

Amuri Area School



Kia Kitea Toikaka
Nothing But The Best

*Raising Achievement: Realising Potential:
Encouraging Excellence*

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**Term 2, Week 8
Week Ending 5th June 2020**

Tēnā Koutou

There is rather a lot of important information in this newsletter so I ask you take time to have a good look through.

Please make sure you book your parent teacher interviews by midday on the 18th June as we will need the day after that to set up the email addresses and schedules for the teachers.

Also, if your child is entering Year 9 or 10 in 2021, please take a moment to look at our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) information.

We have had some discussions with Amuri Medical Centre to clarify what should happen if a member of a household is directed to take a COVID test. At this time the advice given is that all members of that household should stay away from school until the result is returned. This may change as we move to Level ONE. However, for the time being that is the directive.

On the subject of Level ONE the good money is on Wednesday next week. IF this is the case we will be able to once again allow parents into school grounds and we will update you on contact tracing requirements (if any) once we receive this information from

the Ministry of Health. This will also mean we can resume assemblies and run cross country as normal with parents in attendance. It is so great to see the resumption of normality again with football games kicking off this weekend here at school, the rugby club back at training and netball to come in the near future.

One of the consequences of lockdown is that once again we seem to be cleaning up a fair bit of inappropriate social media behaviour. Even when this occurs in the home it has the inevitable spill over to school. Can you please take the time to discuss over the dining table your family expectations around the use of social media and remind your child to always screen shot anything they feel is inappropriate and to NOT REPLY, as once they, do it is often hard to pick through who is the offender and who is the victim. Encourage them to tell you and show you what they are receiving and remind them that blocking someone is always a great option! Do not let your child have a cell phone in their room overnight as this is often where the damage is done.

Have a wonderful weekend. I am looking forward to watching some football!

Kia Kitea Toikaka

James Griggs
Principal



Meet Mr Griggs's new fur baby, Charlie. She is settling in well in the main chair 😊

Senior School News

A warm welcome to our new senior school arrivals Noah Ellis in Year 11 and Jesse Ellis in Year 9. We hope that their time at Amuri is enjoyable and they soon feel at home in this wonderful part of the South Island.

This week NZQA have advised schools of the changes they are making to the qualification for 2020 to offset opportunities lost during lockdown – the extract below is directly from NZQA to parents and family.

We know some of our students - and their whānau - are worried that they might not be able to attain NCEA or UE this year because of the disruption caused by COVID19. To help address this and support students, the following changes are being made to NCEA and University Entrance (UE) requirements for this year:

- **Students working towards NCEA can gain additional credits, based on the number of credits they achieve during the 2020 school year. These additional credits will be known as Learning Recognition credits. For every 5 credits a student achieves towards their NCEA either through internal or external assessment, they are entitled to an additional 1 credit. Students at NCEA Level 1 are eligible for up to a maximum of 10 additional credits while those at Levels 2 and 3 are eligible for up to a maximum of 8 additional credits.**
- **Students will be awarded a certificate endorsement if they achieve 46 credits at Merit or Excellence level, rather than the usual 50. Students achieving 12 credits at Merit or Excellence level in a course – rather than 14 – will be awarded a course endorsement.**
- **Current UE requirements have been reduced from 14 to 12 credits in three UE-approved subjects. Students still need to attain NCEA Level 3 and meet literacy and numeracy requirements to be awarded University Entrance.**
- **External NCEA examinations and NZ Scholarship examinations will now take place from 16 November 2020 to 9 December 2020. This will provide extra time for teaching, learning and assessment in Term 4.**

- **The submission date for subjects which require students to submit a portfolio (for example, Design and Visual Communications) has been extended to 12 November 2020, to give students more time to complete their portfolios.**

These changes have been designed to encourage students to continue working towards their NCEA and to ensure that the NCEA attained by our students this school year is just as valid as those earned in previous years.

This is not an easier way to get NCEA as you still must achieve credits to gain the extra recognition for your achievement.

Overall, with these changes and the decision to not have a 'blanket study leave' period our students are well positioned to achieve their potential goals and be the best that they can be.

