

Waimate Centennial School Newsletter March 27th

Nau mai Haere mai whanau

Hello everyone

This is certainly a time when things are really out of routine for us all. We have decided that there are some things we want to continue with and the newsletter is one of these. I hope to bring you information from Centennial each week during the shutdown. Teachers are going to add things that are happening for their classes so you can see what everyone is doing even if you can't come into school.

Lucy Hone and Denise Quinlan are two clever educationalists who have some tips for us over the next few weeks.

Choose where you focus your attention. Even at the best of times, humans are hard-wired to notice threats and weakness. During the worst of times it is more important than ever for our psychological health to tune into what's still good in your world. This is a key resilience skill. Start your days with looking at the good stuff.

I want to pass on some information that schools in the Kahui Ako have sent home to their parents. Most of this will already be known to some of you and I am sure you have already put most of it into action with your family.

Parent responsibilities during Learning from Home

Help your child with their learning by

- Setting up a space for your child to work in
- Checking messages from teachers
- Setting up routines like how long your child will work each day on schoolwork
- Encouraging physical activity and/or exercise
- Talk to your child about what they are learning- Take an interest

Student responsibilities during Learning from Home

- Establishing and/or following a daily routine for learning
- Identifying a safe, comfortable, quiet space in their home where they can work effectively and successfully
- Talk to your teachers regularly especially if there are problems with any of the lessons

Wellbeing

Being confined to home will be stressful. Tips for looking after your children during isolation include:

- Talk to your family about what is happening in NZ and the world.
- Exercise regularly. Walking around the block is great for reducing stress
- Encourage your children to keep in touch with family members
- If your child is displaying anxiety, finish conversations with a positive action that you are all going to take: "That's why we are washing our hands regularly." or "When mum/dad needs to go work, she/he is taking extra care." or "That's why we are staying at home in our own bubble."

Online learning

There are many online projects and events you might follow if you can be sure that they are safe and beneficial for your child's learning. We will bring some of these to you if we find them suitable.

One for this week to follow is the website New Zealand geographic. Use the name in your search and the magazine will appear. Each day there is a feature in the site called "Together at home series". There is some great reading in this magazine that is suitable for children and adults.

Cincinnati Zoo is offering a home safari while they are closed. They have a new focus each day with home learning activities.

<http://cincinnati-zoo.org/home-safari-resources/>

By now some of you will be experts at using Seesaw. I am just beginning my learning here so I feel that I am a few steps behind everyone. I am confident that this App will allow us to help your child with their learning at home. Don't be afraid to contact your child's teacher for any help please.

School Playground

Unfortunately, the school playground is not one of the places you can take your child. The Ministry of Education has informed all schools that their playgrounds are closed to the public. This will remain in place until the end of the lockdown.

Tim our caretaker is going to share from his huge repertoire of Dad jokes over the next few weeks.

"I have been diligently paying for protection year after year but when a proper worldwide threat arrives my Norton Antivirus is redundant. # stayhome & # keepintouch"

Piwakawaka News

A big shout out to all those children who have joined in this week with our seesaw activities. I have really enjoyed seeing your work, your faces (on videos), and hearing your voice recordings. Keep up the great home learning. Lots of parents are joining in the learning too, thank you your children will (are) love this. Have a good holiday and we will start some new learning then.

Keep in touch.

Mrs C. :)

Kea News

It has been great keeping in touch with a lot of the class via Seesaw. I know some of you have had issues getting on from home devices - please let me know if you are still having problems. If you haven't received any emails from me then I don't have your correct email address (parent's address). Some of the children are really keeping me on my toes with the number of activities they are completing - well done! Also don't forget about Studyladder and Prodigy.

Take time to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Sue Albrey and Jeanette Pinches

Pukeko News:

We have all learnt a lot this week about codes, apps, logins and through lots of support for each other and perseverance, we have every Pukeko ready to go with Seesaw! This has been an amazing tool for us to keep in touch and being in our homes, we posted a wee challenge. We shared photos of our pets and some information about them and got the Pukekos to do the same. We have talked alot about our families and pets in class, so this has allowed us to get to know each other's pets even better-some super photos have been shared!

Enjoy your lovely families-and make sure you find something each day to smile about and be grateful for, because in the grand scheme of things, we have lots to be thankful for.

Mrs M and Mrs B.

Tui News:

A big learning curve for all in Tui class - teachers included. Seesaw has proved to be an amazing tool for us to stay connected and to continue with some learning. We set 3 challenges for the Tuis on Friday - build the tallest tower, create something that will float, draw a picture holding the drawing tool with your foot. We challenge Mums, Dads and children from other classes to give these a go! Remember to have fun!

An idea I saw on Facebook - while in isolation everytime you wish you could do something, go somewhere, treat yourselves, see someone special, visit a new place, invite people to visit you - write it down on a post it note and put it in a jar. When all this is over this will be your bucket list and you can work your way through the jar and be more grateful than ever for the little and lovely things in our lives.

Weka News

The first week of online homeschooling and it has been great to see so many children quickly getting involved! It certainly has been great receiving lots of the children's work through google docs and also on Seesaw. :)

As with many other classrooms Seesaw has certainly proved to be an excellent part of Ruma Weka's home schooling programme. Both Mrs Waller and Mr Burt have both enjoyed checking out all the completed and on - going Seesaw tasks. All the children have their accounts set up so it would be great if all families would log in regularly to check out the activities the children are to carry out. Problems may pop up at times but do remember we are here to help.

All children were also emailed their usual weekly Homework, providing another activity that all of the children can work on. Looking forward to seeing all your super Weekly Quiz answers and Word Building very soon. :)

Enjoy the time with your families and be sure to stay safe.

Mr Burt and Mrs Waller

Ruma Kakapo News

The last three days have been great connecting with children and their parents through Seesaw.

Activities set by me include writing a gratitude post, a diary entry and an acrostic self-isolation poem. Other activities include PBL, fraction work, doing the class roll, singing our waiata and saying our whakatauki. I particularly enjoy hearing the children's voices and seeing their videos.

Most login issues have been sorted quickly. There are about ten children who haven't logged into their account yet so I am hoping that they can do so before the school holiday break.

Have a great time with your family in your bubble.

Mrs Rehmann

Ruma Takahe

Hi everyone! Hopefully you are all settling into family life as it will be for around the next four weeks or so. We have four people working from home in our house at the moment, so all of these one sided conversations are going on as we talk to our computers.

Meanwhile, I'm trying to get to my laptop around our puppy, who is trying to oust the cat from my knee, so that I can catch up with folk via Seesaw! It's far easier being at school with all my wee guys!

I am so impressed at what people are doing at home with their children in the way of activities. I have shared a few ideas online, and families are finding their way into sites such as Reading Eggs, Gonoodle, Mathsplayground and the like. It's the

photos and videoclips (is that showing my age?) that I love. Not only of my guys, but their wee brothers and sisters, and huge dogs named Toby as well!

Keep having fun, take care of each other and be safe.

Stay in touch

Mrs Macmillan :)

Staying Connected

Remember we are practising physical isolation not social - touch base with family and friends each day using your devices.

This is important during this time and the teachers are having a cuppa and a chat via messenger each day to stay connected.

What are you doing to stay connected?

He waka eke noa. We are all in this together.