



Amuri Area School

Kia Kitea Toikaka
Nothing But The Best

Phone (03) 315 8233
Fax (03) 315 8476
Email Principal@Amuri.School.nz

P.O. Box 62
Culverden 8272

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Apologies to those on FACEBOOK as there will be a fair bit of repetition in this newsletter for you!

Well that was quite a week!

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge our staff at Amuri for a fine example of rolling with the punches this week. Whilst we had been making preparations for home learning it is fair to say we did not anticipate needing it quite so rapidly. We know you are all home and secure in your bubble and taking care of each other. We also hope that we can all do what needs to be done here so we can get back to school as soon as possible. In short



Reminder of Contact Options

Our Facebook page is up and running just search for Amuri Area School and look for our Value image to sign up.

Our School App is also a great source of information and you will find most information will be repeated across email/app/facebook however we are looking to have the facebook platform a little more interactive.

My number is 02102479539
james@amuri.school.nz

Home
Learning at its
finest!

Access to School Grounds

Please note we are no longer allowed to access the school site and our playgrounds have been closed by the Ministry of Health.



Clarification of School holidays brought forward

School holidays are being brought forward so that they are completed within the 4 week period. Holidays will now begin from Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive (a reminder that the Tuesday after Easter Monday is always a closed day for schools).

At the end of the school holidays, schools will be open for distance learning but not physically open for staff to work at the schools.

Please note the instruction to stay home (Alert Level 4) will continue beyond the new school holiday period but schools will be technically open for distance instruction. Teachers will be working offsite.

A photograph of a student's handwritten work on a worksheet. The worksheet has several sections with prompts and drawing areas. The student has written 'entertaining' at the top. In the first section, 'Name a musical artist or song that you enjoy,' they have written 'Revenge' and 'Stronger Than You'. In the second section, 'List three of your favorite animals,' they have listed 'Hamster', 'Dad', and 'Dolphin'. In the third section, 'Finish the sentence. If I had the principal's job, I would...' they have written 'Get another job ASAP'. In the fourth section, 'What are you most afraid of?' they have written 'Creepers' and drawn a small, round, spiky creature. In the fifth section, 'List four places you would like to visit,' they have written 'Hawaii' and drawn a palm tree.

Useful Links

[Nathan Wallis On Home Learning](#)

[Supporting Young People with Dr Emma Woodward and Dr Denise Quinlan](#)

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Because we are sending home some great work and resources for your children you might be inclined to create a minute by minute schedule for them. You have high hopes of hours of learning and You'll limit technology until everything is done! For some students that will be awesome .. But here's the thing...

Our children are just as scared as we are right now. Our children not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off of school for weeks sounds awesome, they are probably picturing a fun time like summer holidays, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends.

Over the coming weeks, you will see an increase in behavior issues with your kids. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally - it will happen. You'll see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behavior in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What kids need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. And that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and love on your kids a bit more. Play outside and go on walks. Home baking and painting pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry too much about them regressing in school. Every single child is in this boat and they all will be ok. When we are back in the classroom, we will all course correct and meet them where they are. Teachers are experts at this!

If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your child's mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind, every single day...

Kia Kaha

James

Credit to various sources from NZ Principals FB Page and general all around stealing

A note from Mrs Mossman

Senior School Message

Hello from the other side!

As we move into this unprecedented online environment and then into a 2 week holiday we just want to assure you from our 'bubbles' that we are doing our very best in continuing with your child's education.

We are regularly in communication with our teaching staff ensuring they have the support they need working in an isolated manner. We appreciate as parents that you could well be overwhelmed with the new normal in your households – it is something we are all getting used to. The 'holiday' will be a time to take stock and settle into routines that work for your family. We are being bombarded daily with advice on how to manage to stay sane in our bubbles, but routines and physical activity seem to be common themes - how fortunate we are to live in the country.

Continuing with learning will have a new set of challenges but as New Zealanders we have a reputation for our ability to find solutions and we are confident that our students will with your support and guidance rise to the challenge of becoming 21st century learners in a hurry.

21st Century skills are:

- Critical thinking.
- Creativity.
- Collaboration.
- Communication.
- Information literacy.
- Media literacy.
- Technology literacy.
- Flexibility.

For students facing NCEA please do not panic as the whole country is in the same position. Rest assured that NZQA and the MOE are working on solutions and a way forward. I am receiving regular updates as to how this progressing and what it might look like for teachers and students.

Our most important message for our school families is to look after yourselves and trust we will emerge from this individually and as a nation - stronger and wiser.

Penny Mossman

Keep Your Children Safe Online

With students accessing leaning online now may be a great time to go over your expectations regarding the safe use of social media with your child. Netsafe is an awesome resources for this check out:-

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE LETTING YOUR CHILDREN SIGN UP TO SOCIAL MEDIA

WHAT ARE THE AGE RESTRICTIONS?

The minimum sign up age for Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and YouTube is 13. This is because a child's social and emotional capability is still developing which can make it more difficult to identify and manage challenges that occur on a platform designed for adults and teens. If your child is under 13 and keen to use social media, consider their capability to manage potential online challenges before setting up a profile. It is better your child is honest with you as you can help them to stay safe online.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE APP OR PLATFORM?

