

Principal's Panui

Tena koutou katoa,

Over the last few days, we have been fielding questions about Covid-19 from many of our whanau who are concerned about what is happening and how it affects their tamariki/mokopuna.

The cases that have been confirmed are all linked to overseas travel. There has not been a case of community transference in New Zealand as yet. This is why large-scale events and gatherings have been cancelled or postponed. The guidance we are getting from the Ministry is that it is still safe for children to come to school and that closures will only happen on a case by case basis (as with the school in Dunedin). Students who are kept at home due to concerns about Covid-19 will be recorded as having an unjustified absence and schools are not obliged to provide learning activities in this instance. If you have an immune-compromised child, please make contact with us to discuss your situation and how we can work together.

A real concern I have is the amount of misinformation on both mainstream and social media that is drowning out the helpful and authorised information from the Ministry of Health and other government departments. Please ensure that you are getting your information from the official sources, so it is reliable.

Ministry of Health - www.health.govt.nz

Ministry of Education - www.education.govt.nz

Just a reminder of what the official advice is to protect ourselves and others from all sicknesses:

- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or flexed elbow.
- Throw the tissue into the bin immediately after use.
- Discourage physical contact eg shaking hands, greeting kisses, hongis.
- Clean your hands with liquid alcohol-based hand sanitiser OR soap and water when eating and preparing food and after sneezing, coughing, or blowing your nose, gardening, having contact with animals, going to the toilet or changing nappies, looking after sick people.

If your child is sick, please keep them home. When they are recovered, they may return to school.

You will be aware that many schools and businesses are taking measures to prepare for possible closures. Many sports organisations have also cancelled or postponed events / competitions over the last week. I have no doubt that this will continue as the country acts to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

As a kura we are preparing for the event of a school closure if it happens. The government's decisions are announced almost immediately with extremely minimal notice, we are trying to ensure that we are ready for any eventuality as best we can. We are making plans for the provision of online learning should the need arise. We are also ensuring that there is work to do for those students who do not have access to a device or the internet at home so they are not disadvantaged. **In order for our staff to prepare for this, the Board of Trustees have approved a Teacher-only Day on Friday March 27 for staff to have time to prepare for distance learning.** There will be no scheduled classes for any student on that day. We apologise for the late notice and any inconvenience this may cause whanau.

Events not happening:

- Our Year 12 Auckland trip has been postponed
- The annual Te Tai Tokerau Kapa Haka Festival has been cancelled
- All Northland Secondary Schools sports events have been cancelled / suspended including Adam Blair Rugby League
- Ki-O-Rahi Nationals have been cancelled
- The Bay of Islands Weetbix Tryathlon has been cancelled
- All school assemblies including Celebration of Excellence will no longer be running.

Events still happening:

- Year 11 whanau day trip to Takou Bay-this is only our students and is to an area with few other people
- Classes are still running as normal.
- Teacher-only Day on Friday March 27.

Please stay safe and look after each other, particularly our kaumatua/kuia.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa

College Calendar

Monday 23 March

- Year 11 Whanau Day – Takou Bay

Friday 27 March

- **Teacher Only Day – School Closed**

Wednesday 1 April

- Senior Curriculum Day (Line 5)

Thursday 9 April

- Last Day of Term 1

Tuesday 28 April

- First Day of Term 2

Horse of the Year

Year 11 student Chloe Schischka reported on her experience at the Horse of the Year: This time last week I was in Hastings competing at Horse of The Year. I competed on Tuesday and I did two jumping classes. I got sixth out of 22 ponies in both of these classes and won 2 pink ribbons.

The third jumping class of the day was called wire jump. The jumps in wire jump look like fences connected by wires. I got third in this class which I won a yellow ribbon for. I was really happy about this and was very proud of my pony, Grey.

Then on Saturday I did a showing class. A showing class is where you show the judges your horse and they judge it on how it looks and how it performs. I ended up getting 12th which didn't count for a ribbon but I don't mind cause my pony went so well and I was still very proud of her and how well she went in all the days that we competed.



Chloe Schischka riding Grey at the Horse of the Year

Senior Touch

Two Senior Touch teams represented Okaihau College at the recent Northland Secondary Schools Championships held at Lindvart Park. Some close games saw the Green team come a close runner up to Northland College in the Mixed Division with the Black team competing well. New World Kaikohe and OnePure kindly supplied the teams with water for the day.



WINNERS OF THE GEOGRAPHY GROCERY RAFFLES

Congratulations to Mary Goodhew and Christine Reilly who each won a grocery hamper! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser to raise money for Geography trips.