



UPDATE

School Notices

10 March 2020

Dear Parents and Whānau,

Enabling all our Year 8 students to experience leadership opportunities is a key focus at our school. On Friday we announced our Year 8 Leadership roles for 2020. I emphasised to our students that effective leadership is not just about one person. It is impossible to be an effective leader without having a superb team who work collaboratively towards the school's goals. I know our Year 8 students will work together to provide exciting and fun activities for the school across the year and strive to model our school values at all times. On March 31st our Year 8 students will attend the GRIP Leadership Conference to learn more about developing their skills to fulfil their leadership responsibilities. Our school leaders for the year are:

House Leaders	Zoe – Red House Fynn –Green House Haley-Blue House
Deputy House Leaders	Jack – Red House Finn R –Green House River-Blue House
Sports Leaders	Ella –Red House Alistair-Green House Finn VK –Blue House
Co-Student Leaders	Bradán, Bethany
Arts Captain	Charlie
Deputy Arts Captain	River

As many of you will be aware that three of the four cases of COVID-19 confirmed in New Zealand have had links to four school communities. I appreciate this could be unsettling for some of you so wanted to provide you with an update based on the latest information from the Ministry of Education.

It was very reassuring to read the information from the Auckland Regional Public Health Service that the children in these families are not showing any symptoms of COVID-19 and are doing well. Because the children continue to not show any symptoms, they were not infectious when they were at school and the Ministry of Health is confident there is no risk for the students and staff in those schools.

You may also be interested to know that research published by the World Health Organisation notes that children and young people under 18 account for only 2.4% of all reported cases of COVID-19. This means we are unlikely to see widespread cases in schools and early learning services in New Zealand.

The Ministry of Health's current advice is that with continued vigilance, the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low. So we all have a role here to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

Our school staff and leadership remain well prepared for the possibility there might be a case in our community. If that were to occur we are confident we can put our plans in place and know we will be supported by regional health authorities and the Ministry of Education.

I am sure you are all keen to do what you can to prevent risk of infection. The best preventative steps are:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid sharing anything that has come in contact with saliva, whether in your living or social environments
- stay home when you are sick and seek medical attention
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the rubbish and wash hands
- get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system

If you want to know more about COVID-19 please make sure that any reading you are doing is from a reliable source. The Ministry of Health is the best source of information for New Zealand and they update this information regularly - <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus> A reminder that anyone who is ill should not be attending school. The COVID-19 symptoms are a fever, coughing and difficulty breathing. If anyone has these symptoms and has recently been to a country or area of concern, or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19, please encourage them to contact Healthline (for free) on 0800 358 5453 (or +64 9 358 5453 for international SIMs) or their doctor immediately.

This week on Friday we are looking forward to our swimming team competing in the South West Zone Competition at Jelly Park. Good luck to all our competitors and a huge thank you to Diane Sowerby who is helping organise this event on behalf of the school.

Nga mihi nui ~ Kind regards,

Judy Cooke
Tumuaki ~ Principal

School Notices

Calendar

March

Wednesday 11th	Superkai
Friday 13th	Zone Swimming Sports
Wednesday 18th	Ranfurly Shield Visit and Superkai
Monday 23rd	Primary Schools Duathlon—optional Yr 5-8
Wednesday 25th	Superkai
Tuesday 31st	Year 8 Grip Leadership
Wednesday 1st	Superkai



April

Wednesday 8th	Superkai
Wed 8th—Thur 9th	Year 1-3 Cycle Learning Conferences, 3.00pm—5.00pm. You will be emailed if this involves your child this term.
Thursday 9th	End of Term Assembly, 9.30am , Community Centre
Friday 10th	Good Friday—School Closed for Autumn Holiday's

Assembly Certificates

Congratulations to the following students who received certificates in Assembly last week.

Tui	Ashton, Heidi, Zoey and Murdoch
Kereru	Sienna, Zak, Kate and Zoe



Korimako and Piwakawaka certificates were not given out last week as both the teachers were away. These will be given out at the next assembly.

PTA

Save the date for the Governors Bay Fete, Sunday 29th March at the Allandale Domain. The PTA will be holding a stall to raise funds. More information in the next week or so.

Community Dental Van

The Community Dental Van will be visiting Governors Bay School in Term 2 this year. Information regarding this will be sent out closer to the time.

Piwakawaka Camp

The Year 4 and 5 two day camp to Wainui YMCA was a resounding success. Students and parents had the opportunity to stretch their physical skills with some challenging outdoor activities. Team building, self reliance and perseverance featured highly as we tackled coasteering, double kayaking, zip lining and the low ropes course. The virtual campfire (due to the total fire ban!) in the evening, complete with “s’mores”, kept us entertained. The silly songs, jokes and scary stories told and performed by our students and the instructors were brilliant! Many many thanks to all who made this camp so enjoyable for all. It has given an outstanding opportunity for personal growth and development, which is so important for our youngsters.

