



Amuri Area School Newsletter 10th April 2020

As strange as this may seem this really is welcome back to term two! We find ourselves in unprecedented times and the next few weeks will be challenging for us all as we come to grips with continued life in our bubble and significant adaptation of the ways in which we deliver education. Over the term break our teaching team have been putting this all together for you and you will be receiving communication over the coming days from them directly. The first and most important step for you as parents is to check you are linked into the school so we can communicate with you.

- If your child is in year 1-8 have you downloaded the SEESAW app?
- Do you have our school app and have you subscribed to your relevant alert groups?
- Do we have your most up to date address and email?
- Have you joined our new Facebook Page?
- Do we have the most up to date cell phone number to text alert the most important messages to you?

These are the ways we will use to communicate with you so it really is important you have one or more of these options. Towards the end of this week Form Tutors will be calling families in year 7-13 to check in to see if things are going well for you however this does not stop you contacting us directly before that to help you in any way. Class teachers in 1-6 will communicate mostly through Seesaw with their families and will only call those we have lost contact with.

Term Two Commences Wednesday 15th April and Ends on Friday 3rd July

We are here to help not to stress you out! If there is one thing I want you to take from this newsletter it is this! We do not expect you to be teachers for your children, nor do we expect your child to be supervised by you in their learning for 5 hours each day. We expect you to do what you can! To engage with your child and their learning in a way that suits your circumstances as we know for many of you your days are pretty busy as it is. Be kind to yourself and use the resources we provide to enable positive experiences with your child in a way that works for your family. Do not hesitate to contact Kylee, Penny or I for a confidential chat if you feel things are getting a bit too much to handle! Send us a message and we will call you!

James

Kylee Habgood Year 1-8

Kia ora to everyone and I hope you are all well and happy in your bubbles!

Now can only be described as a time of change for many things and Education is no exception. Nobody knows what normal is and what it will look like once we return to school. I'm immensely proud of the teachers in Year 1-8 who have gone above and beyond to provide activities for your children. I'm also delighted that there are so many parents who are sharing their child's learning via their child's Seesaw journal. In my role as an associate teacher, I've been busy looking at all the accounts, keeping up to date with what is going on. Thank you to you all for your support and keeping the wheels of learning...turning!

Next week we return to remote delivery of lessons and this will be happening (at this stage) for the next two weeks with remote delivery starting for Years 1-8 on Wednesday the 15th of April. Our teachers are working on finding meaningful learning tasks that take into account various issues such as slow internet, few devices for all family members, no printing facilities or no mobile reception. Teachers will be in touch with a daily program of work for each child via the Seesaw accounts that are currently working, so if you're not yet linked to your child's Seesaw account, please contact the homeroom teacher for the QR code. Each teacher will also provide information about when they will be available for answering emails and phone calls and there will be information about how long children should be working for on a given day. We know that you are all dealing with different situations in your bubbles and we want to take those into account to ensure families can continue with what is important to them, once schoolwork is over for the day.

In the meantime, have a safe and happy Easter weekend and enjoy the chocolate and the good weather. This new normal will only work if we all take good care of ourselves and our wellbeing at this unusual time.

Kia kaha

Kylee Habgood

Penny Mossman Year 9-13

NCEA Students

We understand that many students may be concerned about where they sit regarding NCEA, please be assured that as soon as we have any updated information, we will pass it on. In the meantime as students return to 'virtual' school on Wednesday we want to stress the importance of students engaging on line with the work that has been set, zoom meetings that will be scheduled and keeping in contact with their teachers via the advised channels and time frames. For our Level 2 & 3 students now more than ever you will need to be conscious of self and time management and establishing good independent learning routines. For those students already studying a subject by distance e.g. Spanish and Digital Technologies it is business as usual so no reason not to be attending class meetings.

I am happy for any parents to email or contact me to talk through any NCEA concerns as my primary focus over the next couple of weeks will be the welfare of staff and students and providing what support we can.

The return to 'school' will be a bit stressful for some so just take things day by day and remember communication is key as is looking after wellbeing. Like all challenges we are confident that our rural resilience and can-do attitude will serve us well at this time.

Take care

Penny Mossman

Please do not enter school grounds or use school play equipment. These have been closed by the Ministry of Health at this time.

A note on the Minister's announcement re home learning support and the issue of learning packs or devices over the next few weeks.

We have been working with the Ministry of Education over the past few days confirming addresses and I have requested home learning packs for ALL students in year 1-8 to supplement (not replace) the work that will be delivered by our teaching staff.

We have also requested additional devices to add to the 20 or so we have already issued over the past week for year 9-13 students. We will keep you up to date on information regarding the TV programmes planned to support learning over the next 2 weeks.

I have to say how encouraged I was listening to the Minister's announcement and have to credit the Ministry for the work they are doing to support schools and families at this time. I strongly believe this is the best country in the world to be in right now.. we should all be proud!



From our Facebook Superhero challenge Hayley's Superhero Icyhot. Her abilities are ice and fire

We still have some devices available for immediate issue if you need them to help you with home learning.

Contact Details

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Penny Mossman Penny@amuri.school.nz

Kylee Habgood Kylee@amuri.school.nz



The Prime Minister set our Easter Egg Challenge. This is Kaitlyn's entry! Printable version at the end of this newsletter if you wanted to enter!

**From our Extension Co-ordinator
Susan Ibbetson**

To keep **bright young minds** learning Academy conferences are launching something new - **Big Ideas, Silly Questions and Mind Expanding Adventures** is an online platform focused on BIG IDEAS. Videos, **thought-provoking ideas**, puzzles that students and whanau can have a bit of fun with. There will be material suited to more able students aged 13 - 19. See their introductory video on their Facebook page. Students can take part in our **quizzes and philosophical puzzles** - they will be posting on all their platforms:

www.academyconferences.com

Twitter: @A_Conferences

Snapchat: conferences

Facebook: Academy Conferences

Indoor Games & Activities

To Get Children Moving

- **GO ON AN ALPHABET SCAVENGER HUNT**
Make a poster with the alphabet and have your child search for items that begin with each letter.
- **PLAY HOPSCOTCH IN A HALLWAY**
Use any paper you have on hand (or cardboard) to cut out shapes. Use double-sided tape to place the shapes on the floor to begin your game of hopscotch.
- **CREATE A OBSTACLE COURSE**
Use items around your house (pillows, pool noodles, baskets, etc) to create a fun obstacle course.
- **PLAY THE FLOOR IS LAVA**
Decide which furniture is ok to jump on and considered safe. Set a timer and the first person yells, "The floor is lava." All other players must get to the "safe" spot before the time runs out.
- **GO ON AN ANIMAL SAFARI**
Draw or print different animal shapes and have your child color them in. Hide them around the house for your child to find.
- **PLAY I SPY CLEANUP**
Set a time to put away as many items until the clock runs out. Call out an item for your child to race towards, grab, and put away!
- **PLAY A FLASHCARD HIDE AND SEEK**
For younger children, hide flashcards of letters and numbers around the house. Have your child find the cards and tell you the letter or number they found. For older children, hide word or math fact flashcards and have them tell you the answer when they find them.

The Big New Zealand Easter Egg Hunt

Will you take part in The Big New Zealand Easter Egg Hunt and make this Easter extra special? All you need to do is colour in this Easter egg, or design your own, and stick it in a window that faces the street so that everyone can have the chance to hunt for eggs this weekend!

Email your finished eggs to primeminister@parliament.govt.nz, or share them on social media using the hashtag #NZEggHunt

