



Birdwood School

PRIMARY & INTERMEDIATE, YEARS 1-8

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Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, talofa lava, fakalofa lahi atu. malo e lelei, bula vinaka, naumaste and greetings at all our Birdwood whanau.

Special welcome to.. Louis Walker, Maneta-Dayna loelu and Cingnu Jasuan

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WELCOME BACK. It was awesome to see so many smiling faces walk into school on Monday 31st August after another 2.5 weeks of learning from home. Thank you for supporting your children and the school by sending your children back once Auckland came out of Alert Level 3. We are confident our health and safety processes are working well. The 4 key areas that we all need to be aware of:

- Only come to school if you are well.
- Use hand sanitizer in and out of buildings and regularly wash hands with soap.
- Adhere to the contact tracing requirements if coming onto the school site.
- Keep the appropriate physical distance from others, where possible.

The Covid-19 situation continues to alter our ability to hold events and activities. While some trips and events are unable to happen in 2020, the school is doing its best to reschedule other events to ensure we continue the journey of getting back to a sense of normality. With this in mind, I want to reiterate that the health and safety of everyone will always remain our number one priority when planning events.



This week we have celebrated Tongan Language Week in our classes and the staff also put a Tongan Dance together. The theme for Tonga language week is "Fakakoloa 'o Aotearoa 'aki 'a e Lotu Mo'oni" which in English means "Enriching Aotearoa New Zealand through Prayer and Faith". Each year a different theme is used to promote the richness of the Tonga language and culture with the Tongan community but also all New Zealanders.

In these Covid times we have to be creative and more digital so we can share our cultures with our community. The students have celebrated with showcasing their amazing dance skills and dressing up in their beautiful cultural outfits. Matua Kevin has shared the video on skool loop so I encourage all of you to download the app and view the fantastic learning from our children during this week.



TALANOA AKO APP

Recently launched, the Talanoa Ako app provides Pacific parents with ongoing access to education and learning information. The content is in plain English and 10 Pacific languages. Each language is also available in audio with visually impaired functionality. The app provides core information for Pacific parents and families to build their knowledge and confidence about education in their own time and in their first language. Free to download from on both Android and iOS devices, the app is part of the Talanoa Ako programme that will be delivered in Ako Centres later in the year. You might like to share details for the Talanoa Ako App with your Pacific parent community.

TRAVELWISE UPDATE

We are encouraging your children to remember to “Stop-Look-Listen”. If your child walks to school, please ask them to look both ways before crossing any road or driveway.

I have seen children run across the road in the mornings and afternoons. This is dangerous and it is really important you talk with your children about using the school crossing at all times. The crossing is there to make motorists aware you are crossing the road and to keep our tamariki safe

UPSETTING CONTENT ONLINE

A very disturbing video that had ended up on a number of social media platforms was being shared on Tik Tok recently. As a parent myself I am very concerned about some of the content which can be so easily accessed online, by our children. This is an area Netsafe is working hard to support parents with. As parents and caregivers we must take the time to check in with what our children are watching and being exposed to online. This is particularly important in the challenging climate we are currently living in where there has been a substantial increase in the levels of anxiety and other concerning issues amongst our young people.

Message from Ministry of Education regarding TikTok

Kia ora koutou katoa

We are aware that some schools may be fielding calls about the TikTok video about a live suicide.

The Ministry has been in touch with Netsafe about this, and we also provide the [online digital technology guide](#) which provides guidance to schools in online incident management and where to get help.

Netsafe have advised the following: *For now, we recommend that students are being made aware not to share or view the footage as it can be highly distressing content. Our webpage has information about [helping tamariki exposed to upsetting content](#) that you may find useful. We have also provided some support lines for students and staff if they need to reach out for support below.*

- [Need to talk](#) -. Free call or text on 1737 and there is support available 24 hours a day
- [0800 What's Up](#) – Available Mon-Fri 12pm-11pm Sat/Sun 3pm-11pm on 0800 942 8787
- [Lifeline](#) – call on (0800 543 354) or text HELP (4357) for confidential support.

