

Te Pānui o Te Kura o Te Uku 07/20

21 Haratua 2020

Tēnā koutou e te whānau o Te Uku

What a crazy start to term 2 – who ever predicted we would be impacted so substantially by a global pandemic when we began the school year back in February? The past 8 weeks have been both challenging and rewarding, as we closed the school and very quickly re-established our teaching and learning programmes to suit an online environment. Communication throughout the lockdown phase was crucial. I am thankful to each of you who read the lengthy newsletters, Educa messages and Facebook updates that were sent through as new information emerged, and to those of you who responded promptly with information when required. We know you did your best at home to keep students engaged with Home Learning, while you also juggled a variety of work and family commitments. We know this because we were trying to do the same. I wish to thank the dedicated teachers at Te Uku School who also did their best to ensure teaching and learning opportunities, as well as regular communication with students and families were given priority throughout this time.

But... it is so good to be back to school as normal – nearly! All be it with enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols, as well as increased contact tracing. The students and teachers have been able to pick up where we left off almost seamlessly, which is a credit to everyone. Being back face to face with the students is where we prefer to be and there is a wonderful positive vibe at school.

The next government announcement is expected on Monday 25th May. Until we are notified of any changes, our current Alert Level 2 health and safety practices remain in place. Thank you for adhering to the new pick up and drop off protocols each morning and afternoon. We miss your friendly faces onsite and the chats we have with you when you are here; however, it remains important to keep our large bubble protected.

Ngā mihi ki a koutou,
Pip Mears – Principal

Staffing Updates

As previously announced, after 17 years at Te Uku School, Bev Turilli will be resigning from her teaching position here to begin working across the Waikato area as an RTLB (Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour). Next Friday 29 May will be her final day with us at school. We will be farewelling her as a school at an assembly on Friday afternoon. Under the current Level 2 restrictions we would be unable to have any parent/caregivers join us for this occasion. If the announcements on Monday change this in anyway we will be sure to let you know.

After a robust appointment process, with a high calibre of applicants, we are pleased to announce that we have appointed Cynthia McNabb to the Y4-6 teaching position. Cynthia is currently in her second year of teaching, at Horotiu School. Cynthia brings with her a wealth of creative ideas about teaching and learning in collaborative environments and is a talented sports woman, with particular skills in Hockey. Cynthia will share more information about herself with you all later this term. She is excited about working at Te Uku School and is keen to get to know everyone. Due to normal contractual obligations Cynthia is unable able to start at Te Uku School until term 3. We are looking forward to welcoming her onboard.

We are pleased to share with you that we will have the talents and expertise of Kate Dermer-Mc Gregor (previous teacher at Whatawhata School and currently a Te Uku School parent) to fill the 5 week gap between Bev leaving and Cynthia starting. We are looking forward to working with Kate and are thankful to have someone of her high calibre, who knows our school, able to fill this position at short notice.

Teacher Only Day

Due to recent events, we have decided to postpone our Teacher Only Day scheduled for Tuesday 2 June, until further notice. We will likely look to reschedule any such days to term 3 and term 4 and will give you advance notice of dates when we do so.

Bus Notice – New ticketless system

In line with GoBus becoming contactless we have had to review our bus payment system and we will be putting into place these new practices; -

- Students will be marked as they travel to and from school
- Student accounts will be charged per ride
- Accounts must be kept in credit

If your child has current bus tickets, they can return these to the school office for credit to be placed onto their account.

Term Dates 2020

Term 1:

Monday 3rd Feb - Thursday 9 April
(Good Friday 10th Apr)

Term 2:

Tuesday 28 April - Friday 3 July
(27th Apr ANZAC observance day)

Term 3:

Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September

Term 4:

Monday 12 October – Tuesday 15 December

Upcoming Events: Term 2 2020

May

29 Bev's Farewell

June

1 Queen's Birthday (school closed)

25 BOT meeting

26 Ki-o-rahi Y7/8

July

1 Student led conferences TBC

3 Last day of term 2