



West Park School

Te Kura O Papa Hauāuru

Every student matters, every moment counts.

Broderick Road, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037, Phone (04) 478 7074, Fax (04) 478 7593

22 May

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I have been trying hard to keep emails to a minimum but I do appreciate that a lot of information has come your way during the past few months from all quarters and that it can seem overwhelming. This I hope will be the last correspondence for the next couple of weeks as we all settle back into classroom programmes.

The return to school has gone really smoothly and it has been brilliant to see how excited the students have been to get back to their learning and social routines. I know that some of our families are still feeling a bit anxious about sending their children back to school, which is understandable given everything we have been through these past 2 months. However, it is really important that children do return to school, not just for their education but also their health and wellbeing. Instances of Covid-19 in New Zealand are very low and here in Wellington Region we have 0 cases, with the last case reported on 16 April. I am aware of concerns out there that people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus, however, the Ministry of Health has advised that there is no instance in New Zealand of someone spreading the virus without ever having symptoms. West Park School is safe, and even though there is a very low risk of the virus getting in the school gates to start with, we will be keeping up our hygiene practices and other public health measures as an extra precaution for as long as we're at Alert Level 2. Staff and I are really looking forward to seeing even more wonderful faces back at school next week.

I thought I'd also use this correspondence to highlight Samoa Language week which runs across the country from Sunday 24 May until Saturday 30 May. The theme this year is "*Tapena sou ōso mo lau malaga - Prepare yourself a gift for your travels*".

This phrase urges us to prepare for everything we may need as we go on life's journey and reminds us that it is not just preparing for ourselves but also with our family and friends who travel with us. The phrase also highlights the need to respect and share the gifts of our life's journey. As Pacific peoples, when we prepare for travel, we take everything we have learnt from our families with us, allowing us to share our *ōso* (gifts), *alofa* (love) and *tatalo* (prayers) with everyone we meet along the way. And with these gifts we build, nurture and strengthen our relationships, with both *aiga* (family) and *uo* (friends).

Progress on our asbestos removal has been nonexistent. Unfortunately, there have been numerous delays at a Ministry property level and subsequently both the school and project manager are waiting to hear back regarding funding approval and timelines.

Another reminder that a critical part of the level 2 requirements is that anyone who is self-isolating, sick, or has any symptoms of Covid-19, must stay away from school. Children who become sick during the day will need to be collected as soon as possible. Parents should get advice from their



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doctor or the Covid-19 medical advice Healthline (0800 358 5453) about whether testing is required.

I hope you have a relaxing weekend after what has been a long week for many.

Kind regards

Luis Echegaray
Principal