



KAURI FLATS

Unrelenting curiosity for learning



Term 3 Communication 02/11/2018

Kia Ora Parents/Caregivers

A warm welcome back to Term 4. As we fast approach the Christmas break with only 53 days until the day itself we have many things to look forward to. In this communication you will find the breakdown of the important term dates.

Although, in many schools' term 4 is a time of just testing and students doing 'busy work' to keep them occupied so the teacher is able to test, that doesn't happen here due to the creativity of our curriculum. Yes, students are tested, but this happens continuously and daily not just at check points. You are able to see this through Linc-Ed and the goal setting and progressions of your children. For us, learning is business as usual and there are no interruptions to student learning as we ensure our teachers provide purposeful learning experiences right up to the last day of term.

NZEI Teachers Strike

As you will all be aware, the Teachers Union and their members have opted to take further strike action on Monday 12 November and whilst we wholeheartedly support this the school will be open as it was in August for **supervision only**. Therefore, if you would like to keep your children home on this day it will in no way affect their attendance. The school is only able to open for supervision only as there are a limited number of non-union members in the school who are able to be on site during the strike. Updates will continue throughout next week to keep you all in the communication loop.

Throughout the term and mainly over the Christmas break the school website will undertake a large overhaul with a parent portal added. This area is exclusively to our parent community and will have useful online learning links, policy and procedure information as well as the school charter. We will continue to use Linc-Ed and ensure its use continues to grow.

Linc-Ed

As we continue to grow, so too does our student management system. All parents have access to this and are able to track achievement, goal setting, attendance, uploads of learning (*currently being developed across the school*) and TREC. You are also able to comment on learning so your children can see. We also use Linc-Ed to communicate all notices home. Our website has a introductory video that takes parents through Linc-Ed and it's use – a how to guide. It also has links for first time users as well as how to reset passwords if you misplace yours.

Student Conferences and Anniversary Reporting

From Term 4 and due to the developments of Linc-Ed reporting becomes online. As our parents are exposed to constant achievement information for your children the twice a year report is a pretty redundant and dated feature of schools. We will still hold student conferences (face to face meetings) but teachers will report on:

- Strengths
- Attitudes and/or efforts towards different areas of the curriculum
- UC4L progress
- Social development
- Behaviour

- Personal development goals that you may be working on with the student in base (*these are goals generally related to the Key Competencies, TREC, and the Core Values*).

As well as reading, writing and math achievements which is visible throughout the term.

For our students in Years 4-8 teachers will contact you to arrange a suitable time to meet and discuss the above. Rather than have a two evening conference, teachers have a two-week window. This means they are not constrained by time and you are given more than 10 minutes to speak with your child's teacher.

This format is the same for students in Year 0-3, although due to Anniversary Reporting, this happens at the 1, 2 or 3 year Anniversary of your child starting school in New Zealand.

Year 4-8 Student Conferences:

Monday 3 December – Friday 14 December

Uniform

From Monday we will be clamping down on incorrect uniform and school hats. From Monday, no hat will mean students will need to stay in shaded areas on the deck due to the strength of the sun as we are close to summer. If your child's school hat is lost, a new one can be purchased from the office for \$10.

Should your child be wearing any form of incorrect uniform a note, email or phone call to school must be provided.

Uniform checks begin on Monday.

**some exceptions may be made for year 8 students who leave for High School in 6 weeks. This is at the discretion of the Principal.*

School Opening

We are now finalizing invites and events for the school opening on Friday 14 December. The formalities begin at 9am and finish no later than 10:30am. From here a number of events and activities will take place around the school. We want the day to be a celebration for our community and students as we know how long and painful it was to get into the school with delays and hold ups. It would be great if all of our parents could attend on this day.

Business Enterprise Fortnight

In the coming weeks all of our students will become young entrepreneurs. Students will bring all of their learning together to plan, design, make, market and sell a product. This results in the Kauri Flats Business Market on Friday 30 November. More information on this will follow in the weeks to come.

Nits

We're still in the funny season where nits can be a bit of a problem in schools. Thank you to all parents and caregivers who are checking their children's hair for nits.

Please can we all make sure that we are checking hair twice a week for nits as they can spread very quickly during the spring season. Should you find any eggs/nits in your child's hair please inform your child's teacher. Thank you all in advance for this and for your diligence.

Road Safety

We are finally making progress with Auckland Transport with regards to a crossing and walkway from the school to Pulman Park. Unfortunately, progress is slow due to the many housing developments happening around the school and the infrastructure installations happening. I am awaiting a timeframe for a walkway and as soon as this is built our walking bus can resume once more. In the meantime, it is advised that no parents walk their children along Walters Road as this is a dangerous uneven surface. If there is no other option than to walk, please do not walk close to or on the road. Cars travelling at 70kmph will not stop in time to save lives.

Term 4 Important Dates

- 6 November - Primary Tag Tournament (Years 5-6)
- 13 November - Year 5/6 Athletics Multisport event
- 19 - 30 November - Business Enterprise Fortnight
- 20 November - Base Photos
- 30 November - Business Enterprise Market Day
- 3 - 14 December - EOY reporting meetings (Years 4-8)
- 5 December - Rugby exchange vs Opaheke (Girls Rugby 7's)
- 14 December - School opening
- 18 December - Base fun days (*dates may change for each base*)
- 19 December - Prize Giving
- 19 December - last day of term

Have a wonderful weekend and please ensure that all children are safe around any fireworks events you may be attending/having with Guy Fawkes Night approaching as well as keeping pets indoors away from the noise.

Matt Williams
Principal