

CENTENNIAL PARK SCHOOL

“ Live Truly”

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PRINCIPAL:

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19th March 2020

Re: Update on COVID – 19 and the next steps at Te Kura Rautau

Kia ora e te whanau,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank our community for understanding how we are currently working through the **COVID-19** (Corona-virus) outbreak.

We will update our School website regularly so whanau can access information as it comes to hand. Most of this information comes from the Ministry of Education and Dept. of Health.

At this stage, we expect all students if they are fit and are not limited in what they can do, to be at School. Your tamariki will let you know when they are starting to feel unwell and at this time of the year with changes from summer to autumn, we expect a few bugs to be picked up and a few sniffles and colds to occur. If your child does feel unwell, please keep them home and have them checked out by a doctor if you need to. We are however wanting to take as much care as possible for not only our tamariki but staff and those community members in the kura on a regular basis.

I want to inform our whanau of our next steps in preparation of a possible outbreak of **COVID-19** in or around the kura and in a worst case scenario the effect of a closure to the School for a period of time.

We want to provide information to whanau so they are informed and we will endeavour to do our best to utilise our resources and networks so tamariki can continue to learn.

We appreciate some whanau having immediate concerns and may wish to self-isolate as a whanau so please work with your child's kaiako to ensure they have enough work to do. It would be disappointing to hear that being in isolation throughout this time meant tamariki were not staying at home and were wandering or down at the water hole.

We thank you for your support whanau and encourage you to continue talking to us so we are up to date with your actions. Our procedures are to contact whanau if a child is away, so if we are informed or contacted by you that makes our job much easier to manage. Thank you to those whanau who already contact us.

Suggestions for support for those in isolation

Seniors (Yr 5-8) If your child has access to a device like a chromebook, some tasks will be done through the internet and online. This will only apply to some tamariki as there are limits on who has a device or internet access. We will work with whanau to negotiate our way through this challenge if your child does not have a device. Others will have mahi kāinga (homework) packs containing tasks and activities.

Juniors (Yr 1-4) Your child's kaiako will have a mahi kāinga (homework) pack which will contain a number of tasks or activities. These may include worksheets, games, challenges

All paper tasks or activities of mahi kāinga must be held by whanau and returned to kura when either the all clear is given, or dropped off at a predesignated place.

Ministry of Education Latest Update

A few days ago, the Secretary for Education sent out a **COVID-19** update, (16 March). Some of the key messages were:

- ❖ School camps are not an option at the moment unless you are confident you can meet the four additional **COVID-19** considerations outlined by the Secretary.
- ❖ Avoid school assemblies and travel for sporting and cultural events, where students are in close proximity for over 15 minutes.

This is yesterday's notice from the Ministry of Education. It will be posted onto our School website: www.centennialpark.school.nz

COVID-19 update 18 March (from the Ministry of Education)

The Ministry of Health's Director-General has confirmed a case of **COVID-19** in a Dunedin school following a student testing positive for coronavirus.

On advice from the Southern District Health Board the school will now remain closed until Tuesday (Monday being Otago Anniversary Day). Close contacts have been identified and are being tested for the virus

The Ministries of Education and Health are working closely with Public Health services in Dunedin and the school leadership to help minimise disruption, progress contact tracing and reduce the possibility of spread.

Reminder – schools remain open

At this stage, we are not expecting widespread school closures. We are planning for temporary closures, like what is happening at Logan Park School but as the World Health Organisation has confirmed, the risk to children remains low and parents should continue to send their kids to schools and early learning centres.

Consequently any decisions about school closures will be made on a case by case basis. In the meantime, unless students are unwell themselves, then parents should keep sending them to schools and early learning centres as these environments continue to be safe and the best place for them to continue their learning.

Talking to children and young people about COVID-19

Given the rise in the number of reported cases, there may be children or young people in your life who experience distress. As a trusted adult, you can help reassure and educate them about **COVID-19** – it can be good to talk to them now, so they can understand the illness and be reassured.

Kevin Ikin, Principal

Centennial Park School, Te Kuiti