



NEWSLETTER

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11th December 2020



Important Dates

14 th Dec	Year 6 Celebration
15 th Dec	Last Day of School – 1pm Finish
2021	
2 nd Feb	First day of school 2021
2 nd Apr	Good Friday
5 th Apr	Easter Monday
6 th Apr	Easter Tuesday
16 th Apr	End of Term 1

**Please note we close at 1:00pm
on the last day of school.**



From the Principal

Final Newsletter – 2020 Reflection

Wow, what a year it has been. 2020 sounded so great at the start of the year, a brand new and exciting decade. That quickly changed and 2020 has arguably been the most extraordinary and strangest year ever, with the school (and everyone) going into lockdown in late March. Most of us spent the best part of two months in lockdown, before schools (and life as usual) reopened in late May. The impact of Covid19 has been felt by us all in very different ways. In worse cases it has led to deaths, increased stress, significant financial and work pressures and so on. In other cases, the lockdown resulted in some of the best family time that many of us have experienced before. I always do a bit of a sum up at the end of the year, and I have done so with a bit of a Covid lens.

Our Community. *One of the real positives I have loved this year is that those in our community in need, have often been supported by those who are in a position to give. We have had a number of donations from parents, churches, grants etc, which we have been able to pass on to those in need. Only recently we distributed 25 Christmas Hampers from the Nourish Trust.*

Support Staff. *Our support staff (mainly teacher aides) have really gone the extra mile this year. Particularly during the lockdown we had staff hand delivering learning packs to students, and going into homes to help out some of our children. Recently lots of our teacher aides came in at the weekend to decorate the Hub with a Christmas Theme.*

Our Board of Trustees. *Our Board have responded well to the implications of Covid and have focussed on both the learning and wellbeing of our children (and staff). We had an Education Review Office evaluation in regards to how our school responded to Covid and the lockdown, the feedback of which was really positive. On a personal note, I have really appreciated the support and advice from the Board in a year that has been so challenging.*

Cancellation of the Kapa Haka Festival. *Covid forced a rethink about the annual Upper Hutt Cultural Festival, which typically saw thousands of children and whānau congregate at Lane Park for the event. Instead of the usual festival, groups of students from schools throughout Upper Hutt worked together and performed for a video to celebrate this year's event. It is a masterpiece and something to treasure for the years to come. It also shows that from the adversity of Covid, some awesome things can still happen. Check out the following link to the combined schools video. The other link is our school's performance.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfqF6DP_V7M&ab_channel=CollectiveSchoolsofUpperHutt

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulyaUeGu_tq

Home and School Association. Despite the school closure and missing a few fundraisers, our Home and School were still able to reach its goal of raising \$10,000 this year. The fabulous support of our 2020 Basicfactsathon from our community went a long way to reaching this goal. The money raised this year will help fund camp costs and bikes for our upcoming BMX track.

The Teachers. One of the biggest implications of Covid has been the number of things that have been cancelled for our students this year. I have been really pleased with the ongoing commitment and extra effort of the teachers to ensure that we can offer as many opportunities to our students as possible. After lockdown we ran a new sports and arts programme called Brushes and Balls, to make up for some of the things the children had missed out on. We still went ahead with DanceSplash, giving the children a chance to perform their dance in school. I also want to recognise the efforts of the teachers in supporting the students with their learning during the lockdown, as well as Claire Hodge and Aaron Work, who were our Bubble Teachers in school.

The Kids. I want to thank and acknowledge our students. We were a little apprehensive how the children were going to respond returning to school after the lockdown, especially considering we were asking parents and whānau to stay away. The kids were really positive and did so well, even many of our younger students who were walking into school on their own. I also want to recognise the work our students did during the lockdown. Our message as a school in regards to learning was 'Do what you can', and lots of our students really got involved in the learning opportunities on offer. I particularly enjoyed all the photos and videos I was sent with the Pop Up Quest Challenges we had running during the lockdown.

Cam and his head injury. On a final note in summing up the year, I want to reflect on Cam and his head injury which occurred recently due to a scooter accident. Cam has done really well in making an amazing recovery. Since Cam's accident we have changed our rules and we now require children to wear helmets when riding scooters at school (and hopefully at home too!) However, his accident is a reminder of both how risks are always present and we need to take care to minimise these. This is a fitting place for me to wish everyone in our school community a happy and safe summer holiday.

Whānau Hui

I would like to thank everyone who came along last night and joined us for our annual Hui. We were delighted with the turn out and really appreciate people giving up an evening at such a busy time of the year. I really hope that people who attended the evening could see the progress that we have made as a school since the last Hui, largely based on your feedback. I also want to do a huge shout out to the children who performed at the Hui. The He Toa group are always amazing to watch, and the children get so much out of this programme. It was also fabulous that our DanceSplash group got a chance to share their dance with an audience. Our Kapa Kapa group finished off the night with some tuneful waiata and a passionate haka. If you weren't able to attend the Hui but would like to share some of your ideas with us, please email me and we can share the information and gather your feedback. Please email me at principal@fraser cres.school.nz

End of Year - Assembly

Fraser Crescent School will be **finishing for the year at 1pm on Tuesday 15th December 2020**. We will be holding our final assembly at 11:15am on this day. Our school community is welcome to come along and join us. We will be fare-welling our Year 6 students and Robyn Stent at this assembly.

2021 Class Lists

We are currently finalising our teacher appointments for next year, therefore we are unable to confirm the class lists at this point. We would rather delay this process, than get it wrong and have to move children around classes after we have announced them. We are keen to inform the children of their classes and teachers before they start back at school on the 2nd of February 2021. In early January we will put the lists up on the window in my office so you can see which class your child is in. Keep an eye out for an announcement on Facebook and Educa about when the lists have been put up.



From the Board

Board of Trustees Update

Our Board met earlier in the week to review our 2020 student data. This information focussed on Reading, Writing, Mathematics and our Competency Goals.



School News

Fraser Quest Assembly

Earlier today we held our Fraser Quest Assembly to recognise the students who took part in the Fraser Quest programme over the year. Due to Covid and the lockdown, we made a few changes to the Quest this year, reducing the number of Quests that the children needed to do at each year level. The Quest is a fantastic optional home learning programme for our students, which allows them to learn and explore lots of things outside of school, while reinforcing and developing our school values. One of the great things about the Quests is that children can choose when to do them, so if your family is really busy during the week, you can complete the Quests during the holidays. Sometimes parents have commented that their children are too busy to complete the Quests. In lots of cases you might find that the things the kids are busy doing, actually count towards the Quest programme. There is a link to the Quest on the "Home Learning – Covid" page of our school website. Maybe encourage your children to have a go at a couple in the school holidays!



Community Notices

Pool Keys for the 2021 Swimming Season

Pool keys will be available from the office if you would like to hire one for the season. Come and see Kathie early next week if you are keen. The cost is \$80 per family for a key. On average it costs the Board over \$10,000 a year to maintain and operate the pool.

Ngā mihi nui,
Have a safe and happy summer
John Channer
Next Newsletter 5th February 2021

Photos from 2020