Read about the platform and use it yourself before letting your kids use it to get a feel for how it works and what the online community is like. It's best if the platform your child is considering has strong privacy options and offers moderating, reporting and blocking features. Before setting them up try to familiarise yourself with the privacy and security features available, and learn how implement them.

WHAT ARE THE PLATFORM'S DATA AND SHARING POLICIES?

All social media platforms collect data about their users and they may share that data with partners or advertisers. Ensure that you are comfortable with the type of information that is being collected and shared.

TIPS FOR SIGNING KIDS UP TO SOCIAL MEDIA SAFELY

Teach the online safety basics

Make sure you've taught your child the online safety basics before they start using social media. Our five tips to help your child thrive online:

1. Keep it locked: Show your child how to set a PIN or password to protect their devices, accounts and private information
2. Keep it private: Make sure your child doesn't disclose personal information like their address and that they know how to keep their profiles private
3. Keep it helpful: Explain to your child that what they do online leaves a digital footprint so they should think twice about what they are doing – before they do it
4. Keep it real: Talk to your child about how to handle approaches from strangers and why sometimes people pretend to be someone else online

5. Keep it friendly: Teach your child to be kind and respectful online, and to be careful talking to, or sharing information with, people they don't know

Before letting your child get started with using social media make sure they know about the online safety basics. This should include how to create a [strong password](#), what information to protect online (including passwords, personal information, payment details etc), as well as discussing the concept of a [digital footprint](#).

You can help

There are ways you can help your child navigate social media. This includes:

- Setting up the account together
- Using your email instead of your child's (depending on their age)
- Entering their actual birthday so they're less likely to see inappropriate content
- Becoming their friend or following them
- Visiting the safety centres and teaching them how to use the tools available. Start with how to block people, how to report content and how to use the privacy settings [Facebook](#) • [Snapchat](#) • [Instagram](#) • [YouTube](#) • [Twitter](#)



- Talking regularly about the need for privacy settings, how to handle social conflict online and what to do when they are concerned
- Creating an [online safety plan](#) so that you and your child knows what to do if something were to go wrong online

SET BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS

It's important you understand more about the online activities and experiences your child has or wants to explore. Talk to them about what they do online, how they use devices and who they're talking to. Take the time to tune in to the conversation – what might seem like just a game to you might be the way your child is connecting and interacting with people they don't know.

Also consider discussing [screen time](#) and how much time spent on the app or platform is appropriate.

CHECK IN

Research shows that parents are critical to the success of young people becoming safe, confident and capable in their use of digital technology. Regular proactive conversations at home helps to minimise the damage if things do go wrong online. It's important to let your child know that they can talk to you about anything that happens to them online and that you'll be there to support them no matter what.

Check in with your child often about their social media life and be on the lookout for any negative changes in behaviour. Behaviour to look out for could include changes to their mood or refusing to go to school. Visit our [Online Bullying for Parents](#) page for more advice.

Students Working from Home

By now you should all have received contact from your class teachers with work for your child to crack on with. If you have questions around this the first contact should be the teacher themselves. Then if your question is unanswered then by all means contact Kylee, Penny or I.

Remember school holidays have been shifted with the last day of term now being TODAY!

ANINK BRUCE	bruce@amuri.school.nz
ASI TEVITA	tevita@amuri.school.nz
BALDWIN CHARLOTTE	charlotte@amuri.school.nz
BLACK ADRIAN	adrian@amuri.school.nz
CAMPBELL CHARLOTTE	charlottec@amuri.school.nz
CAMPBELL DAVID	david@amuri.school.nz
CATE GAVIN	gavin@amuri.school.nz
COWAP MAXINE	maxine@amuri.school.nz
DAVIDSON ROBYN	robyn@amuri.school.nz
FLEMING JULIE	julie@amuri.school.nz
GREENWOOD MELISSA	melissa@amuri.school.nz
HELMORE SARAH	sarahh@amuri.school.nz
HEWITT GAVIN	gavinh@amuri.school.nz
IBBETSON SUSAN	susan@amuri.school.nz
JOHNSON DENISE	denisej@amuri.school.nz
LANE EMILY	emilyl@amuri.school.nz
MCCARTHY CLAIRE	claire@amuri.school.nz
MOKE ALANNAH	alannah@amuri.school.nz
NIMMO ALISON	alison@amuri.school.nz
OWENS Y DE NOVOA CATHERINE	catherine@amuri.school.nz
SHANKS DEANNAH	dee@amuri.school.nz
SHAW EMILY	emily@amuri.school.nz
SOPP PHOEBE	phoebe@amuri.school.nz
STEEL JULIA	julia@amuri.school.nz
TEULON ELIZABETH	liz@amuri.school.nz
VAN DER MERWE RENET	renet@amuri.school.nz
WILSON SAM	sam@amuri.school.nz

As the term break starts tomorrow I have asked our teachers to focus on their own families and situations during the next two weeks. I am still available for contact over this period for any school related matters on 02102479539 or james@amuri.school.nz

"We don't develop courage by being happy every day. We develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity."— Barbara De Angelis