

# Newsletter

23 March 2020

Number 8/20

**Kia Ora Koutou**  
**Greetings**



## COVID-19 - Coronavirus - Alert Level 2 - School Response

Over the weekend NZ has moved from Alert Level 1 to Alert level 2 COVID-19 (known as Coronavirus). There is a great deal of information and misinformation in the media etc about COVID-19. I want to reassure parents and whanau that we have no case of COVID-19 in our school. We have been planning for this and are in a position to respond quickly. As soon as a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (eg. pupil, staff member or a member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear messaging out to families. If there is a case confirmed of someone in our school, we will likely be asked to close temporarily by the Medical Officer of Health. This will allow time for close contacts to be traced, appropriate testing to be undertaken and a careful clean of the school to be completed. If our school does need to close temporarily we will support students learning at home. We know COVID-19 is a scary virus and we are very well aware that families are concerned for the well being of all our children. Please be assured that with no case confirmed in our school, your children are safe here. We have increased our level of response now that we are on level 2. For us good hygiene is a priority. We are reinforcing this daily with all our pupils and staff. We have been well advised in the Ministry of Health that practicing good hygiene is still the best thing we can all do to prevent illness.

**(1) Washing hands** - Children in ALL classrooms are required to have supervised washing of hands at 9am; before food at 10:30am and 12:30pm; upon returning to class at 1:30pm; and at 2:50pm before going home.

Children are also asked to wash hands when using the bathroom. As this is unsupervised washing teachers are encouraging washing hands in the classroom. All toilets have cakes of soap and paper towels. All classrooms have protex soap and paper towels.

**(2) Cleaning surfaces** - All desktops and backs of chairs are being rubbed down twice daily during school time and again after school by cleaners and the caretaker. Door handles and door push plates are also rubbed down. Materials

used are recommended cleaning products. Floors etc are mopped daily with high grade disinfectant.

**(3) Social Distancing** - 1.5-2 metres. We have requested parents do not enter classrooms at any time from the time of arrival to departure. Parents must sign in at reception whenever they come to school. Please follow guidelines at school office.

**We have decided to put on hold ALL parent teacher meetings.** Information can be left with office staff. Parents should wait outside classrooms on paving areas and children will meet parents there.

Morning teas are staggered - 10:20am Juniors, 10:40am Seniors. Playground supervision continues as normal.

**Certain school-community events have been cancelled:** PTA Disco, PWC presentation evening, RNFD, Production, School Cross Country (postponed).

In conclusion I would hope that all engagements between staff and parents are respectful and reflect our school's core virtue of manaakitanga. Our front of school staff do a great job and only want to help and assist families. Sadly they have experienced some verbally inappropriate rude encounters not only on the phone but at the front desk.

"Aroha mai, Aroha atu - Love and compassion received, love and compassion given."

# INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS

## Results:

### Open Medley

Brodie Wetere - 4th

### Breaststroke

#### **8yr old girls**

Brodie Wetere - 1st

Meisha Coetzer - 4th

#### **9yr old boys**

Lucas Belmar - 1st

Neko Ridling - 4th

#### **10yr old boys**

Corey Sherwood - 3rd

### Backstroke

#### **7yr old boys**

Charlie Hamer - 3rd

Jordan Osai - 5th

Jacob Liddington - 6th

#### **7yr old girls**

Madison Symon - 1st

Eva Belmar - 2nd

Ariana Retimana - 4th

#### **8yr old boys**

Drew Hards - 4th

#### **8yr old girls**

Brodie Wetere - 2nd

Meisha Coetzer - 6th

#### **9yr old boys**

Lucas Belmar - 2nd

Neko Ridling - 3rd

Jesse Houldsworth - 4th

#### **9yr old girls**

Aliyah Garnham-Richmond - 6th

#### **10yr old boys**

Corey Sherwood - 1st

Leon Gilroy - 2nd

#### **10yr old girls**

Hayley Thompson - 6th

### Freestyle

#### **7yr old boys**

Jordan Osai - 1st

#### **7yr old girls**

Madison Symon - 1st

Eva Belmar - 4th

#### **8yr old boys**

Drew Hards - 5th

#### **8yr old girls**

Brodie Wetere - 1st

Puhikura Hohipa - 3rd

#### **9yr old boys**

Lucas Belmar - 2nd

Neko Ridling - 3rd

#### **9yr old girls**

Matekino Wilson - 6th

#### **10 yr old boys**

Corey Sherwood - 1st

Leon Gilroy - 3rd

Izaiah Douthett - 5th

## Garden

Crunchy, spiky leaves above my  
head.

Petals yellow and soft growing in  
the garden.

*By Kylie Simpson, Year 3,  
Room 12*

Crackling, little, crunchy  
leaves falling from the tree.  
They smell like rotten toast.

*By Isaak Hull, Year 3, Room  
12.*

**PTA DISCO IS NOW CANCELLED**

## YEAR 4 PUKEMOKEMOKE BUSH WALK

Rooms 1 & 2 had a fantastic day out at the Pukemokemoke bush reserve on Wednesday! We had a great time hiking to the summit, looking through all the different layers of the forest and sketching leaf skeletons and other cool things we found. A massive thank you to all of our parents helpers, without you today wouldn't have been possible!



## HAND WASHING

Last Monday Room 2 did a small science experiment to show the importance of washing our hands to help keep dirt and bugs away. We used a bowl of water and sprinkled pepper over it to represent the dirt we come across every day. Then someone who had not washed their hands put their finger in the water. The pepper stuck to their finger! Next someone with hand sanitizer on their hands put their fingers into the water. The pepper quickly raced away from Sapphire's finger, keeping it nice and clean. Next Erin washed her hands with Protex soap and put her finger in the water. The pepper raced away from her finger even further, making a star like shape on the top of the water and keeping Erin's finger sparkling clean!



## PORT WAIKATO CAMP

A massive thank you to all our parent helpers at camp: Leasa Crow, Tania Anderson, Nicole Healey, Shay Noonan, Steph Mangin, Sam Owen, Edith Green, Ray Hohipa, Marcus Taupo, Julie Taupo, Kirstyn Brunton, Greg Hards, Michael Carey, Matthew Lydiard, Melanie Silcock, Tim Cross, Kerry Diamond,, Rebecca Taulu, Wharerahi Hamiora, Poi Nikau, Chris Gilroy and James Noonan. The work you carry out while on camp is immeasurable and without you this camp would not be able to go ahead. A special mention of thanks and appreciation to our 'Friends of the School' Tracy Jamieson, for putting your hand up to come on camp for 6 days and cook at a moments notice. Alan Barker, for all your hard work running back and forth, doing extra walks to ensure our safety. Russell Brunton and James Fowlie, for giving our tamariki the opportunity and experience of abseiling down Mama and Papa Bear, they always look forward to the challenge and the anticipation of this activity.

He mihi nunui teenei kia koutou e te whanau mo to koutou nei manaaki, tiaki o to matou tamariki mokopuna i runga i to matou nei haerenga ki Port Waikato.

