



15 March 2022

Re: Update on 2022 NIS School Camp

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers

On Monday evening our Executive Team met with our Board of Trustees to discuss where we're at with school camp. As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we need to appreciate several factors to ensure that our camp is safe to proceed. At this stage we are still planning to offer our camp. As circumstances around us change, this may too, and we wish to keep you in the loop on the decision-making process. Key discussions last night centred around health and safety and financial risk assessments.

Thank you to those who participated in last week's survey. We had 141 responses. The main questions were:

- 1 Do you believe we should still be offering a school camp at the end of Term 1?
76.6% said yes
- 2 At this point in time, will your child still be attending our school camp?
89.2% said yes
- 3 How concerned are you about your child attending camp? (1 being not at all concerned, 5 being very concerned)?
Average number 1.5 – which indicates that at the time the survey was taken the majority of respondents were not particularly concerned about their child attending camp

Based on the responses to the survey there is a very strong desire for camp to proceed.

One question to ponder is – should your child test positive at camp, are you in a position to collect them, which is approximately a 4 hour round trip.

Our Board and Exec team will be checking in again this Wednesday, Friday and next Monday and Wednesday to continue to monitor and assess the situation. Rest assured we are working hard behind the scenes on this.

The option to reschedule this camp for 2022 is not viable. We can go on a waitlist for an August camp but there are no guarantees for this. All the best camps are booked years in advance all year round.

However, we have discussed the following scenarios:

- Proceeding for 2022 and mitigating any health and safety risks
- Cancelling for 2022 – but will run in 2023 (all going well) which will mean this year's Year 7's will likely have a camp in their time at NIS

- Cancelling the camp and putting together an Education Outside the Classroom type experience in Term 3 or 4

In the comments there were a number of questions around financial refunds. If we do need to make the call to cancel the camp, we will do this before it is too late for people to receive a full refund. This will be by Friday 25th March at the latest.

Our goal is to keep everyone safe – students, parents and school and camp staff.

We will continue to monitor the trends – public health figures as well as our own statistics. Yesterday we had 130 students away from school, 12 of which were new cases of Covid. We have a number of staff impacted too.

There may also come a time when we simply have too many uncertainties around facilitating a safe camp - whether it is the camp who have too many infected staff or us or our parent helper body.

Nevertheless, I assure you we are considering all feedback and regularly reviewing with a view to making a final decision by Friday 25th March.

Ngaa mihi

Phil Muir

Principal

Northcote Intermediate