

Bruce McLaren Intermediate School

Principal's Update: 11 October 2020

Dear parent/caregiver/whanau of Bruce McLaren Intermediate School.

I hope the term break has been a positive time for you.

Thank you for your ongoing support, as we continue to unite against COVID-19.

Our move down to Alert Level 1 this week provides all of us with certainty that it is safe for all students and young people to physically attend school. If your child/ren are returning to classes for the first time in a while, they will be excited to see their friends and teachers, and our teachers will look after them if they are a little anxious.

Your child/ren's learning, health and wellbeing is important to us – and we can't wait to see them next week. It will also be good for them to get back into a more normal routine.

Regularly attending school really matters for your child/ren's future and I am happy to talk about any challenges you have or any feelings of anxiousness in ensuring your child/ren are back at school for the start of Term 4.

I assure you we will continue to follow all appropriate health measures at school including maintaining cleaning and disinfecting practices and encouraging good hygiene standards. We will also continue to remind people to stay home if they are unwell and to seek medical advice.

We look forward to greeting our students and making them feel safe and welcome within our wider school whānau.

Thank you for being part of our school community and giving us the opportunity to teach and look after your child/ren.

Please be aware that our term is packed with amazing learning, sports, cultural and academic events and activities. There is Pink Shirt Day on Friday – gold coin donation; Athletics Day at Douglas Track and Field; Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Netball, 7s Rugby, Touch Rugby and Fiafia night – to name a few! Our students and staff will be immersed in the "Covid Compressed Term" of Term 4.

A **new access to school for our students** is through the walkway from Hindmarsh Street. This will be open from 8:10am to 8:30am and again from 3pm to 3:10pm. Students accessing this walkway will not have to walk along Bruce McLaren Road. This is another great safety measure that BMIS has put in place to ensure the safety of our students. And this is another place where parents and whanau can safely pick up and drop off children.

Due to the increase in roll growth there have been developments at school over the Term Break. With more students we have more staff and the **carparks inside the school gates are dedicated to the staff** – electronic gates have been installed.

Projects have been underway over the last fortnight. New entrances for visitors have been developed with new concrete walkways to the front office through the visitor entrance gates; painting out of the aubergine and blue in the Admin area to white and grey; concreting of Bay 1; concreting of a soggy bog outside the iHub has been completed providing space for a volleyball court and playing area; planting of 80 Lilly Pilly along the boundary; painting of Arohunui base; new furniture for rooms 1, 4, 5, and 8 (now we have new furniture in all classrooms); gardens around the school have been redesigned; landscaping of the dreary frontage has enhanced the school's appearance incredibly and visitors will now know where our front office is – and that is to name a few of the projects.

All projects have had our students' learning and wellbeing at the forefront.

The frontage represents our amazing coast and coastline, our Opunuku history and our school values. The 'papaya' colour on the school entrance represents the colour of the cars Bruce McLaren won international events in. Everything we do anchors us to Bruce, an incredible Kiwi focused on innovation hence our vision: DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Nga mihi

Liz Wood - Principal