



1st October 2021

Community Update: Looking ahead to Term 4

Kia ora e te whanau o Kaipara

I hope that you are still managing to negotiate the tricky COVID-19 Level 3 lockdown life! I'm sure we are all hoping for a drop in alert levels in the coming days and await the announcement on Monday next week. Level 2 will mean a few more welcome freedoms for all of us and of course a return to school come Term 4. We are planning to be open in Term 4, at Alert Level 2. If we are not at Alert Level 2 or lower by the end of the holidays I will be in touch again to let you know our alternative plan.

Congratulations on making it through this difficult time juggling all that you have, not least of which is managing the learning of your children, on top of all the other demands on you. I hope you get to enjoy some holiday time with your family, even if it is just a change in routine.

School is open in Term 4 at Alert Level 2

We are all planned and ready to go for the start of Term 4 on site. We are expecting all our students to be back at school ready to re-engage in learning. I know many students are looking forward to returning to school but for others however there will be a feeling of anxiousness about coming back. Please be assured that we are ready to support your student wherever they are at with their learning, and to help them adjust to life back at school again. If you have any worries about your student's transition back to school, please contact their whānau teacher in the first instance. Their whānau teacher will be in contact early in Term 4.

Concerns about coming to school at Alert Level 2

The reason we have alert levels is so we know the threat level of COVID-19. When the Ministry of Health declares that we move into Alert Level 2 and allows schools to open, this means that it is safe for students and staff to return to school. We will be strictly following Ministry of Health Guidelines for opening schools at Alert Level 2 including the use of hand sanitiser, frequent hand washing, strongly encouraging the wearing of masks, coughing and sneezing etiquette, ensuring plentiful ventilation of teaching spaces and restricting large gatherings.

What to do if your student is sick

If your student is sick, do not send them to school. If your student becomes sick during the day at school you will be contacted and we will be asking you to collect your student from school as soon as possible.

Student option selections for 2022

By now Year 10, 11 and 12 students will have been supported by their whānau teacher through the important process of option selection for next year.

Year 9 students will be asked to select their option choices, with discussion with their whānau teacher and their family in weeks 3 and 4 of Term 4. There will be more information for parents of Year 9 students to follow early in Term 4.

Ensuring the best outcomes for our students in 2021

As we all know, 2021 is a challenging year for everyone. Lockdown will have affected everyone and in various ways. Research evidence suggests that the rate of learning is slowed for most students while they are in lockdown. The Ministry of Education (MOE) recognises this and has adjusted the requirements for students to achieve NCEA accordingly, so that the academic outcomes for senior students are not disproportionately affected. At Kaipara College we are tracking very closely the progress of every senior student in terms of achieving success in NCEA. We are also working individually with each student to develop a personalised learning plan, so students know exactly what they need to do to achieve success this year and are supported to work hard to achieve success. Junior students will be involved in learning that is designed to allow for catch up, consolidation and challenge. Our teachers are looking forward to welcoming all our students back to school and supporting them to progress their learning from where-ever they have got to in lockdown.

School expectations

In order to have a smooth transition back to school and to maximise learning, our teachers will be reminding our students about our school expectations. These are very simple and all encompassing. While at school we expect our students to:

- Be in the right place at the right time
- Be ready and focused for learning
- Show respect for self, others and property

When you are talking to your student about their day at school you may like to ask them to explain to you what these expectations look like at school and why they are important. You could expand this to talk about how these expectations also might fit with life at university and work.

Supporting those experiencing family violence

Tragically too many children experience traumatic incidents in their own homes, where they should be safe. These events are likely to have grown during lockdown. If you are concerned about members of your community who may be struggling with violence in the home, [this resource may be helpful for them](#).

Local and emergency support available

If you are needing any support through this difficult time please use this useful list of what is available.

[Local and emergency contacts for support.docx](#)

A message from the Kaipara College Board

A casual vacancy has occurred on the board of trustees for an elected parent representative. The board has resolved under section 105 of the Education Act 1989 to fill the vacancy by selection.

The board's preferred candidate is Karen Crabb. Karen lives in Riverhead and has two students currently at Kaipara College and one still to come. She is also CEO of Rainbow's End and has worked for Lion Nathan. As well as vast experience leading in the corporate sector she is also deeply committed to the local community, as a board member at Riverhead School, a member of the Kaipara College PTSA and being involved with local sports teams and community events.

If ten percent or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of the first notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held. Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the board to hold a by-election should write to Rochelle Gillespie, Presiding Member, Kaipara College Board, 36 Rautawhiri Road, Helensville 0800 or email botchair@kaipara.school.nz by 22 October.

I am looking forward to being on site at school again in Term 4, and look forward to meeting you in person at some stage. Our focus as always is to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of our rangatahi and we continue to be here to support you as well.

Please don't hesitate to contact your student's whānau teacher, dean or me, if there is something you need assistance with.

Stay safe.

Ngā mihi



Cindy Sullivan
PRINCIPAL