Penny Mossman

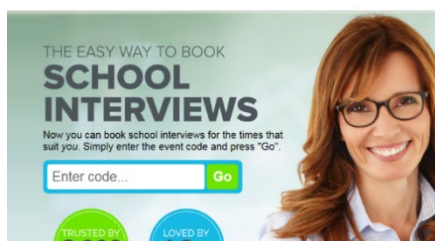
Dates for your Diary

HPSSA	Hurunui Primary Schools Sports Association
CCHS	Canterbury Country High Schools
JUNE '20	
10 th	BOT Meeting at 6:00pm
12 th – 15 th	Year 12 OE Trip – Queen Charlotte Track
22 nd – 24 th	Parent Teacher Interviews
24 th	School Cross Country
26 th	Website photo competition closes
30 th	School photos
JULY '20	
3 rd	End of Term 2
20 th	Start of Term 3
24 th	CCHS AGM Rangiora
AUGUST '20	
5 th	BOT Meeting at 6:00pm
18 th	COL Student Leadership Conference
25 th	HPSSA 7-Aside
27 th	HPSSA 7-Aside postponement



2020 Parent-Teacher Interviews

Please find below the details on how to book your parent teacher conferences on the evenings of 22nd, 23rd and 24th June. If you need help with this please call us on 03 3158233 and we can help you to book your preferred times. **This year we will be trying something new and conducting these using the online ZOOM platform.** We are hoping this will make it easier for you to attend without the need for long waits between appointments and the obvious cold night issue. We will send clear instructions closer to the event however, all you need to participate is an internet capable device and a working email address for us to send the link to.



- Navigate to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz
- Where it says 'Enter code' enter the Amuri Area School code of **qwzch**



Step 1: Enter your email address, your name and your student's name(s).

- Your email address is used to send you confirmation of your bookings.
- Press the green "Go" button to go on to the next page.

Email	<input type="text"/>
Parent's full name	<input type="text"/>
Student's name	<input type="text"/>
Student's name	<input type="text"/>
Student's name	<input type="text"/>
+ Add another student	
<input type="button" value="Go"/>	

- The next screen will ask for your email address, your name, how many students you are booking for and then the students names

*(This year an email address **MUST be** provided as this is how we will send the link to you. Entering your email address will also create a personal timetable that will be emailed directly to you!)*

To know your child's teachers and timetable you can of course talk to your child **OR** download the MUSAC edge app **OR** Google - Edge Caregiver login then type in the email address that you have registered with us and press FORGOT PASSWORD. A link will be sent to your email, follow those instructions. If in doubt call the office!



Step 2: Choose teachers.

- Select a subject from the first box, then select a teacher from the second box.
- More options (up to 10) will appear as you use existing ones.
- Press the green "Go" button to go on to the next page.

	Subject	Teacher
For gtdfdg	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
For dfg	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Go"/>		

- The next screen asks for the subjects and teachers you would like to see
- First select the subject and year level
- Then in the second column you will be able to select the teacher *(talk to your child if you are unsure of a teacher's name)*
- You can select up to 10 teachers, the boxes will continue to appear as they are filled in.



2020 Parent-Teacher Interviews



Amuri Area School Parent-Teacher Conferences Term 2

Step 3: Choose the time(s) you want.

- Leave time to get from one booking to the next - *back-to-back bookings are not a good idea.*
- Missing checkboxes mean that time has already been booked by someone else.
- Press the green "Go" button to confirm your bookings.

Mon 22 Jun 3:30pm - 7:30pm

	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm
For gfdg	30 45 00 15 30 45 00 15 30 45 00 15 30 45 00 15				
Penny Mossman (Agriculture)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Thomas (Food and Nutrition)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tue 23 Jun 3:30pm - 7:30pm

	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm
For gfdg	30 45 00 15 30 45 00 15 30 45 00 15 30 45 00 15				
Penny Mossman (Agriculture)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Thomas (Food and Nutrition)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Go

- The last screen is where you select the time for your interview
- Each block lasts 15 minutes by default. *(Please do not book more than one slot per teacher per child)*
- Make sure you are booking for the correct day
- The last step is to click 'Go'

Who can you see?

Our school is getting bigger and we want to ensure all parents have an opportunity to speak to the key people involved with their child. Please do not book DOUBLE slots with the same teacher unless it is for a different child. Experience has taught us that this is often overkill and leads to a lack of opportunities for other parents.

In Years 1-8 You can book a time with the homeroom teacher who will be able to fill you in on your child's progress including their option subjects.

In Years 9-13 You can book to see as many subject teachers as you wish from your child's timetable. Please note there are insufficient time slots for parents to see form teachers. If you wish to speak to a form teacher please call or arrange an individual appointment as you would normally do.

