

Bruce McLaren Intermediate School

COVID-19 Update – 6 April 2020

Kia ora koutou katoa

As promised, I am checking in at the beginning of the new week. A new week of Level 4 Alert/Lockdown. A new week of being in our bubbles – with our whanau where possible. A new week of isolation. Life as we know it has changed.

I managed to go for a 'grocery shop' yesterday. Decked out in gloves, mask and a smile, I grabbed the trolley the supermarket worker had just finished sanitizing, thanked her and headed for the entrance. Whoa up!! "Excuse me, the queue is that way". I smiled, turned, and realized how VERY optimistic I had been, thinking I would just waltz on in, to the supermarket. Two metres between potential shoppers, saw me get my 10,000 steps completed to get to the back of the queue. Two hours later I had my groceries. Well, time was on my side and it is not often we get to say that! I had no plane to catch, no train to catch, no meeting to attend, nowhere to be ... just back in my bubble.

I am sure many of you have experienced this - however, this was my maiden voyage, venturing out on an essential shop in these times!

With the Level 4 Alert/Lockdown, no-one is able to enter the school. Therefore, there will be no distribution of a chromebook to any student who maybe in need of a device (and these have been locked away, housed off site).



65 packs of learning were posted today to students who informed teaching staff that they did not have a device and/or access to the internet. These packs have been put together with a great deal of thought and mahi, in the hope that our students will continue to enjoy their learning journey while they are at home. The Ministry of Education is looking at overcoming this inequity, where a few students do not have access to the internet or a device. NCEA students will take priority. This is work that is being undertaken as you read this. I have provided data/programmes/information to the MOE to ensure there is support for all of our students' learning.

WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL – HOME LEARNING ONLINE:

STUDENTS MUST CHECK THEIR SCHOOL EMAILS to initiate 'home learning'. Teachers have set tasks on google classroom and SeeSaw. Programmes that will be used most often will be: Education Perfect, Language Nut, & Maths Buddy. All students have logins for these programmes. Other

learning support programmes are: Learning Staircase and Rainbow Reading. Students on these programmes have their logins also.

Learning at home, under these circumstances, is not the same as learning at school – we all know this. Learning is about relationships. With a strong, positive relationship, based on trust and mutual respect, between the learner and teacher – great learning happens. Learning at school and at home MUST be fun. With the right attitude and approach nothing is insurmountable. Home, school and student, working in partnership, will definitely ensure your child – our student achieves.

Mental health and wellbeing is at the forefront of our approach in the upcoming weeks of term time, for all involved – teachers will be checking in to see how our students are, whether through google classroom or SeeSaw or by phone. However, before we embark on this time, we have the Easter break to look ahead to.

May everyone be safe at home. Aroha to our students, parents, whanau and school community.

A HUMUNGOUS THANK YOU TO OUR FRONTLINE/ESSENTIAL WORKERS FOR LOOKING OUT FOR US AND LOOKING AFTER US.

HAPPY EASTER.

Nga mihi

Liz Wood – Principal
Bruce McLaren Intermediate School