This content can have an impact beyond those immediately engage with it. It is likely to have had a range of impacts on each person – some may be severely affected and others may not be affected at all. It is important to be aware of the need to talk with young people who have heard about it and to encourage them to express their feelings in response to the video. We recommend that having regular, open conversations at home around online safety is important to help young people navigate the myriad of digital challenges they will experience.

You can read more on our parental control advice page [here](#). There is an option to switch to [Safe Search](#) when using Google search or alternatively, you can consider looking into this [article](#) to block Google images without blocking Google search.

This [staying safe online guide](#) and some of our [printed resources](#) may be useful.(We have been made aware by some parents of content on Roblox as well which can be inappropriate)

EARLY PICKUPS

Occasionally students need to leave school during school hours to attend medical/dental appointments, family or cultural events etc. If you need to pick up your child early, please collect a yellow sign out form from the school office. For safety reasons, teachers will not release a child without this form. Again, for safety reasons, students are not allowed to walk home alone during school hours.

ABSENCE OR LATE ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

If your child is sick or going to be late, please telephone the school office on 09 8338479 to leave a message on the Absence answerphone, email on office@birdwood.school.nz or via our website. If your child arrives at school late, please remind them to come in and sign in at the school office before going to class so that we know they have arrived. If your child arrives close to bell time and may be a little late arriving to the class, please also remind them to sign in at the school office just in case they have missed their class Roll call. It will save you the worry of receiving a message stating your child has not arrived at school. The office relies on information from the teacher's Roll, our Late register in the office and messages from our answerphone before contacting parents regarding absences.

CONSULTATION

Thank you to those whanau who have already attended our community consultation hui. Consultation with the school community is a big focus for Birdwood School and we are committed to ensuring that we are hearing your voice and thoughts and that these are reflected in school programmes/activities and initiatives. Next week I will be sending a survey home for whanau to complete. It is another part of our strategic planning process and we want to hear from you about the goals and aspirations you have for your children. There will be **3 Pak n Save prizes of \$50** which will go into a lucky draw on Wacky Wednesday 23rd September.

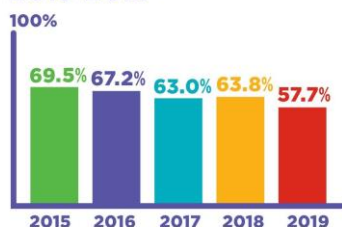
ENROLMENTS

We have a large number of 5 year olds enrolling at the moment and we would like to be prepared for new tamariki coming to school. Do you have, or know of any 4 year olds turning 5 this year, who are in the Birdwood School zone and are planning to be enrolled at Birdwood or early 2021? The number of students we can confirm as coming to Birdwood School has a direct effect on staffing so the more we know the better it is for all. We would also appreciate knowing of any other families moving to the area with students at other year levels who will be joining us in 2020. You can phone the office on 09 833 8479 to find out how to complete an enrolment.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance rates

2015-2019



✓✓✓✓✓
EVERY DAY MATTERS

Attendance rates have started increasing since we opened after lockdown on 31st August. On the first day we had 39% of students present. After 2 weeks of school we have grown to 57% today but we have been as high as 75% on Tuesday. I know it is worrying times for families, especially with some positive cases in the West. Please be assured we are doing everything to keep students safe at school by following our level 2.5 procedures. I have started visiting families with Whaea Meli to make sure our families are well and to deliver home learning packs to students who have not yet returned to school.

WACKY WEDNESDAY

We are organising a funday "Wacky Wednesday" on 23rd September. There will be a sausage sizzle and ice blocks for all children as well as some fun activities for the kids to participate in. This is to say thankyou and celebrate the learning that has happened during term 3 under what can be called "challenging times" for all of us. Watch out for more information.

TEACHER ONLY DAY

We cancelled our last Teacher Only Day because of lock down. This is some advanced notice that we have rescheduled the day to Friday 31st October (term 4) . Teachers will be having a professional development day.

Ofa atu

Jenny Bernard

PRINCIPAL