



Services Academy cadets at the end of Induction



PRINCIPAL'S PANUI

Kia ora koutou katoa,

First to talk about positive things. Our Services Academy has just returned from their two-week induction camp. I travelled down to Waiouru on Friday to watch the graduation parade with the cadets whānau. I was so proud of our tauira. The two weeks is both physically and mentally challenging and our cadets rose to this challenge and performed well. Our most improved cadet was John-George Barry-Merriman and top cadet was Mitchell Houia-Maki. Congratulations to all of the cadets. Our Facebook page has some great photos and videos so you can see the activities and challenges they faced over these two weeks.

On a less positive note the new coronavirus, COVID-19 is having some significant effects here at school. I have an entire page at the end of the newsletter outlining the current advice but you can be confident knowing that the school and all our staff are following our pandemic plan and our absolute focus is always on the well being and safety of our tamariki. What is really important to understand is that so far there has been no community spread of COVID-19. Our government has introduced strong measures to slow the spread of this virus such as border controls, self-isolation for at risk individuals, and a ban on events such as concerts and some sporting competitions that have more the 500 people close together.

You will see in the key dates that many sports events have been cancelled because large gatherings like these increase the risk of person to person spread of all infectious diseases, including COVID-19. We also stopped the tourist visits to the school some time ago and we will cancel whole school assemblies for the present time.

Please read the details about our school's response to COVID-19 on the last page of this newsletter and give me a call if you have any concerns or questions. The important thing to remember is that simple things like washing hands with soap, covering coughs and sneezes, and keeping students at home if they are unwell is still the best way of stopping the spread of this virus. I know some whānau are concerned about their children coming to school but there is still no community spread and our school is a safe environment and the best place for our tamariki to continue their learning.

Noho ora mai

KEY DATES

17 February – 20 March
Mobile dental service onsite for Yr 1 – 8

MARCH

- 16 Principal's assembly
- 17 Flipperball
- 18 **BOT Meeting**
- 18 Te Urewera Cluster swimming sports-CANCELLED
- 18 Waikato BOP athletics CANCELLED
- 20 BOPSS mixed touch championships CANCELLED
- 24 Flipperball
- 25 BOPSS swimming championships
- 27 GRIP Prefects leadership training
- 27 BOP Primary & Intermediate golf tournament
- 30 HPV vaccinations Y8
- 31 Flipperball

APRIL

- 7 Flipperball
- 7 **LAST DAY OF TERM 1**
- 8 CBOP swimming sports
- 8 **TEACHER ONLY DAY**

10-27 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

28 **FIRST DAY OF TERM 2**

IMPORTANT PARENT NOTICES

- Parents please send your student Dental Consent forms back to the school office ASAP.
- Please ring or come into the school office if you have any contact details that need to be updated (addresses or contact numbers) thank you.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our breakfast club has started up again! At school every morning your child can enjoy lovely weetbix. This will be available to ALL students even if they have already had breakfast at home. This will be available from 8.20am in Nīoreore and Kārangaranga. Please encourage your children to come join their friends for a positive start to the day – Learning happens best on a happy, full tummy!



Rangipō students are most welcome to come and join in with the juniors and share this time. As winter progresses, we hope to extend this into a warm drink of milo and toast. If you are wanting to come up and help with this in the mornings we would love to see you. Please come and see Marie or Jamie in Nīoreore or Ange in Kārangaranga.

SPORTS NOTICES

Duathalon

On Tuesday the 10th of March we had a group of nine kids part take in the CBOP Rats Duathlon held in Rotorua. On arrival you could see the excitement in the children's faces as they met all the participants from the others school. We had Calvin Takuira, Titus Beamsley, and Jackson Kirk do the short course which was a 500m run 3km bike ride finished with a 500m run.



Leiella Te are, Satriani Grace, Maaki Tupe, Pounamu Higgins, Becky Kirk, Jazmyn Rua were selected to do the long course which was a 1.5km run 8km bike ride finished with a 500m run everyone involved could hold their heads up high as they did the school proud and most importantly themselves.

I would like to give a big mihi to whaea Paulene Teddy for her help in taking our kids to the duathlon.



