

Mālō e lelei Postgate School and welcome to Tongan Language Week

This year's theme for Uike Kātoanga'i 'o e lea faka-Tonga - Tonga Language Week is Fakakoloa 'o Aotearoa 'aki 'a e Ako Lelei, which means enriching Aotearoa with holistic education.

The theme serves as a conversation starter on the importance of holistic education, diverse forms of learning and how Aotearoa can benefit from it.

At the 2018 New Zealand census, 82 389 people identified as being part of the Tongan ethnic group, an increase of 22 056 people from the 2013 census. Currently, there are more Tongan people born in New Zealand than there are in Tonga, giving lea faka-Tonga (the Tonga language) and anga faka-Tonga (Tonga culture) a special place here in Aotearoa.

Following on from Jacinda's announcement, as of Tuesday 11:59pm we will be at Alert Level 2 and schools will reopen on Thursday. This means:

- **There is no Distance Learning for the next two days – Tuesday and Wednesday**
- Tomorrow, Tuesday will be Classroom Release Time. Under the NZEI contract agreement, teachers have so many each term. There has been no release for teachers during this lockdown period. This ensures we have fulfilled our employment conditions. Tomorrow also gives staff the opportunity to prepare for Thursday
- Wednesday is a Teacher Only Day. No teachers will be online as they will be at school either in meetings or preparing for Thursday. There is a huge difference between physically teaching and Distance Learning
- Please check your Seesaw accounts for a potential message from your child's teacher about any work/challenges over the next few days
- Postgate School is open for Essential Workers children on Tuesday and Wednesday. These are the children who have been coming to Postgate over the past week. We have booked relievers for the next two days to cover for these students

For Postgate School this means that from Thursday morning:

- Postgate School is open and all children are expected back at school. If your child has a compromised immune system, your child is not expected at school, this becomes your decision
- As we are back at school, there is no more Distance Learning
- All adults entering our school must do so via the school office. You are also required to wear a face mask while on site.
- Just after 9am, all gates will be locked
- Please refrain from entering the school grounds to drop off and collect your child/ren.
- Year 1 parents may enter the school grounds to drop off/pick up, however, you must be wearing a face mask. If you enter the school building, you must sign in. It is advised to drop your child off at the bottom of the Junior School deck
- All children are asked to bring their own drink bottle as the use of the drinking fountains are discouraged
- If your child is sick, please keep them home. If your child is sick with COVID symptoms, please keep any siblings at home as well

- If your child suffers from asthma/hayfever, please let your child's teacher know. Spring is an unfortunate time for some people as runny noses, coughing, sneezing is an all too common symptom
- Assemblies will be held online and sent out to classes/our community

For some families, sending their child/ren back to school may raise their anxiety levels; this is normal. So, some numbers that will put your mind at ease.

- As of 12noon today, there were 721 active community cases in New Zealand, which is .014% of New Zealand's population
- At 12noon today, there were 15 active cases of COVID-19 in Wellington. All 15 people have been close contacts and all have been in Managed Isolation since way back. There has been no community transmission of COVID-19 in Wellington (to my knowledge) as all have been close contacts/family members
- We have a number of parents at Postgate who work in health. I am sure that if there was any risk with children/people transmitting COVID-19, they would not send their child/ren back to school and they would inform us of that risk. Some of these families have been back at school under Alert Level 3
- Postgate takes the health and safety of your child very seriously. We would not ask you to put your child at undue risk

We know from Lockdown last year that those children who did not do Distance Learning and were late back to school, from Level 2, made minimal academic progress. This saw a huge gap in their achievement levels when compared with students who were traveling at the same academic rate before Lockdown.

If you have any concerns or worries about sending your child back to school please let me know.

Summer sports start up soon and one of our awesome Postgate family run the Saiyans Sports Club and registration for the Tag season are now open. Please see Rima's message below:

Saiyans Club Tag Registrations are open. Our teams compete in our local Porirua City Tag Competition. This competition usually begins around Labour Weekend.

We have Junior and Senior grades available for you and your entire whānau to join – Nau mai, haere mai.

Register here: www.saiyansclub.com

If you need financial assistance with your registration fee, kua e whakama, please email: admin@saiyanssportsclub.com

Thanks for all your support during Alert Level 4 and 3. We know it can be frustrating doing Distance Learning at times. We are extremely grateful for your support and the amazing work you have been doing with your child/ren. You are awesome!



Keep being awesome. Smile, the return to school is on!