

National Park School Newsletter

17 March 2020
Week 7
Term 1
Edition 3 of 4



Looking ahead to Friday's weather forecast and readjusting priorities in school this week we are postponing **SCHOOL SPORTS DAY**. We will aim to run this event soon.

Principal's News

Ngā Tohu children and whānau are trialling a programme called Seesaw for 5 weeks to share and communicate about learning and class information. Seesaw is used by lots and lots of schools across NZ so we're looking forward to finding out about how it works and its benefits. At the end of the trial we'll evaluate the risks and problems too alongside families and decide what our school next steps are.

If you have any questions about Seesaw, please feel free to korero with Mrs Priestley, who is a bit of an expert!

As part of our beginning of year processes the staff are also looking at digital citizen agreements and we're checking our permissions are in line with our practices – you will likely see new forms come home soon.



Miss Jane Welburn
principal@nationalpark.school.nz

School is Closed on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 March

This is in preparation to run a big Opportunity Term 2.

Here's some key messages from our teachers about what Opportunities are.

"It's innovative and exciting teaching and learning."

"We disrupt our practices to provide excitement."

"Being creative in our strategies to accelerate achievement."

"It's deep authentic learning for our students."

"We want to bring the curriculum to life."

"We want to explore how we teach and how we can make a difference to our learners."

"It's about weaving themes together."

"There's a world view of 'making' and being 'makers' and why that's important. We rob the world of our creativity if we never make anything."

"We want to be on the same page about what that looks like."

COVID-19 Update

There is a lot of fast, unfolding information about COVID-19 in the media.

At school we are getting daily updates of procedures from the Ministry of Education. We are prioritising our responses to these.

“The Ministry of Health says that with continued vigilance the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low in New Zealand. We all have a role to play in this.” MOE 13.3.20

For our school, our pandemic plan is also ready to be implemented if needed. In the mean time we will continue to focus on good hygiene practices. Hand washing and good cough etiquette are very important tools in preventing the spread of illness including colds, flu and COVID-19.

With that, there is a good video clip from Nanogirl that will help your children to better understand the virus.

You may have also seen the Prime Minister sat down with Dr Michelle Dickinson (aka Nanogirl) and the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor, Juliet Gerrard, to talk about coronavirus:

- [Watch on the PM’s Facebook page](#)
- [Read and watch on the Newshub website](#)

One other action we can all take is to be vigilant about our own health and the health of our children. We will be encouraging our staff to stay away from school if they are showing signs of illness such as coughs and colds. We ask that you please do the same with your children. Colds and flus are common in schools and by staying away, seeking medical attention and practicing good hygiene, we can all keep any spread of illness to a minimum.”



We recognise the effect on our many families associated with the tourist industry this is having, our thoughts are with you. We know you are amazing, innovative, resilient, resourceful people. Our little community also has lots of people with relatives and friends overseas. Aroha nui. If school can support at all, please get in touch.

LABS (Learn Amazing Brain Stuff) in Te Whiowhio and Paretaitonga

On Fridays, students have been working on developing a skill - here are some pictures of things they have been exploring. We have had two parents join us to share their skills, and would love more to come along! Please get in touch if you are interested. Thanks, Whaea Sally.



Ruapehu District Council Library

The next visit is 2 April at 10am. For any new families wanting to take advantage of this service then please see Whaea Jo in the office, or feel free to pop in and meet Fiona and Libby yourselves.

NGA TOHU LEARNED ABOUT DESCRIBING PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS USING ADJECTIVES FROM THE BOOK THIS HUNGRY DRAGON



Upcoming Events

- 20 Mar School Team Sports Day (now postponed)
- 24 Mar Little Learners 9am
- 26 & 27 Mar School Closed for Professional Learning
- 26 Mar BOT Meeting 4.30pm
- 1 Apr Tutus on Tour Royal New Zealand Ballet at School
- 2 Apr Ruapehu Library Visit
- 3 Apr Assembly 9am
- 7 Apr Little Learners 9am
- 9 Apr Assembly 9am
- 9 Apr Principal's Morning Tea 10.30am
- 9 Apr End of Term 1
- 28 Apr Start of Term 2
- 3 Jul End of Term 2
- 20 Jul Start of Term 3
- 25 Sep End of Term 3
- 12 Oct Start of Term 4
- 16 Dec End of Term 4



Congratulations to our Tahurangi Card Winners.



BITS AND BOBS

Peanut Allergy

You may be aware that Whaea Sally has a peanut allergy. We have processes in place to avoid contact and what should happen if we do need to respond. We also talk a lot to the children about how to minimise risk. We ask for support when children do have peanuts in their lunchboxes that they stay in lunchboxes, go straight into tummies then hands are washed afterwards! Please could you help us by emphasising this message at home.

Snow Programme Days 2020

30 Day Programme

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday every week

20 Day Programme

Week 1 and 2 – Wednesday

Week 3 and 4 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Week 5,6 and 7 – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Week 8 and 9 - Tuesday and Wednesday

Week 10 - Wednesday

10 Day Programme

Wednesday every week

Late

After 9.05am (when the roll is finished) your child is late to school. Please come straight to the office to sign them in. Whaea Jo will then take your child to their class to help minimise disruption to the learning. On a Wednesday go straight to class please ☺

Concerns

If you have a concern about school life we ask that you first go to the person who the issue concerns. If informal discussions are not possible or they do not bring about a resolution please then raise the issue with the Principal. A copy of our concerns and complaints procedures is available in the office.

