



# WAIMATE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL



Waimate Centennial School Pandemic Newsletter

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Nga Mihi Nui Waimate Centennial School

## Alert Level 2 Reminders.

As we are all aware, at this stage we remain at Level 2. Therefore, it is timely to remind everyone of some practices we have in place at school that are required to still be carried out.

Children to arrive no earlier than 8:30 am and move directly to class where they will wash their hands before entering. They may then enter the playground or court areas.

***Visitors, which includes all parents and caregivers, are required to sign in and out and complete a contact register found outside classrooms or the office area. If you enter the school grounds you must sign and complete the register.***

Drinking fountains are unavailable. Could all children please bring a named bottle each day.

The children continue to be released at different times at the end of the day. Seniors released at 2:45pm. Middle released at 2:50pm. Juniors released at 3pm. Parents are asked to gather students and avoid congestion at the school gate please. The children with brothers and sisters have been instructed to meet on our netball court when released from class, before heading home.

Please note the small gate by the netball court is to be used by bus children only at the end of each day. All other children and adults must use a main entrance/exit point.

***It is important children/families leave the school grounds immediately after school and at this stage do not congregate at for example the adventure playground.***

Unwell children - If your child has any symptoms of illness, raised temperature, runny nose or cough or regular sneezing, keep them at home. Parents/care givers of any child displaying such symptoms, will be contacted to collect their child immediately.

We would like to pass on our thanks for the excellent degree of support and co-operation we have received from the Waimate Centennial School community. Hopefully Level 1 will be with us in the very near future.

## Teacher Aides Pay Equity Claim

After a long and hard fight, teacher aides have had their own win worth celebrating.

The Ministry of Education and NZEI have agreed to settle an historic pay equity claim for teacher aides.

Today's teacher aides are highly skilled educators, assisting the learning and ensuring the wellbeing of children with often complex medical, physical, learning and/or behavioural needs. However, their pay and conditions do not fairly value this work.

In September 2017, NZEI lodged a pay equity claim on behalf of all teacher aides, providing evidence that their work is mostly done by women and that it is undervalued as "women's work."

This settlement is the result of the collective strength and action of NZEI members and a long pay equity process that has involved negotiations with the Ministry of Education. Teacher Aides are finally being acknowledged for the value of the skills, responsibilities and demands of their work.

### Devices - Chromebooks etc.

A reminder that if children have a chrome book or a similar device at home, it would be great if they could bring them to school to use. This would not only be beneficial for hygiene reasons but will help maintain the huge steps we have all made in digital learning. Headphones would also be extremely useful if available to bring.

You will have been informed if this refers to your child's classroom.

*Please note this does not include cell phones.*

### Hurley Shield Success for Centennial School

Congratulations to the Garden team at Waimate Centennial School for recently placing second in the Hurley Shield for 2019. This was a huge effort and all the judges were very impressed with the knowledge, skills and ability of the students. They commented that the children were very engaged and the knowledge they shared was outstanding.

A special well done must also go out to Joan Constable for the super job she did in leading and motivating the group.

Well done Centennial Gardening Team and Mrs C! We are extremely proud of you all!

### Senior School Student Led Conferences and Mid -Year Reporting to Parents/Care - givers.

As is the practice at Waimate Centennial, once again the Senior School of Ruma Kea, Weka, Kakapo and Piwakawaka will be carrying out mid - year reporting to whanau.

This year however, due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, there will be a few changes in place. Each child will once again receive a "report form" but it will have a different look this term. Staff members have developed new forms based on our schools graduate profile and so as to be in line with our current situation. Home learning for example will play a major role.

At Waimate Centennial we have introduced a graduate profile across the whole school so students can plot their progress across some areas of their learning, such as creativity, critical thinking and being a life - long learner.

The new "report form" will also be used by the children for shared learning conversations with their whanau during end of term Student Led Conferences. These were introduced over the last few years to replace the traditional Parent/Teacher Interviews.

We are looking at holding Student Lead Conferences during the final week of the term which starts on Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Dates to be confirmed.

*Junior School reports/portfolios will continue to be sent home on the children's "anniversaries" and student led conferences be arranged when this takes place.*

### Subway

There will be no subway orders until term 3

### Pie Warmer and Subway Orders.

The pie warmer will not be operating until further notice and we will not be taking Subway orders this term.

### Whole School Assembly

Unfortunately, at this time, whole school assemblies still cannot be held. We hope these will be able to be held once again in the near future, so we can come together to celebrate the successes of the children of Waimate Centennial.