



NORTHCOTE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

PRINCIPALS NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 – WEEK 6 - 10th March 2022

Greetings • Nau mai, haere mai • Ni Hao • Konnichiwa • An Nyung Ha Sai Yo • Talofa Lava • Malo e Lelei • Namaste • Ni sa bula • Noaia'e mauri • Kia Orana • Asalam Alykum • Nay Ho • Goeie Môre • Привет • Bonjour • Dia dhuit • Hola • Guten tag

Kia ora all

Checkpoint - we are now over halfway through Term One and have moved from Summer to Autumn. Across the campus there is lots of learning happening every day. Well done to everyone for navigating their way through what's been another unconventional period of time. Since we have moved to Covid-19 response phase 3 you'll have noticed we've slowed down communication, only notifying parents if there is a positive case in their child's class and putting out our regular newsletters. Otherwise, we are living with Phase 3. On any given day we have around a quarter of our students absent – most of whom are isolating as household contacts. Thank you for letting me know when this happens, or if there is a positive case.

It's great to see large numbers of students trialling and participating in a range of sports and cultural activities including basketball, netball, water polo, lunchtime sports, eco warriors, senior and junior concert band, choir, rock bands, kapa haka and ukulele band. There will be much more starting up as we work through the year.

On this, I'd like to share a message that came through earlier this week from the coach of another school's team:

"I am contacting you as I would like to commend the amazing sportsmanship of your Giants basketball team at their game this evening. We had only 3 players show up for the game and therefore had to forfeit, however your boys stepped up and agreed to not only play 4 aside, but lent us a player for each half so that everyone could at least get some court time.

It was an evenly matched game and everyone gave it their all. A special mention to Jimmy and Asher who became our players for a half each, which as we know can be a strange situation to be in, playing against your own team. This was a great game to watch and I know you will be very proud of the way they all represented Northcote Intermediate School".

It's always great to receive feedback – positive or otherwise so we can acknowledge or address if required.

Mufti Day – Friday 18th March – Gold Coin Donation

Rangitoto Team have been focusing their inquiry on refugees, and in collaboration with our student leaders they have organised a mufti day for Friday 18th March, with proceeds going to the Red Cross to support refugees from the conflict in Ukraine.

Update on Covid 19

As of Friday 11th March, at 11.59pm the length of isolation time will change from 10 days to 7 days.

Household Contacts will need to have a rapid antigen test at day 3 and day 7 of their isolation period. If they become symptomatic, they should also get a test, and if the result is positive, they are required to isolate for seven days from that point.

If a person is isolating and still has symptoms after 7 days, they are advised to stay home until 24 hours after symptoms resolve.

<https://covid19.govt.nz/news-and-data/latest-news/isolation-period-reduced-from-10-to-7-days-third-vaccine-becomes-available/>

There will be questions around this, particularly from those who may currently be isolating. I aim to put out a new flowchart once more details have been released.

School Camp + Survey

Our plan is still to run our camps in Week 10; however, we are currently monitoring the situation. There may come a point where it may simply not be possible to run it if we are hit with a wave of absent staff/parent helpers/students. Nevertheless, I do understand there may be some parents who have thoughts around this and I'm keen to read the pulse of our people – please take a minute to answer a few quick questions relating to camp through this survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F2YQKB8>

Thank you to those parents who have paid their deposits for camp and thank you also to those who have made a donation for others to be able to attend. Please note that deposits are due tomorrow (Friday 11th March).

If you or anyone you know is needing support or are in a fortunate enough position to support another child – please reach out to our Deputy Principal, Joel King (joelk@ni.school.nz) and let him know.

Next Wednesday night's camp information evening that was going to be held by Zoom will be rescheduled to Wednesday 23rd March. The link for this is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88004628474?pwd=ZTg3TDcxVFIKTS90M2N6Zyt6disrUT09>

New minivan

On Monday this week we collected our new school minivan – this will give us greater capacity to provide opportunities for our learners. I'd like to acknowledge Mark Jago and the team at North Shore Toyota for their efforts to make this happen and a big shout out to Phil Agent and the team at Birkenhead RSA for their financial support on this project.

Education Review Office

As a trial school for the Education Review Office’s new processes, we have been working closely with them for over a year. When the review is completed there will be a public report published, however we have received the feedback that we are ‘considered highly functional’ with strong self-evaluation, clearly aligned strategic goals and initiatives and have a strong focus on educational outcomes and a strong equity focus. It’s been interesting for us to help shape the design of the new methodology that all NZ schools will be reviewed with.

An Important Update re School Buses

Tāmaki Makaurau is at the red setting of the COVID-19 Protection Framework. As Omicron spreads, many bus operators are experiencing staff shortages and service cancellations across bus, train, and ferry services.

We (Auckland Transport) are trying our best to make school bus services our priority and run most school bus services to a regular timetable. However, we are expecting to see last-minute cancellations due to the spread of Omicron in the community. Although we’re working hard to update cancellations in our systems, there may be some occasions when these are last-minute and can’t be communicated in time. We recommend checking service updates on the AT Mobile app/Live Departures.

If any of your bus services do not arrive on time, please liaise with the students, and request them to find or use alternative transport options: <https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/journey-planner/>. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause.

Please make a plan with your child should their bus be cancelled: Is there another bus option? Who is available to pick them up? Is walking home a possibility? If so, which route should they take?

In the meantime, please keep working with us to keep everyone safe.

FIRST Award Recipients

At yesterday’s online assembly we ‘presented’ the following students with FIRST Awards. These are awarded to students who have shown particular effort towards one or a number of our FIRST criteria – being future focused, inspired, resilient, successful, thinkers.

Congratulations to the following:

Melissa Lai	Jordan Green	Camila Pineda-Moris	Tiger Nair
Ahmed Al-Kasab	Filianga Fine	Zara Worthy	Jiya Chand
Ezana Leykune	Ayla Harvey	Naomi Ward	Phu Hoang
Arabella James	Casey Caird	Ben Ogier	
TJ Urdaneta	Hannah Lenz	Connor Bowie	

Community Notice:

Have Your Say on Little Shoal Bay

You may have seen information around the community recently asking you to have your say about the future of Little Shoal Bay, Wai Manawa, via an Auckland Council survey. But did you know that Auckland Council is seriously considering replacing the park and recreational facilities at Little Shoal Bay with a saltwater mangrove estuary?!

While it is obvious work needs to be done to secure the future of Little Shoal Bay, there are viable and cost-effective solutions being put forward that preserve and enhance the ecology of the reserve, and meet the challenges presented by climate change, all while keeping our recreational space and facilities.

To learn more and HAVE YOUR SAY:

Visit the [website](#)

Like and follow the [Facebook page](#)

Sign the [Change.org](#) petition

Complete the [Auckland Council survey](#)

Email the [Local Board](#)

As always, if there is anything we can do better, feel free to contact me directly on principal@ni.school.nz.

Kia ora all

Ngaa mihi,



Phil Muir, Proud Principal of Northcote Intermediate School

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