



School Newsletter

Week 6 Term 3

August 29th 2019

The 6 local principals met with 2 Christchurch colleagues on Monday to talk about a model of collaboration a group of schools have been using since the Christchurch earthquake. The Newlands principals and staff have been developing a model of working together for the past 2 years and enjoyed the opportunity to hear how a similar model has worked for others. Our cluster is called Te Korowai o Horokiwi – describing a cloak that envelops us all. Quite often appropriate on those misty days up here in the hills. We hope to roll out our first cluster initiative next year centred on music.

Anxiety

The Listener magazine published an article a couple of weeks ago about anxiety and pressure on teens. I have given a copy of the article to the teachers but thought it might be useful or interesting reading for parents.

<https://www.noted.co.nz/currently/currently-social-issues/anxious-why-kids-need-to-know-its-ok-to-be-average>

We are increasingly concerned about the number of students who appear to be stressed and anxious, especially at the start of the year. We are going to try something new in 2020 – **Getting Connected Days**. These will occur a couple of days before school begins next year – one for year 7 and one for year 8. We hope having a meeting with the teacher and spending some quiet time in school before the year begins will reduce the anxiety levels. More information on these days, planned for the 27th and 28th of January, will follow next term.

We have been made aware of a new App called qustodio. This App gives parents control and overview of their child's digital "life". It may be worth a look. Thanks to the parents who brought this to our attention.

Band Quest

Last week our band took part in Band Quest in Lower Hutt. It's a great event for introducing young musicians to performing in front of an audience, other than their peers.

Sport update

Last week we ran the annual Inter-intermediate netball tournament. It was held in the ASB sports complex in Kilbirnie. Our year 7 team finished 4th while our year 8 teams finished further down the field this year. This tournament serves as a warm up to AIMS Games in Tauranga so the coaches appreciated the opportunity to test skills and strategies before the big event.

Sexuality Education

We have followed the recommendations of the Ministry of Education and the Education Review Office and adopted the Sexuality Education learning resource developed the Family Planning Association. It has always formed the basis of what we have taught but we have now opted for the updated, more in-depth resource. A link to the resource is on our website under Newsletters.

This programme begins next week. Please email your class teacher if you would like your child withdrawn from this programme. An alternative programme based on health and nutrition will be provided by the leadership team who will be the only teaching staff free during these times.

The Student Bathrooms

This term has seen a spate of wilful, wanton vandalism and damage in our student bathrooms. Up to 3 times a week the toilets are blocked with food, paper and even uniform items. On some days entire rolls of toilet paper are used to block sinks and cover floors and walls. The cubicle walls are breaking and the toilet seats are broken every week as students climb from cubicle to cubicle.

We have tried many approaches to remedy this behaviour – including toilet passes, teachers patrolling and staff doing duty outside the bathrooms in an effort to moderate behaviour. The plumbers have visited most weeks and the drains are being checked again today. I suspect there are just a few students responsible for this but if the damage continues and the toilets become unusable we may have to make other bathroom arrangements.

Enrolments for 2020

Please note that only year 6 students from our contributing schools need to enrol for 2020. The current year 7 students will automatically be enrolled as year 8s as at January 1st next year.

A Change to the Calendar

We are over-committed with performances in week 9 so we have decided to move our performance evening to Thursday 26th in week 10.

Coming up

- NIWA Science fair for science extension students Thursday August 29th
- Sexuality Education in weeks 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Angela Lowe

Principal

Calendar of Events

Enrolment date for 2020 for year 6 students from contributing schools	Friday August 30th
AIMS Games	Monday 9 th to Friday 13 th September
BOT	Thursday September 12 th 7pm
Newlands Kapahaka Festival	Thursday September 19 th
Celebration of Learning Evening	Thursday September 26 th 7 – 8.30 Please note change here
Kapahaka Festival Brandon Intermediate	Friday September 20th

St Brigid's Kapahaka Festival	Saturday September 21st
Science Roadshow	Monday September 23 rd to Wednesday September 25th
Inter-intermediate Boys' Basketball	Wednesday September 25 th
Inter-intermediate Girls' Basketball	Thursday September 26th
End of term assembly	Friday September 27 th 2pm

Notices

Please check out our website for more details about community events

Kapai Klub - Supervised After School Car
 Bus Network Review Request
 Johnsonville Softball Club
 Office Manager Vacancy
 Engagement in your community/workshop
 International Springboard Diving at Kilbirnie Pool
 Kelly Sports Summer Series Football and Netball Competition
 German School Wellington
 Mogmusic Private Tuition
 Ladies - Transformation Challenge
 Artageous Kids Programme
 CodeCamp Holidays
 School Holiday Computer Classes