

Term 2, Week 3 2020

Kia Ora Ramarama School whanau,



I am writing this newsletter today from the comfort of my bed, in these strange times this now feels entirely normal. Yesterday morning I was supervising the students who needed to be at school and in the afternoon I was at a Zoom Meeting with the Ministry of Education.

The best part of every day for me is logging into Facebook or Seesaw and seeing all the wonderful learning that our students are doing at home.

It has now been 36 days since we had all the students on site and I am so impressed with the way we have all quickly adapted to this new way of teaching and learning.

Thank you all so much for helping your child to complete the learning tasks to the best of their ability. Working from home and trying to maintain a schedule that allows you to get some work done as well as having the kids engaged and happy has been our main goal. The Week 3 and 4 packs have a few more worksheets that hopefully will mean more independent work can be done. Please just do what works for your family. Some days will be better than others- I know I have two teenage boys at home who I am trying to keep motivated as well.

The staff and I are working hard to ensure that we remain connected with our students and their families. You will have seen the considerable time and effort that has gone into ensuring that every student can access their learning in various ways. We have made over 400 distance learning packs that are relevant to your child's stage of learning. We have used Seesaw to deliver daily learning tasks that are creative, engaging and utilise digital learning in a way that is meaningful.

Our staff are using technology to stay in touch- zoom, facetime and personal calls to connect with students. Did you know our teacher aides are still working with students as well? An example of this is; Mrs Van Der Meer rings 8 children every day to listen to them read.



We hope that all of this has helped you to feel safe and secure knowing that your child's needs and interests are being catered for.



It is my sincerest hope that as a nation we manage to get our country back to "normal" as soon as we can. Hopefully next Thursday we will be given the all clear to move to Alert Level 2 and then start to look at what conditions that will mean for school going forward. At this stage the only information I have is what is on the Covid -19 website. If Week 5 and 6 mean we still have to deliver distance learning we are ready and prepared. We will have new packs for you to collect and we will have the ability to welcome more students back to school if you will need to return to work. As soon as the announcement is made I will send out another survey so we can start to plan.

I wanted to also take this time to say that the Key Competencies in the New Zealand Curriculum are woven throughout the distance learning your child is currently doing. They are:

- Thinking
- Relating to others
- Using language, symbols and texts
- Managing self
- Participating and contributing

The Key competencies encompass knowledge, skills, attitudes and values. They require teachers (parents) to notice not just what students are learning, but how they are learning and their capacity to continue learning.

They also require teachers (parents) to think about dispositions (tendencies and inclinations) to consider if students are ready and willing, as well as able to learn.



By doing
what you
LOVE, you
INSPIRE
and awaken
the hearts
of others.

So what have you noticed about your child's learning style? Have they become increasingly self managing in this time? Have you noticed that they prefer one style of learning over another? Are they creative thinkers? Do they do just enough to tick the complete box or do they find motivation in pushing their learning?

Have they become more helpful around the house? Do they value family time, and have they re-discovered a love for something? Do they have a passion for something that they then research and ask about? Have they found a new passion or interest?

What have you noticed?

To wrap up, thank you all once again for your support in this time, until we can meet again- stay safe and please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you need.

Tania Campbell- PRINCIPAL

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If you have a business that you would like to mention in the next newsletter please let me know!

Thanks so much to Bob and Cam Vernon who have donated considerable time and effort into preparing the site for our new playground. You two are local legends and we will shout you a few cold lemonades when this isolation period is lifted!

Thanks also to Marlies and Bevan James- Ruby Orchids for donating over 100 stems of orchids for our school families. Everyone who came to collect the distance learning packs appreciated them.

ONLINE ENROLMENT OPEN FOR YEAR 9's 2021



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- **Open Evening cancelled due to Covid-19**
- **Follow links from our website to complete contactless enrolment for 2021 – Year 9's only**
- **Year 8 Orientation will currently still proceed in December**