

West End Te Kura Ō Mōrere Newsletter #2

Term 4 – THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2021



Dear Parents, Whānau and Caregivers, Tena koutou, e hoa ma. Nga mihi kia koutou. Greetings. We are into the month of November already meaning that there are only 6 weeks or so of the 2021 school year to run. Fingers crossed this wild and windy weather soon moves on and we have some settled fine days to maximise the use of our grounds and the related outdoor recreational and learning experiences that we can offer our tamariki.



Last week I personally contacted **Hamish Hislop** our newly appointed West End Te Kura Ō Mōrere Principal and congratulated him on his succession. By way of introduction, Hamish will be joining the staff for morning tea next Wednesday 10th November. We look forward to formally welcoming him aboard.



to our latest West End Te Kura Ō Mōrere starter and her whanau: **Armani Moore (Rm.13)**.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO AT ALERT LEVEL 2

Again, many thanks to you as parents and whanau for continuing to respect and observe our Alert Level 2 public health measures namely:

- Maintaining a 2m physical gap at 'drop-off' and 'pick-up' points outside the school site and masking up for added protection.
- Using the Contact Tracing QR codes at our school entrances.
- Minimising your onsite physical presence ensuring you are masked and filling out our Contact Tracing slips at the office entrance.
- Additionally, filling out contact tracing sheets at classroom doorways if you have had an essential reason for entering.

In recent days however, we have noted a visible decrease in the observance of these safety protocols – please do your bit to actively keep our staff and your tamariki protected.

Response to Public Health Order

We are in the process of digesting the new COVID-19 Public Health Response Order which came into effect at 11.59pm on Monday 25th October. Clearly there are implications for school life, and it is going to take some time to appreciate what all of these are. A school like ours is highly dependent on the support of parents and the community and this is something that we appreciate a great deal.

The advice that we have received from the Ministry of Education is that everyone who works or volunteers for a school who may have contact with children or students, or will be present at a time when children and students are also present, must have had a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by 15th November and be fully vaccinated by 1st January 2022.

This also applies to :

- ❖ Principals
- ❖ Teachers
- ❖ Relief teachers and casual staff
- ❖ Administration staff
- ❖ Caretakers and cleaners
- ❖ Contractors and other tradespeople
(if on site when children are around)
- ❖ Service managers
- ❖ Caregivers and other staff



It also includes unpaid workers, such as volunteers and any members of the community who are regularly on site during a time when children and students may be present. This vaccination requirement does not apply to those who are performing services remotely, or who are onsite only when children and students are not present (such as a contractor who is performing maintenance during the weekend or over a term break).

The vaccination requirements apply wherever in person schooling occurs, such as on the school site, but also at school camps, swimming pools, museums, or where other education outside the classroom (EOTC) programmes take place.

This means that we are only allowed to allow people to help at school events with children if they have had at least their first dose by 15th November and are fully vaccinated by 1st January 2022.

This will affect many parents in our community as many of you offer your support to the school as parent help, attending events, coaching, overnight camps etc. Just as we require all of our staff, volunteers and contractors to be police vetted, we will also be required to collect evidence of vaccination. We will store this information privately and will be deleted when you leave the school or when it is no longer needed to be kept. Our office staff are happy to receive proof of vaccination at any time. One easy and quick way to provide proof of vaccination is to get a vaccination statement emailed to you from MY COVID RECORD.

The requirements do not apply to people who are just visiting the school such as for 'drop off' and 'pick-up' purposes, a learning conference/parent-teacher interview or meeting, or a parent, whānau and community evening. I realise that there will be plenty of questions, and it is likely that we will not have answers right away. All schools are in the same boat and working through various situations and scenarios.

This is a difficult time for us all and we are heartened by your support and understanding through all of these challenges. Thanks very much for your understanding and support. Ngā mihi, Mike



PARIHAKA – 5TH NOVEMBER CELEBRATION FOR NEW ZEALANDERS



This Friday – tomorrow – we are hoping to have our Buddy Classes combine with one another to share the key messages and events of the Parihaka story. Weather permitting, we will come together to further share in Karakia and Waiata.

Why do we celebrate Parihaka Day?

The festival aims to teach children some of the values and principles taught at Parihaka including anger management, conflict resolution as well as autonomy and self-sufficiency.

What does the White Feather mean in Parihaka?

This symbol is captured in the form of a white feather, or a plume of white feathers.

Te Raukura represents **spiritual, physical and communal harmony and unity.**

This feather became the Raukura, and was honoured by Tohu Kakahi and Te Whiti-o-Rongomai, two of the prophetic leaders of Parihaka and its community.

We are seeking the support of individuals within our school whānau that could help out when we require Kai Karanga for Powhiri. This is usually once or twice a year and it would be great to have your āwhi with this. If this could be you, please email me at carrienne@westendnp.school.nz. Thanks Carri-Anne Stone

2022 NON RETURNING STUDENTS

For our forward 2022 school planning, it would be appreciated if the office personnel could be informed of any non- returning students and families outside of our Year 6's.

2021 SCHOOL / COMMUNITY EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 8th Fundraising & Social Committee Meeting – 7.00pm in the staffroom
- 9th Year 3 – 6 Dryland Water Safety Skills training
- 24th 2022 Devon Intermediate Orientation Day : 11.00am - 2.00pm
- 25th School Hangi for our tamariki and staff



DECEMBER

- 1st Board Meeting, 5.30pm
- 9th End of Year Reports home

14th Midday finish for 2021 School Year

Ngā mihi

Mike Clarke, Principal



NB. For your 2022 diaries, Term 1, day 1 (2022) for our tamariki is MONDAY 31ST January.

