

Bruce McLaren Intermediate School

Principal's Update: 17 September 2021

For Bruce McLaren Intermediate School Parents and Caregivers

Kia ora koutou katoa

ALERT LEVEL 4 to ALERT LEVEL 3

In this time of uncertainty, and the need for our nation's collective effort, I thought this whakatauki was pertinent.

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi,
Engari, he toa takitini.
*Success is not the work of one,
But the work of many.*

The quick move to Alert Level 4, high volumes of testing for COVID in the community, extensive wastewater testing, huge numbers of New Zealanders being vaccinated and an amazing response by Aucklanders to follow the rules at Alert level 4, has given Government confidence that we might move to Alert Level 3 on Wednesday next week. Until then, we remain at Alert Level 4.

When we do move to Alert Level 3, you legally must stay within your household bubble unless for essential personal movement.

All going well, BMIS will be open on Wednesday next week, for only the small number of children who need to attend because they will not have an adult in the home to supervise them. As you know, Alert Level 3 is not school as we know it. However, for the few students who need to be at school in Alert Level 3, all our usual safety precautions for Alert Level 3 will be in place which include following all the recommendations from the public health experts.

This means we will regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and cover their coughs and sneezes, and keep everyone physically distanced from others as much as possible (one metre inside and two metres outside). We will also keep school bubbles to a minimum. These bubbles will not mix with other bubbles.

Our contact tracing systems will be in place, which includes our attendance register and visitor register, and we will be limiting staff onsite, with the majority of our team managing their bubbles and continuing to try to work from home.

At Alert Level 3, the MOH has stated **it is not mandatory to wear face coverings in schools.**

In schools there is an extensive range of mitigating measures that will help to prevent spread of illness, including COVID-19. These include:

- staying home if you are unwell and seeking advice about getting tested
- maintaining good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette
- keeping groups very small in a bubble and well-separated from other groups
- keeping physically distanced as much as practicable
- keeping classrooms well ventilated
- maintaining a two-metre distance from others when outside
- well-established record keeping.

Importantly, at Alert Level 3 there is a lower risk that COVID-19 is in the community than at Alert Level 4.

None of this, however, prevents anyone from choosing to wear a face covering. If someone does want to wear a face covering, including in their school bubble, we encourage you to read the [guidance about how to use a face mask](#) safely on the Ministry of Health website.

You can also assist everyone's safety by keeping your child at home if they are feeling unwell and please do contact your GP or Healthline, to seek advice about getting tested.

We will continue to support all children who remain learning from home, through our distance/home learning programme.

While we know how difficult it is trying to work from home as well as support your child's learning, please keep your child at home if there is an appropriate carer available. For those of you with no other option, we will look forward to seeing your child at school next week. The [flowchart provides information for school attendance in Alert Level 3](#).

To support the planning and preparation for accepting a BMIS student safely to our school site - YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR ATTENDANCE IN ALERT LEVEL 3 – by emailing Nicki at admin@brucemclaren.school.nz

We should be proud of how we have responded to this outbreak, but the mahi isn't yet done. As you have been doing, please continue to follow all the alert level requirements at Alert Level 4 and stay at home. It is the best tool we have to keep our whānau and community safe.

BMIS TEACHING & LEARNING

Rā toru tekau mā tahi. Day 31. BMIS is on track and winning (just as Team McLaren F1 did at Monza at the weekend – 1st and 2nd on the podium)! Another amazing week has been implemented at BMIS. Student engagement is being monitored and remains high. Thank you to parents and whanau who are checking in on learning. Kia kaha tonu rā!
Keep up the great effort!

Our distance/home learning has encapsulated all NZ Curriculum learning areas. Te Wiki o te Reo Maori has certainly strengthened our semester concept of Globalization. With so many Maori superstars providing personal access to our students, interviews, competitions, waiata, whakatauki, Kapa Haka, kanikani, learning platforms, participating in a national event, history, geography, access to art galleries and museums, virtual tours of marae, Te Reo and Tikanga experiences, Maori TV, Taringa podcasts, to name a few of the learning events and activities, our students and staff have been able to enhance their Te Ao Maori learning journeys.

Due to the many constant interruptions to date and with future uncertainty, it is important that BMIS does not wait any longer in announcing Head Girl and Head Boy. This decision was extremely difficult with many of our students showing such strong leadership. This difficult and complex decision was made with staff and student voice and was to be announced the week the nation was sent into Alert Level 4 Lockdown. BMIS wishes to congratulate **Maiya Simpson** and **Lewis Boltman**. Rawe!

Year 7 Camp & Year 8 Off Site Experience Refunds are being addressed as it could be some time before all staff are able to return to the school site. Please watch out for an email being sent to you – a google form is to be completed for a refund to be progressed and then processed.

Keep the family favourite recipes and pictures coming in for our BMIS Culinary Cookbook.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Miss Ah Chong is putting together a community challenge. Yes, it is for ALL OF US to get involved. Ask your child what this is. We look forward to seeing some great whanau moves and grooves. Get everyone involved – even include your pets. Boogie on down in your bubble! Bring it on!

WELLBEING – HAUROA is the priority for every bubble. Look out for each other, look after each other. Do not hesitate to contact me or your child's class teacher if you have any questions, queries, thoughts or wonderings. He waka eke noa – we are all in this together.

So, if you are feeling discombobulated, tired and hiamoe, know that in our BMIS community you are courageous, appreciated and legends!

We look forward to the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday. Have a positive weekend.

Stay safe, stay warm, stay well and stay at home.

Kia kaha. Kia maia. Kia manawanui.

Ngā mihi

Liz Wood – Principal