



26th October 2021

### **Special Newsletter: Term 4 Events and Calendar Changes**

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Labour Weekend although for those of you who remained locked down in Level 3 I guess it was simply 'more of the same'. However, we have been thinking of you and hope that there is some good news for you soon. We look forward to having all our tamariki back together as soon as possible.

I was delighted to receive an email last Friday informing us that our teachers who have been stuck in Level 3 (in the Waikato region) have been successful in being granted an exemption to travel to Morrinsville to resume working on site in alignment with the Public Health Order from Tuesday. Unfortunately, while there has also been some reprieve for Y. 11-13 (and a small number of Y. 9 -10s) students being permitted to return to participate in preparation for exams, that is not the case for any Y. 1-8 students residing in Level 3 areas to cross the boundary; they are required to stay at home until approval by the Ministry of Education is granted.

In last week's newsletter I indicated pending changes to school events in response to the Covid-19 alert level mandates, and subsequent restrictions. It seems to be that the requirements being asked of schools are constantly evolving and getting more tricky to navigate. Previously we have been told that as long as we keep within the Alert Level 2 requirements when holding an event, particularly while including members from the public in accordance with mass gatherings, we could proceed with caution. However, the Secretary for Education, Iona Holsted, has advised all schools that they should now comply with the following additional requirements:

***"Even if your event is considered to be for educational purposes, unless it is really necessary to give effect to the curriculum, we recommend that you avoid such events until Alert Level 1. An example of this is prize givings - although they are an important aspect of school life they are not a curriculum requirement."***

The Secretary, and our Ministry of Education advisor, has also identified school socials, or dances, while being nice they are not necessary to be held in the current covid environment. As such, we feel compelled to follow these mandates and adapt our events and programmes accordingly.

Therefore, we have made some decisions to enable us to plan and implement events and celebrations for the year that reflect the unpredictable times we are navigating. These decisions have been made with the health and safety of our students, staff and community in mind. By sharing this organisation with you now, we are keeping you informed and providing what certainty we can around the programme for Term 4. None of these decisions have been made lightly and all have been made based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

As a school, we remain committed to providing rich learning opportunities, celebrating all our students' success and taking time in Term 4 to farewell our Year 8's as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey. However, this will look differently in 2021 as the Delta variant has made it more challenging for us to plan, organise activities and social gatherings, compared to what we have done in the past. We understand that some of these changes will be disappointing but we thank you for your understanding and support.

#### Term 4 Events:

Assemblies:	These will be held virtually, either through Google Meet, or Live-stream for special assemblies
Inter-Intermediate Events:	All Inter-Intermediate School events have now been cancelled for the remainder of the year
Teacher Only Day 8th November:	This will proceed as planned - school will be closed for all students as previously notified
MIS Athletics Day 18/19th November:	These will proceed for students only; unfortunately we will not be able to extend an invitation to the public
Orientation Day 3rd December:	Unfortunately these cannot proceed as planned; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- College staff will visit Y. 8 students enrolled to attend Morrinsville College next year</li> <li>- Year 6 students will not be able to visit us; a small number of staff and students will visit our contributing schools to inform them of class placements for 2022</li> <li>- An Open Afternoon is already in place for all 2022 incoming students to meet their new teacher and visit their class on January 26th from 1.30 p.m.</li> </ul>
Y. 8 Formal Social 9th December:	Unfortunately this is unable to proceed as mandated by the Ministry of Education. However, as an alternative we are planning a special fun day to celebrate and farewell our Year 8's
End of Year Prizegiving 13th December:	Prizegiving will proceed virtually, via Live-stream
Last Day of school 14th December:	The final day of the 2021 school year is Tuesday 14th December at the earlier time of 12.30 p.m.

Covid-19 certainly continues to throw a spanner in the works but I want to thank you all for your ongoing support; on the whole our students have continued to demonstrate a 'can do' positive attitude and resilience that belies their years and we will work hard to ensure the remaining eight weeks are positive and successful for all:

*Me mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa  
We should work together for the wellbeing of everyone*

Kind regards  
Jenny Clark  
Principal