

Tuesday 19 May 2020

Kia ora, hello, namaste, ni hao, chum reap suor, wai



What an absolute pleasure it was to see so many of our students back yesterday. So many of them were so excited to be back and to see their friends again. Many of the parents dropping students off were also very pleased! There was a very small group of students who were a bit anxious but as soon as they saw their friends or got into class they were back into the swing of things again very quickly. Visiting the classes, it has been great to see happy students reconnecting with their friends and classmates and enjoying being back at school. This has been a challenging time but the students are showing amazing resilience.

Our programmes for the next few weeks will focus on rebuilding relationships and connections with classmates. As the students have been away for so long, we will also re-establish classroom routines and expectations. Young brains crave order and routine and this is an important time to reset so we can make learning gains during the second half of the year. The other focus will be on student wellbeing. Allowing our students to process and share their experiences while building positivity, gratefulness and having a growth mindset is going to be very important to help them bounce back. These are lofty challenges but our school value of *Tu Maia – Standing Brave* is a perfect fit at this time. It is an important time for our students, the academic success we have over the rest of the year will be dependent on how well we transition our students back to school. Students who miss this time of resetting and reconnecting will be at a significant disadvantage. We are doing everything we can to keep our students safe during this time.

Thank you to all our families for helping us by following the return to school plans. We know some of you were anxious about returning your children to school but they have done a great job over the first couple of days. We very much appreciate parents staying offsite when they can. This is an opportunity to develop the students' independence and self-management skills. It is such an odd feeling not to see and talk to our parents and families at school in the morning and for afternoon pick up, but we thank you for your support and we will get our community back as soon as it is safe. Early reports from the first couple of days have been that the students are settling back into school well and we are genuinely grateful to our community for all their efforts during the isolation. We certainly appreciate that juggling family, distance learning and the uncertainty of this challenging time was not easy. Well done – you have done a great job.

We have set up a wall display in the office sharing all the amazing photos our students and community have sent in with their distance learning. Unfortunately, with the office being closed not many people can see it at the moment. There has been so much creativity and hands on learning during isolation. We are amazed by all the fantastic things the students have done and experienced during this time.

We feel very privileged to have been working alongside you over the past seven weeks and have appreciated being in your homes. It was very different for our staff having so many adults involved in their lessons. The staff



are very grateful for the uplifting feedback you have given us - it really helped to keep our team buoyant as they faced the challenges of distance learning and looking after their own bubbles. We have never had a living partnership in learning like we have had during this time and the connection is something we would like to keep working on as we move forward.

We know that, although we are moving towards a new normal, some of our community will be continuing to face the challenges that this pandemic has created. Please keep in contact and let us know if we can help.

Tuckshop Specials...This week:

Chicken Burger \$4

Chicken Burger & Chips \$6

Chocolate Crunchie Bar Slice \$2

Thanks for supporting the Tuckshop.

Thank you and welcome back.

*Conrad Hailes
Principal*

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

The Public Health Nurse service is available to all families for any health related referrals. We will aim to deliver a contactless service where possible.

If face to face is required, we have strict processes to follow to ensure that all involved stay safe. Referrals can be made via your classroom teacher or as a self-referral.

If unsure whether to refer to our service, please contact your PHN Sharee on 027 495 1999.

Fulton Swim School

is located at 2A
Sunley Street,
Westown - private
indoor heated



facility, small teaching groups and a structured program that encourages improvement, fun and safety while learning the life skill of swimming. Swimming is an amazing life skill to learn, and we recommend all parents consider the gift of allowing their child to learn how to swim. To find out more, [click here](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 2 2020

MAY

Mon 18 School open to all students

Wed 27 Kapa haka begins

Thur 28 Technology begins Y7/8

Fri 29 Life Education Bus begins

JUNE

Mon 1 Queen's Birthday
– SCHOOL CLOSED

Tues 2 New Entrants' Visit 2-3pm

Dates for school events are also located on the School Calendar on our website.