



Kaeo School



Learn, Love, Contribute, Grow
Aim High—Stand Tall - Taraia nga taumata E tu teitei
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Term 4

Week 9

Hello,

The last newsletter of an extraordinary year! No one would have thought that when we came to school after last years Christmas break that we would all be in lock down some six weeks later and that Covid 19 would become the feature of life in 2020.

In many ways we were fortunate. Covid did not make its way to us here in the north and, mostly, our lives were much as normal. This being the case our focus at school when we returned, at least initially, was to ensure that the children felt safe and that they saw that school would remain largely as it always does – a happy, secure, kind place.

That this was achieved is a great credit to our teachers and staff, all of whom had their own situations and family to consider but despite this went the extra mile to help make the children's wellbeing a priority. A big thanks them for this kind and committed work.

The next step was to bring us all back together again. Our Matariki event was a simple one but our goal was not only to celebrate the new year but also to encourage folk from their homes and to provide an opportunity to share each others company again. Likewise, our Pet Day and Grandparents Day were opportunities to break the Covid 19 shackles and to be together as a community. It was great to see so many people come and share these events with us.

The news is promising that a Covid 19 vaccine is on the way and one would expect that lives will return to normal as next year progresses but hopefully normal does not mean exactly the same as pre Covid. Lock down reminded us all I think that simple times with our families are important, that we can make do without another trip to the Warehouse, and that above all it is people that matter. What separated us from many places across the globe was the simple fact that we valued each other, family, neighbours, friends and strangers so highly. As always, the well known whakatauki was spot on:

He aha te mea nui o te ao

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people

If Covid 19 reminded us of that, then maybe it was not such a complete dead loss year after all.

To finish, thank you to everyone that supported our school in any way, big or small, this year – it is appreciated. To those leaving us we wish you all the best, hope that you have fond memories of your time at Kaeo School and that you will keep in touch from time to time. Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy safe summer break.

Meri Kirihimete,
Paul Barker.

Prizegiving

Our annual prizegiving is next Tuesday at the Whangaroa College Hall beginning right on midday. We would love to see you there. The school year ends at 12pm next Wednesday.

Congratulations

Well done and congratulations to Mrs Sutherland who after her study leave year has accepted a position at Peria School next year – we wish her all the best in her new role.

Honours Board

Congratulations to the final Honours Board people for 2020 – Ataahua Manuel, **Marley-Anne Sherwin**, Ruby Tregonning, **Tiana Sheffield**, Chloe Fleming, **Shakira Batters**, Eli Rush, **Mokotoa Kahle**, Dan Williams, **Jemma Murphy-Moka**, Neveah Hunt, **Reina Hayes**, Kaden Fleming, **Kaiarahi Rata**, Kathleen Hunter, **Railey Paewai**, Ayda Pomare, **Jarden Hape**, Tracey-Jaye Porowini, **Soular Taylor**, Georgia Line, **Lexi Fryer**, Sindi Wharewaka-Toby, **Naia Moses**, Christine Rudolph, **Leo Hunter**, Ngapuhi Hape, **Rikki Pou**.