School Swimming Sports

Wednesday the 11th of March we had the school swimming sports for the Y4-Y13 students. The day was kick started with the Y4 swimmers then moved through to the Y13s.

It was good to see a lot of parents come and support all the kids doing their very best and try and qualify for the TUC swimming sports on the 18th of March.

The day was ended with Whānau group relays with the juniors starting

off with an entertaining race. The seniors followed suit with a really competitive race before they were to race again against the parents and staff relay team which was also an entertaining and competitive race. I look forward to seeing all who are involved in the upcoming TUC swimming sports.



Ngaa mihi,
Tanetiki Takuira
Sports co-ordinator

KĀRANGARANGA NEWS

This Term your Tamariki have settled amazingly well into school. They have been fortunate to be part of the Governments new Healthy Lunches scheme being provided with hearty and healthy lunches every day. There is a very noticeable, positive change in our student learning.

Learning

Our term started with students and teachers learning about Identity – (ko wai ahau), integrating oral language, writing and reading. Whānau, we cannot emphasize enough the need for ensuring your tamariki know their pepeha, this includes your tamariki knowing where their names come from, who they were named after, and how important it is for them to carry these names.



Uara draw- this recognises when our tamariki are showing our school values and rewards them for their great behaviour and learning.

Swimming instruction and Swimming sports - those tamariki who go to swimming instruction are always learning new skills. Unfortunately, there are still over 50% of our tamariki not participating. Please Whānau, encourage your tamariki to participate in all areas of sport.

Go for IT - Sports Bay of Plenty Yrs 4-6: Students are learning throwing and catching skills and quick games that can be integrated into their daily exercise routines.

We would like to welcome and encourage all parents and caregivers to visit our Hub whenever you have time. You can discuss your tamariki's learning or even to sit in with us during learning time or share a cuppa.

Nga Mihi

Whaea Kohine, Whaea Jo, Matua Muriwai, Matua Justin, Whaea Fluff, Whaea Ang, Whaea Maryanne and Whaea Lovie.

SENCO SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

I have recently been visited by services that will be available within Murupara to support our whānau, parents, caregivers, and tamariki.

If you would like more information regarding this programme please come in and see Whaea Kay, who will direct you to the people involved in the programme. You can go online and find out more at www.tripleparenting.net



We also have a SWIS team who are here to support our tamariki within the school setting, using a variety of approaches to help our tamariki settle into learning.

To support and help our tamariki and whanau with learning and behaviour in our school community I work alongside and with local stakeholders to provide the best care and programmes we can. I look forward to meeting up with parents, caregivers and whānau as we work together to provide the best opportunities for all our tamariki.

If you have any concerns regarding health, well-being, learning or behaviour involving your tamariki please feel free to contact me, Whaea Kay, SENCo (Supporting Educational Needs Co-ordinator) on 0273109305.

There are information booklets available at school to pick up and take home to read.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Please make contact with the office if your child/children will be absent from the school as soon as possible.

We are really concerned about the high percentage of students away from school. If students are not at school it has a really negative effect on their learning and their social skills. Please support us to improve attendance.

“Every day matters”

“Go Fishing” EXPERIENCE

On Tuesday 25th February 5 students had the opportunity to go on a fishing trip at Ohope Wharf as a finale to their “Go fishing” pathway to learning programme. The day was perfect, and the group was joined by five other adults. Here are some photos to show the experiences the students encountered.



My sincere thanks to Jan Gifkin who helped with the organisation of the trip and supported the students with their baiting. Also to Tania Gavigan who encouraged the children to develop a passion for their learning through the “Go Fishing” programme and the Murupara Community Board who funded the experience for these young people.



COVID-19 Update

Here at Murupara Area School we work hard to provide the best learning opportunities for all our taura. We also take the health and well-being of our students and staff really seriously.

I understand that many our community have concerns about their children attending school at the moment. There is a huge amount of information about the new coronavirus, COVID-19, in the media. Some is important and accurate and some of what is being shared is incorrect or scary. Whānau, please know that

YOU WILL BE TOLD IF THERE IS ANY SIGN OF COVID-19 AT SCHOOL

This update will give you clear information based on the latest advice from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. You can be confident that the school is receiving updates as things change and that this will be shared with whānau, staff and students as necessary. Our decisions about the daily operation of the school is based on this detailed advice.

