



Geraldine Primary

Desire to Learn, Aspire to Achieve

Whaia e koe te iti Kahurangi

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Newsletter

Thursday 30 April 2020

From the Principal...

Kia ora Whanau. Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou - greetings to you all.

I hope you and your whanau are keeping well at this time. We are now into the first week of the return to school and yesterday we welcomed 15 students and some of our staff back into a very different environment to what we are used to. Everyday actions that occur instinctively have to be thought through more carefully and hygiene has taken on a whole new meaning!

Schools around the country are reporting very low numbers of students at this time and it is no different at GPS. We have three bubbles operating with small numbers of students in each, with accompanying teachers and teacher aides. The programmes that the students at school are working through are the same as the distance learning programmes that those who are at home are using.

By now most students will have received a Ministry of Education supplied learning pack, delivered to their home. These were ordered for each student and can be used if the student wants additional activities, over and above what the classroom teacher has set. Please note that both the school and MOE learning activities haven't been created to place undue stress on students or their families. Just do what you can, when you can and if you have any queries or concerns, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

The government is due to make a further announcement regarding Alert Level 3 on Monday 11 May and after this we will begin to have clarity about the next steps for schools. You will be kept informed about this process.

In late February I informed the school community about the resignation of Mrs Siobhan Hayward, after 22 years of dedicated service and leadership at GPS. Siobhan officially finished earlier this week. Due to Covid-19, our planned events (farewell assembly and staff function) to recognise her time at GPS have been put on hold for the time being.

Just prior to lockdown parents of Room 8 and 13 students were informed that Mrs Kirsty Smith had been appointed to lead the junior syndicate and teach in Room 8. We can

now inform our school community that Mrs Sara Jamieson will be teaching in Room 13 Monday – Thursday, with Mrs Pauline Ramsay teaching on Fridays once normal face to face teaching resumes. In the meantime, Mrs Jamieson is delivering distance learning programmes to Room 13 students. Mrs Ramsay will release Mrs Smith on Wednesdays in Room 8 once school returns.

Until next time,

Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui – be strong, be bold, be steadfast.

Andrew Leverton
Principal