

fraser



crescent school

NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter 15

17th September 2021



Important Dates

22 Sept	Board Meeting 7pm
1 st Oct	Active Adventurers Trip
1 st Oct	End of Term 3
18 th Oct	Start of Term 4
25 th Oct	Labour Day
26 th Oct	Teacher Only Day



From the Principal

COVID Update

It's great to be back at school after another lockdown. It seems strange how quickly we adapt to change and things like lockdowns have almost become a familiar experience. There were a few changes from the last lockdown in 2020. Firstly, we distributed a lot more devices to homes this time, as parents and caregivers were really keen to support their children's learning. Having done this all before, everyone was much more familiar with how learning from home works, and it wasn't long before the children were engaged in some really exciting learning opportunities. The situations at home vary enormously for our children, so our philosophies of do what you can, make it fun and select tasks that suit your whānau seem to work well.

One of the challenges with lockdowns is our ability to communicate messages and learning materials with students and parents. Our Educa App is the main platform we use to promote learning, and we often use both email and Facebook for other messages, newsletter etc. Please ensure that your email and contact details are up to date with the school, and we encourage you to follow the school on Facebook.

The impact of the lockdown and subsequent Covid Levels has already impacted on several school events. We have had to change our Year 4 Zoo Trip, and DanceSplash and the Upper Hutt Cultural Festival have both been cancelled. The team at Fraser Crescent School are very passionate about the children not missing out on things, and we are continuing to explore lots of options to make sure we have a fantastic end of year. Additional factors such as our lack of space due to the extensive building work, will mean that creative and flexible thinking will be required, but the staff are up for the challenge!

My final message about the recent lockdown is one of thanks. I really appreciate the support from our wonderful school community in so many ways. This included supporting the learning at home, completing the online survey about returning to school, being considerate about the need to send your children to school at Level 3, the list goes on. These are challenging times and supporting each other is a fantastic way to get through them ☺

A few key guidelines for parents and visitors at Level 2 include:

- Please do not send your child to school if they are feeling even slightly unwell.
- Anyone visiting the school is encouraged to wear a mask, and social distance appropriately.
- We are keen to keep parents out of the school buildings as much as possible. If entering the school buildings, you will need to use the VisTab sign-in by the office. Please note that the office door may likely be locked.

Back up and running

Even though we have only been back at school for just over a week since the lockdown, many of the extra programmes we offer are already up and running. This includes He Toa, the Music Bus, Art Attack, After School Cooking, Active Adventurers, Harakeke Weaving, Breakfast Club, Fraser Time, Coding Club, Makerspace, and more. We have even gone on a couple of trips to Expressions too!

Lorna Cowell – Retiring at the end of the year.

Long-time new entrant teacher Lorna Cowell is retiring at the end of the year. The school has been like a family to Lorna over the 26 years she has worked here, with many of the staff becoming close friends. Lorna is our longest serving staff member and I have never known a time at Fraser Crescent School without her being part of the furniture here (Lorna is one of the few staff members who knew me when I had hair!) Lorna has always Strived for Success with all the children in her care and has always been keen to learn and try new things all the way through her career. But the time has come for Lorna to step away from her classroom teaching position and to enjoy her retirement. We do expect Lorna to continue having some involvement with the school next year. We hope many of you will join us at the end of the year to farewell the Amazing Mrs Cowell!

Major Building Work at School

Large parts of the school have turned into a building site, as Rooms 8-12 receive a significant make over. These classes have moved to other parts of our school. We now have two classes working in the school hall. The replacement of the heat pumps and new carpet in the hall has made this a much nicer learning environment for the children. This first stage of work is likely to last until the end of this year. The rest of the school will be getting some flat roof and window replacement, which will mean other classes will need to temporarily move next year, however this will be for a much shorter period. Please be mindful of your own health and safety while visiting the school.



Year 4 Camp Update

The Year 4 Camp - Zoo Trip was cancelled due to the zoo not allowing us to visit at Level 2. We are unable to secure another zoo booking this year. Our plan at this point is to run an activity day using local recreation activities and have a sleepover at school. This will likely occur at the same time as the Year 5 Camp, on the 11th and 12th of November. Further information will be sent home shortly, once our plans have been confirmed.

Basicfactsathon Postponed until Term 4

Due to the timing of the lockdown and the financial impact on some of our families, we have made the decision to postpone our annual Basicfactsathon until the start of Term 4.

Teacher Only Day – 26th October

Please note that the school will be closed for a Teacher Only Day on the Tuesday 26th October. This is the day after Labour Day, giving you an extra long weekend. Most other schools in Upper Hutt have a Teacher Only Day on the same day, in an effort to minimise disruption.



School Photos

School photos were sent home on Monday 13th September 2021. You can still order photos on-line using the following link <https://orders.lcscott.co.nz/ordering/with?key=eb5vbccg>



Board Elections will be held in May 2022. If you are interested in the work the Board does and think you might like to be involved, please contact me – principal@frasercres.school.nz or leave your name with Kathie at the office.

Fraser Photo Gallery



Weaving group



Room 12 Whirinaki Whare Taonga Trip – learning about Upper Hutt's History



Whirinaki Whare Taonga Trip



The new look hall – Room 11 and 12's Classroom!



He Toa – Taiaha kids in action



Cooking Club making cookies