

NPGHS NEWSLETTER

April 2022



Jacqui Brown Principal

Kia ora koutou

The end of Term 1 has arrived and we can celebrate all that has been achieved. It has been an interesting term as about 40% of staff and students have had or still have Covid-19. The term has shown us that we are resilient, able to cope with change and unexpected events, and able to do things differently. But we also know that it has been tiring, and for many it has been hard to manage through isolation and being away from routines, schoolwork and friends.

Orange Setting

When we return from the term break, we come back to the Orange setting. While things will look a bit more normal at school there will still be some adaptations as the pandemic will still be with us. We encourage all students to still think about protecting themselves and about protecting others. While case numbers are still quite high, we encourage students to wear their mask in class and assemblies next term. Mask wearing is still a requirement in some places, including on the buses.

Building Names

We would like to thank everyone for their contribution to the discussion regarding our building names. We received 123 email submissions and noted the discussion on facebook with interest. We were surprised by the media interest in this story and absolutely thrilled to hear the stories and memories from former students. The facebook comments were understandably short and heavily favoured keeping the letter names as they currently are. The email submissions gave us real insight into the thinking for change or for keeping the letters and were initially quite evenly split. In the end, the preference that came through is to keep the block names as they are, so O for Old, B for Brick and N for New will stay.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Principal's Welcome
- Orange Setting
- Building Names
- Te Reo Māori Course
- ANZAC Assembly

Mangorei Road Changes

If you live near NPGHS you will have had information in your letterbox regarding the council's proposed changes to Mangorei Road, and you might also have seen signs or new articles. NPDC consultation on this proposal closes on 29 April, and we would encourage all families of the school to have your say by following this link.

Building Names cont.

We also heard the desire for a stronger connection with and recognition of former students, and we will look for more ways to celebrate and acknowledge their successes. We do highlight former students in school and Olympians Michaela Blyde and Gayle Broughton, and astronomer Beatrice Tinsley featured in my assembly speeches last year. Our challenge now is to share this with you all and make these connections more visible to students every day.

Te Reo Māori Course

We have recently become aware of an opportunity to engage with the learning of Te Reo Māori which we would like to share with you. It is free but does require a commitment of a term, and you can select the course that is most appropriate to your current level of knowledge and understanding. Please see <u>this link</u> for further details and to register for Term 2. Depending on the class you choose, you might find some of our staff in your virtual classroom and we would be very pleased to have you with us.



ANZAC Assembly

We finished today with an Anzac remembrance service, led by our Manu Taiko (Head Girl), Hannah Tipene and Kaitiriwā (Deputy Head Girls), Sara Daher and Annie Larsen. Cara Hollard and Anna Lee-Sanderson gave wonderful tributes with Pokarekare Ana and The Last Post respectively. The school normally participates in the dawn service at the cenotaph, which has been cancelled this year due to Covid restrictions. Hannah, Annie and Sara will still place a wreath on behalf of the school, and we know that many of you will also take time for your own reflections.

Thank you all for your support through Term 1. We wish you all a restful and reinvigorating break and look forward to next term.

Ngā mihi mahana Jacqui Brown

2022 DATES

TERM 1 8 February – 14 April

TERM 2 2 May to 8 July

TERM 3 25 July – 30 September

TERM 4 17 October – 16 December

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