



**PARNELL**  
DISTRICT SCHOOL

## Newsletter 28<sup>th</sup> September

Kia Ora Whanau,

Term three started with such promise as we dove into our inquiry into 'Media', I was with my Road Patrollers on Tuesday afternoon as a young man ripped across the crossing and told us about the confirmed COVID-19 case, and he made the guess that we were going into lock down. I heard a lot that afternoon from our students about their perspectives on the pros and cons of learning from home. I don't think any of us considered that it might be our last day of learning at school for the term.

I am incredibly proud of the digital distance learning programme that our staff have been working on over the last 7 weeks. I know a phenomenal 95% of our students have been logging onto lessons daily and making the most of the workshops that have been offered by their teachers. I know a huge amount of support has come from whanau to help our learners maintain their progress over the lock down, and the pressure that can put on whanau who are also working from home. I also love spending my afternoons with the students who attend Mr. George's reading time each day at 3pm. I want to extend a sincere thanks to our staff for their amazing focus over the last 7 weeks in developing and delivering their online learning programme. I also want to thank our parents and community for their support of our learners. While we hope that this series of digital distance learning will end with the end of our term, we also know that whatever happens, our teachers will be there doing their very best for our students.

We are currently working through what term four will look like. We are working with the Ministry of Education guidance on best practice for schools and making changes to ensure every child is safe and our learning time is invested in the best possible outcome for every learner. We will provide an updated Term Four Calendar on the first day of Term Four.

### *End of term assembly*

There will be no afternoon workshops on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of October, instead there will be two end of term assemblies. Join me and the Te Awara house captains as we celebrate the end of a very different term.

Students in year 0-3, [join us here](#) at 1:30 pm, Password PDS

Students in year 4-8, [join us here](#) at 2:15 pm, Password PDS

Be part of our end of term assemblies. Dress is red and send a video clip to Jason at [waipapastreaming@parnell.school.nz](mailto:waipapastreaming@parnell.school.nz). Year 0-3, tell us someone you're thankful for helping you over lock down. Year 4-8 tell us the most interesting thing you've learnt during lock down. Send your video file to Jason by Wednesday 1:00 pm

### *Planning for 2022*

The Senior Leadership Team are hard at work planning for 2022 to make sure we continue to offer the best quality learning environment for every learner. There are two things our community can do to help us with our planning.

1. Let us know if your family won't be returning for 2022. If your children are heading away, we need to know to make sure our teachers are in the right year levels for the year ahead. Please email [enrolment@parnell.school.nz](mailto:enrolment@parnell.school.nz) to let us know.
2. Let us know if there is any specific information we need when placing your child. It is appropriate to let us know if there are specifics around your child's best learning style, areas of strength, areas they need a particular focus, or any relevant information about other learners that impact their ability to do their best learning. Email by Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of October on [placement@parnell.school.nz](mailto:placement@parnell.school.nz) if there is anything you'd like us to know. Any requests for specific teachers will be disregarded.

### *EOTC week 2021*

We are hoping that Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) week can go ahead as planned. We have camps booked for our students in year 4, 5-6, and 7-8 students. We value the role of EOTC in ensuring students

#### **Year 4 students: Home town adventure**

Okahu bay adventure day (29<sup>th</sup> November) and Kelly Tarlton's sleep over (6<sup>th</sup> December) \$135 per student

#### **Year 5-6 students: Raglan Adventure**

Year 5: 29<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December. \$255 per student

Year 6: 30<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> December. \$300 per student

#### **Year 7-8 Students: PioPio Rural adventure**

Year 7-8: 29<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December. \$300 per student

More details will come out via the Deputy Principal. All camps require a \$60 deposit by Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. Camps rely on Auckland being in Alert Level 1 to continue with our full EOTC week. We will confirm camps either proceeding or their cancellation on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

## *Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE).*

At Parnell District School, we are committed to providing comprehensive and effective education for all students across the breadth of the curriculum. As part of the wider curriculum, we provide the Ministry of Education's Relationships and Sexuality Education programme to all students as mandated by law.

In the last few weeks, we have been gathering feedback from our community on our Draft Health curriculum. Thank you to all the members of the community who have given us such valuable feedback. This ensures we continue to fulfil the needs of our students and community. If you wish to give feedback and haven't yet done so, [here is the link to the survey](#). This survey closes on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. The results of this feedback will be shared in early Term 4.

When we return to in person learning at school there will be a whole school focus on Wellbeing and Hauora. We will be teaching Relationships and Sexuality Education across the school from Year 1-8. The unit we have chosen to use is produced by Family Planning and is called 'Navigating The Journey'. A guide for parents on the learning [can be found here](#). The students will be taught by their class teacher with their peers in their class.

Parents can opt their children out of this one aspect of the curriculum if they would rather teach their children themselves at home. If you choose to do this, they will go to another class in their team during the lessons. You cannot opt your child out of some of the lessons, it must be the whole unit. Should you wish to do this, apply in writing to the principal. Email your request for your child to be removed from this unit to [office@parnell.school.nz](mailto:office@parnell.school.nz) with the subject RSE by Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Please include your child's first and last name as well as their class.

If you have any further questions with regards to this learning, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

## *Accessing Tax Receipts*

For those of you wanting to access your tax receipts, this can be done easily through the parent eTAP portal at [www.atschool.co.nz](http://www.atschool.co.nz) and then entering your username and password. Then all you have to do is click on the “My Child” tab and then “Tax Receipts” at the bottom. This function is updated automatically when you make a payment so there is no need to wait for a specific date or time. When a payment is processed in eTAP by the school, the receipt will auto generate. If you need your password etc emailed to you, please just email the [office@parnell.school.nz](mailto:office@parnell.school.nz) and we will be happy to send this out to you.



## *Sustainability Squad Update*

In case you have not heard, the PDS Sustainability Squad is currently working on a garden. This project uses those woollen insulation blankets you get in delivery food bags like MY FOOD BAG. A lot of people throw them away, but they are helpful in the garden. If you have any of these lying around, we would appreciate it if you could bring them to Room 17,

Thanks in advance,

The Sustainability Team

We are fundraising with  
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Not sure what to do these school holidays? An Entertainment Membership has you covered.

**Saturday** – 5% off at **JB Hi-Fi** – perfect for some family movie night DVDs or a new phone cover or noise cancelling headphones

**Sunday** – 10% off at **Sephora** – time to stock up on some new makeup or get in early for some Christmas presents

**Monday** – Save 5% off **Microsoft Xbox Live** eGift cards to purchase some new games for the kids and then **St Pierre's Sushi** for a lunchtime treat

**Tuesday** – There's a birthday in the house today so it's a chocolate mud cake from **The Cheesecake Shop**

**Wednesday** – Want to cheer up a friend? 15% off at **Edible Blooms**

**Thursday** – It's coffee time at **Columbus Coffee** and then off to the movies in luxury at **Event Cinemas**

**Friday** – You've made it through the week so jump onto **Laithwaite's Wines** and treat yourself to some delicious wine.

**\$224.50** of savings in a week for an investment of **\$69.99 PLUS 20%** helps our schools fundraising!

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