



15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Kia ora

I would like to thank you all for the way in which you have helped your children navigate these continuously changing times. Student online engagement was very high, and this was due to the supportive environment you have provided for them. Courage and resilience are words that come to mind when I think of your children. It is normal to have the highs and lows in these times and you are all to be commended for the way that you are navigating this season, supporting your children and us as a school. Kia kaha.

One of the consequences of lockdown is that we have missed out on several events; there is a desire to try and shoehorn these into the remaining time in Term 1, resulting in weeks that are overloaded and energy-sapping. This impacts all of us. As a Mt Albert Campus leadership team, we are aware of this and are working as best we can to alleviate unnecessary stress.

In this regard we have decided on the following:

- Swimming Sports planned for this term will be cancelled. We aim to find some space in Term 2. I am grateful to Mrs Ruth Scott for her preparation for this event.
- Our Whanau evening will now become a "Meet the teachers" online event on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (Y1-6) and 24<sup>th</sup> (Y7-10) of March from 7.00pm until 8.00pm.

**23<sup>rd</sup> March Y1-6** here is the link [meet.google.com/fiv-padz-uom](https://meet.google.com/fiv-padz-uom)

**Y1-2** (7.00pm - 7.20pm)

**Y3-4** (7.20pm - 7.40pm)

**Y5-6** (7.40pm - 8.00pm)

**24<sup>th</sup> March Y7-10** here is the link [meet.google.com/kkj-gspk-thb](https://meet.google.com/kkj-gspk-thb)

**Y7-8** (7.00pm - 7.30pm)

**Y9-10** ( 7.30pm - 8.00pm)

Although we value "kanohi ki te kanohi" (face to face) with you as our community, we are offering 'on-line' as we would like the certainty of meeting rather than be unable to, as happened with our "Whanau Evening".

**Regarding the traffic flow around McLean Street:** we have been meeting with the construction company building at the Evril Orr Rest Home and with Auckland Transport. You will notice cones on both sides of the road for the length of their building site. This is part of the traffic management plan; no deliveries or trucks are allowed in the road from 7.30am - 9.00am, and 2.30pm - 4.00pm. This will create a passing lane, alleviating some of the traffic congestion. We appreciate you following our request to use McLean Street as a one way, going down towards New North and travelling up Allendale towards the mountain. Embracing the Travelwise initiatives of using buses, trains, bicycles and scooters, as well as walking (parking 5 minutes away, then

walking to and from school). Please avoid doing U-turns in either of these roads as it hinders traffic flow at the peak times.



Miss Yeonie Jeong headed up our Travelwise Week and I am grateful for the responses to the appeals to walk, ride, bus or train. The tree is an indication of these efforts. Students who participated by using one of the encouraged travel options were able to put a leaf on the tree and go in for a prize draw. As you can see, we have had many enthusiastic participants.

The congestion has been significantly better in McLean Street this week and I think that your efforts have contributed to this.

We have a **Mufti Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> March for World Vision** with the money raised going toward our sponsored child. The payment for this is via electronic funds transfer to your child's account through the portal.

On **18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm** (this Thursday) we are running our **online NCEA Academic Success Evening** for Y11- 13 students and their parents. Staff will be available to answer questions from you on the chat. Here is the link: [meet.google.com/fmk-rmws-wfv](https://meet.google.com/fmk-rmws-wfv)

We had an amazing Year 7 & 8 camp the week before lockdown. Thank you to Mrs Scott, Mrs Zoutenbier and Mrs de Sliva, as well as the many parents who went along and contributed to the success of the camp. The learning, relationships and spiritual growth opportunities provided by these types of trips are invaluable.





We had a **Digital Parenting Event** last week; the session was recorded and you can view it here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kbCvTPlsjA> . The presentation covered filtering for home which is available from Network 4 Learning, the company that provides internet and filtering for all schools in New Zealand. The link to “switched on safety” is <https://switchonsafety.co.nz/>

Our Counsellor, Mrs Yvette Britten spoke about styles of parenting that provide the best outcomes and support navigating the digital jungle. Mrs Nicola Voisey, staff member at our Golflands Campus, spoke on how they have navigated this in their family. Mrs Emily Bagrie our Digital Influencer, coordinated the presentation and spoke on how to set up iPads to get the best learning opportunities out of the device, whilst keeping our children safe online.

Our Y12 and Y13 English and History students recently went on a trip, travelling to historical sites where the ‘New Zealand Land Wars’ took place. They covered material that will go towards 3 internal assessments. This region was also the setting of a book by Witi Ihimaera and Hemi Kelly, ‘Sleeps Standing’, a story based around the Battle of Orakau. This provided some rich learning experiences and we are grateful to Whaea Kristelle, Mr Scott and Ms Richter, who accompanied our students on the journey.

Our ARISE parents pray on a Wednesday morning at 9.00am in our staff room and we welcome any parents who are available to come and join in.

*Ngā mihi nui,*

*Mark Mack*

*Campus Lead Mt Albert Campus*