

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

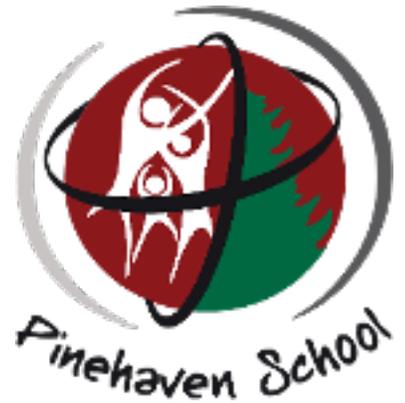
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PRINCIPAL'S PEN - A NOTE FROM KAYLENE.....

Kia ora!

I hope you have all had a great week! I have really enjoyed reading to the children on Facebook Live, including reading all your comments. It's been great to get your feedback on this and how the learning programmes are going for you. Teachers have really enjoyed catching up with children.

I want to say a HUGE thanks to all of you who were so prompt in getting level 3 attendance intentions back to us. At the time of writing this, we only need to follow up with 10 families, so I am so grateful to you all - I know this was a very tight timeframe.

At this stage, we will have 2 bubbles at school during level 3, and a small staff team onsite. The office will be closed and no visitors (including parents of those who are attending school) will be permitted. A system for drop off/pick up at the gate will operate, managed by staff onsite. All parents of children who are attending school will receive information from me early next week about the details of how school will operate and the measures in place to keep everyone safe.

We intend on opening for the alert level 3 roll of children on Wednesday 29th April. This is dependent on the heating system fully functional and delivery of our hand sanitizer products. I will be able to confirm this on Tuesday morning. Worst case scenario is we would be open on the 30th.

Distance learning will continue, however it may be a different teacher checking in with your child if your child's teacher is in our onsite staff team (they will let you know if this is the case).

Have a great weekend ahead everyone!

Kaylene

KEY DATES

27 April: Anzac Day Holiday

(Anzac Day being observed on Monday 27th).

28 April: Teacher Only Day

This mainly includes our onsite team and distance learning check ins will continue.

29 April: Expected Start Date for Alert Level 3 onsite roll

11 May: Expected government announcement about alert levels

This will provide us with more information about the impact it will have on learning and school

Make sure you've joined our school facebook group where we are sharing lots of information! Email facebook@pinehaven.school.nz with your child's year, your email address linked to the your facebook account.

BUILDING UPDATE

I know many of you are keen to know if our building project will begin again under level 3.

Our builders are very keen to begin again and are planning to come back on site on Tuesday 28th April.

They have very clear Health & Safety procedures to adhere to and have been working to ensure they can meet them.

We are really keen to have this work restarting as soon as possible.

If nothing else, this lockdown period has given the classes who were working in the hall a bit of a break!

Remember to hold onto saleable second hand goods for our Family Fun Day White Elephant stall later in the year!

Now is a great time to do a big clean out, but store those items for us if you possibly can!! The white elephant stall at our Family Fun Day is always a great source of profit, so we really appreciate your assistance with this.

Wish you were here vs Better off alone (with your bubble buddies) *written by Karla Billington*

In the last week my anthem has stopped being *"Run to the Hills"* by Iron Maiden and has taken on a more melancholic *"Wish you were here"* by Pink Floyd. Although I find myself quickly brought back to reality of the **stay home-save lives** message by one of the songs my son particularly enjoys emptying the dishwasher to: *"Better off alone"* by Alice DeeJay.

The use of technology to be able to stay connected with family and friends has been a blessing and also a sadness. Once a phone call has finished or a google hangout has ended I am reminded that it's just me and my family in our bubble again. But it can't go on forever - the lockdown will end, and as the old civil-rights protest song reminds us: *"We shall overcome!"*

Even though we're all looking forward to re-entering the world and moving down the Alert Levels, I am also mindful we will lose something special that we have gained during our lockdown staycation. In the words of the Beatles, how can we still *"Come together"* when the busyness returns?

Before lockdown our family knew how to do *busy*. Like many families, we had just settled into the routine of juggling work, school, and after-school activities. Lockdown forced us to relearn how to slow down and stop. How to just enjoy the simple things in life, rediscover toys and craft activities, play with pets, collect acorns and use up what was in the pantry.

My challenge this week is to have a chat with my family bubble and ask them what they have learnt during this lockdown period. I want to take note of what they want to keep, to stop and to start doing once lockdown has lifted.

If you get an opportunity, touch base with your bubble buddies. Ask them together or individually what they want to:

1. Keep
2. Stop
3. Start

I don't want to rush out of Lockdown and run straight back into a busy lifestyle again. I still want my family to take time to notice *"What a wonderful world"* it really is, as Louis Armstrong reminded us so long ago. Let's all help each other do that.

Kia kaha Pinehaven whanau.