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a type of coronavirus.

Symptoms

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a cough
- a high temperature (at least 38°C)
- shortness of breath.

These symptoms do not necessarily mean you have COVID-19. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

If you have these symptoms and have recently been to a country or area of concern, or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19, please telephone Healthline (for free) on 0800 358 5453 or your doctor immediately. **DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL** but **DO CALL US** and let us know you are worried.

How it spreads

COVID-19, like the flu, can be spread from person to person. When a person who has COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or talks, they may spread droplets containing the virus a short distance, which quickly settle on surrounding surfaces. You may get infected by the virus if you touch those surfaces or objects and then touch your mouth, nose or eyes. That's why it's really important to use good hygiene, regularly wash and thoroughly dry your hands, and use good cough etiquette.

The situation in NZ and here at Murupara Area School

Firstly, it is important to understand that, although things can change, we still have no community spread of the COVID-19 virus. This means that school closures are not yet planned. You no doubt read in the media that a student at a Dunedin school has tested positive for coronavirus yesterday. This school will be closed for 48 hours while close contacts of the student are traced and the school is carefully cleaned.

Here at Murupara Area School we are continuing to make sure the school is carefully cleaned every day and that students are taught good hygiene practices. The health authorities are really clear – there is

NO REASON THAT CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE GOING TO SCHOOL

Our school is a safe environment and the best place for our tamariki to learn. Please support us to minimise the impact on learning and if you have any worries at all ring the office and let us know so we can support you.

It is important to remember that personal hygiene, reducing unnecessary physical contact (hugs, handshakes, and hongi) are still the most important things to do to stop the spread of any virus. I have attached a poster about handwashing and the advice from our local district health board to this newsletter.

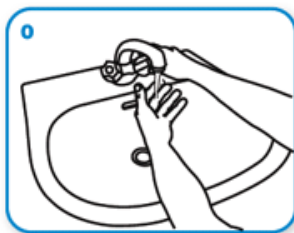
Clean hands protect against infection

Protect yourself

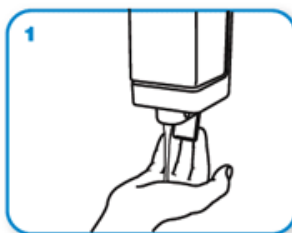
- Clean your hands regularly.
- Wash your hands with soap and water and dry them thoroughly.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitiser if you don't have immediate access to soap and water.

How do I wash my hands properly?

Washing your hands properly takes about as long as singing "Happy Birthday" twice, using the images below.



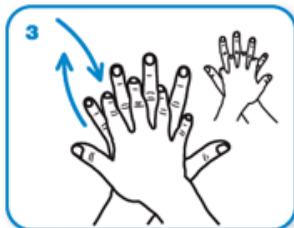
Wet hands with water



apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



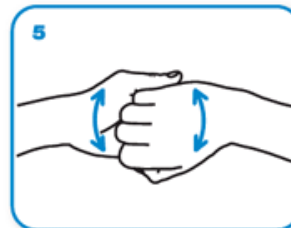
Rub hands palm to palm



right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa



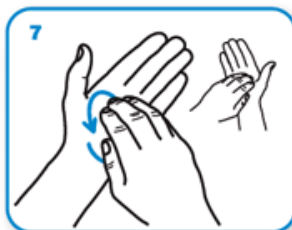
palm to palm with fingers interlaced



backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa



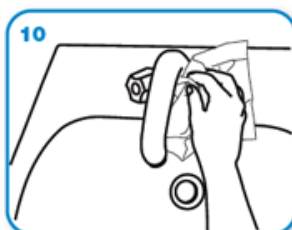
rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.



Rinse hands with water



dry thoroughly with a single use towel



use towel to turn off faucet



...and your hands are safe.

PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS AGAINST RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

(such as Influenza and COVID-19)

HANDWASHING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.
- Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds).
- Avoid close personal contact, such as handshakes, hongis, kissing.
- Practice social distancing, avoiding unnecessary contact with others. This does not mean avoiding ALL contact.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Avoid sharing cups or food with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.