If you have specific concerns that may take longer than 10-15 minutes!

Experience has shown us that 10-15 minutes is more than enough for the majority of appointments. If you have specific concerns however and you feel that significantly more time is needed then please do NOT book through this system and call as normal and book a specific time with the teacher concerned. You are welcome to do this anytime of the year with any teacher and should not wait until formal parent teacher interview times to resolve any concerns you may have. For the vast majority of students and the majority of subjects 10-15 minutes is however plenty of time.

If you can't get a time slot with a teacher?

Although we try and allocate enough time slots some teachers can fill up very fast! Call the office and we will work out a time for you.

BOOKINGS WILL CLOSE AT 12 NOON ON THE 18TH JUNE.



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June 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

In 2021 we will be continuing with our compulsory BYOD programme for students in Year **9-13**. This means all students in Year 9-13 will need to have their own personal device that meets the minimum specifications as an essential tool for learning. The rationale for this decision is highlighted below.

- 1) There is a commitment from the Ministry of Education that many NCEA exams will be fully digital in the coming years. Many exams this year were already undertaken in this form and Amuri piloted a group in our recent examinations with success.
- 2) All our Senior Teachers have committed to delivering most programmes and communication through the Microsoft 365 interface. This means students access their learning, submit work and receive results and feedback in digital form. Lack of access to this at home and school will significantly disadvantage a child's learning.
- 3) There is an educational imperative to prepare our students for the workplace and to be functional citizens in a digital world.
- 4) Many of our students receive tuition through virtual learning making a personal device essential.

There are of course lots of logistics involved in implementing a BYOD programme and I have attempted below to answer what I believe will be the most commonly asked questions. Penny Mossman DP or I are happy to discuss this with you if you have any further questions on 03 3158233.

What sort of device do I need to buy?

These are the MINIMUM specs to give to the shop.

- Minimum of 13 inch screen (14" preferred for digitech and art based courses).
- Solid State hard drive minimum 128GB
- 4GB BUT.... 8GB of Ram is better if intending to take Art/Design or Technology Subjects in year 11-13.
- Running Windows 10
- Must be a laptop with a keyboard. Chrome books/Streambooks or tablets will not provide the educational benefits we need.
- Long life battery capable of lasting a school day
- Wifi capable with HDMI and USB inputs
- Headphone jack point and headphones.
- A mouse is recommended
- A quality protective bag and or cover.
- For students taking photography or design a dedicated graphics card is a must!

Who is responsible for maintenance and insurance?

You are responsible for all insurance and any repairs that may be required to your child's device. We strongly recommend insurance, a purpose-built carry bag with padding and a laptop protective cover as a minimum.



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What software do I need to get?

We will provide all school related 365 software for free. Your device needs to be running Windows 10 and you will need a high-quality anti-virus for home use when not on our school system.

How will it stay safe at school?

Your child will be responsible for looking after their laptop at school. Our lockers now have a high-quality video camera for security should they choose to use them and we will provide a secure lunchtime charging station. Insurance is highly recommended

What if I cannot afford this?

Please contact me confidentially and directly for a chat. 03-315-8233.

What happens when my child's device needs repair?

We will have loan devices available that can be checked out for the day from the office. These will not be able to go home and must be returned by 4pm each day to retain this privilege. Students who take these out are responsible for their safe return and will be asked to sign an agreement accepting financial responsibility.

How will my child charge their device?

The expectation is you will bring the laptop to school fully charged each day and that the laptop has a good quality battery. For heavy users we will provide a lunchtime charging station in a secure location.

Where should I get my device?

After Christmas is a great time to grab a bargain. We have an arrangement with Noel Leeming so make sure you mention the Amuri name upon purchase and you may get a further discount although for clearance items this may not always be the case.

We are giving plenty of notice as we know bargains and birthdays are coming up and the more time you have the better. Feel free to call me if you have any questions or need some further advice.

Kind regards

James Griggs
Principal
Amuri Area School

Thanks

A huge thank you to some mums from our Argentine community - Mariela Pino, Carina Garcia and Mariel Fernandez! At a recent fundraiser they raised \$200 which they donated to the Year 1-6 children. This will be used to provide warm milo to the children on cold mornings, starting June 15.

Thank you very much!
From all the Year 1-6 students.

YEAR 13 OE CYCLE TOUR OF RAINBOW STATION



YEAR 12 PE SCUBA DIVING TRIP TO AKAROA

