

27 May 2020 Term 2 Week 7

Talofa Lava,

This week is Samoan Language Week and Merivale School would like to pay tribute by acknowledging our school's Samoan community at this time. Though the Samoan culture is very inclusive, unfortunately because of Alert Level 2, we are unable to invite our aiga (families) into school to celebrate this week.

However, we are fortunate that our staff and students have been working on activities and projects that reflect not only Samoan culture but also our theme of Whakawhanaungatanga as well. Needless to say, some wonderful work has been taking place in classrooms. Sekia!

There are a few notices to be mindful of this week. Most are of Alert Level 2 rules as some people are needing reminders still.

Merivale Incident

As some of you will be aware, an incident on Henderson Crescent involving police occurred during school hours yesterday. We were informed by an officer that police were in the process of apprehending an offender. As this occurred towards the end of lunch break, the decision was made to get all students and staff indoors until it was over with the result being an early eating time for us. We received a phone call that all was clear not long after and school resumed its normal operation. While we did not officially go into lockdown, it was an opportunity to practice lockdown procedures and I was extremely impressed with not only the speed at which the process was executed but also the fantastic professionalism displayed by staff.

We can all rest peacefully knowing that our staff prioritise above all else, the safety and hauora of all students. On behalf of our whanau and Merivale School Board of Trustees, I wish to express our gratitude and thank Merivale School staff for again rising to the occasion and delivering.

Attendance

We are very proud that 85% of our school have returned in Alert Level 2. We would like to encourage more students to return by reminding whanau that schools are deemed safe by the Ministry Of Health due to the systems in place to trace COVID-19.

If there are parents or caregivers who still have concerns, we do understand but we would love the opportunity to discuss the positives of being at school for your child. Please contact the office to talk to Whaea Heather or myself.

Visitors

Merivale School is not allowing **anyone** on to school grounds due to Alert Level 2 unless given special permission. This includes government and outside agencies. **All visitors must report to the office.** Please do not be offended if asked to exit school premises. Our student and staff hauora is paramount and rests on everyone obeying the school rules.

Illness

Please do not send children to school who are unwell. We are taking no chances with each other's health at Merivale School so anyone showing signs of illness, including staff members, are to go home.

Level 2 Safety Rules

A reminder again of Level 2 rules:

- Please stay home if you are unwell.
- Safe hygiene practices must be followed when at school - washing hands regularly, coughing etiquette and distancing when possible.
- **No one is permitted on to school grounds** with the exception of students and staff. **All visitors**, including parents, caregivers and whanau, must check in at the office on arrival.
- When dropping off or collecting children, please wait in your vehicle or if on foot, waiting at the front entry of the school maintaining a safe distance from others.
- If you have any concerns in regard to your child's return, we encourage you to contact the office

O le tagata ma lona aiga, o le tagata ma lona fa'asinomaga

Every person belongs to an aiga, and every aiga belongs to a person

Tofa soifua,
Matua Tom

Talofa lava
This week is
Samoan
Language
Week and
we celebrate
the third
most spoken
language in



Aotearoa. I know the teachers have various activities planned and our students who are speakers of Gagana Samoa will be able to share their expertise of fa'asamoa and feel proud of their identity and culture. When home languages are valued and celebrated in the school environment this builds a student's self esteem and helps in the process of learning English.

On a different note it's great to be back at Kura reconnecting with our school community and seeing smiling faces coming into the breakfast club for a catchup with friends over a warm milo. A nutritious selection of breakfast food is served daily between 8-9am in the staffroom. Just a reminder Study Support resumes this week from 2.50pm - 4.15pm for students that have returned their signed permission slips.

Whanau just to give you the heads up I received notification that due to these unprecedented times the **Pasifika Festival has been postponed until October 2021** and will be back bigger and brighter than before!

Manuia tele
Whaea Sandra

ATTENDANCE RECORDS

We will be sending student attendance data to the Ministry of Education weekly, from 29 May. The purpose of this is to report to the National Crisis Monitoring Centre and government on levels of attendance during the COVID 19 period; inform and support Ministry planning for students and schools returning to normal operation; and for evaluation and reporting on the effectiveness of initiatives implemented by the Ministry and manage its COVID 19 response. Please feel free to ask at the office if you have any questions about this.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS ON HENDERSON CRESCENT

As you are probably aware, there will be a house transported to 25 Henderson Cres next week, 2-3 June. There will be a large crane in the front yard from Tuesday and work will take place on Wednesday 3 June to transport the house. They are stopping work between 6:30am and 9:30am to allow children to safely get to school. Please take care around the area on these days. There are to be no cars parked between 23 and 29 Henderson Cres over this time. Ngā mihi.