinking about traveling overseas, should avoid all non-essential travel at this time. For anyone who arrived into New Zealand prior to this time they will need to follow the previous restrictions. The self-isolation requirement would therefore only apply to those arriving on Sunday 15 March and earlier, if they had travelled in or transited through China and Iran or had travelled in the Republic of Korea or Italy.

This decision has obvious and immediate implications for any overseas trips you have planned for your school and for staff who may have personal travel planned. We are currently updating with urgency our overseas travel advice and information on staffing provisions, and will send it to you this afternoon through Special Bulletin. The new restrictions will be reviewed on Tuesday 31 March and then every 14 days after that date. There are no restrictions on freight and goods, they will continue to come in.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

We have class and individual photos next

Tuesday 24 March.

SIBLING PHOTOS-if you would like a sibling photo taken please come to the office to fill out a form. Sibling photos are also for siblings not enrolled at our school.

Early next term an order form will come home so you can order your photos online.

PTA AGM

1 April at 7pm in the staff room

Rhianna Annear has stepped down as President and we will be looking to make this appointment at our Annual General Meeting.

We would love to see new faces joining this vibrant group.

All are welcome to attend.

ZONTA HAMILTON WAIKATO
Fundraising Event to support Hamilton Zonta projects

THE BFG

By Roald Dahl
Adapted for the stage by David Wood
Directed by Lorna Ashton

Friday 20 March. Riverlea Theatre. 83 Riverlea Road, Hillcrest
Tickets can be purchased online from [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). \$25 adult \$10 child/tertiary
Show starts at 7 pm. Light supper provided

For further information e-mail: hamiltonzontaevents@gmail.com

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