



Pukekohe North School

Princes Street, Pukekohe. Phone 0-9-238-8552

Commissioners Update to End October 2021

Tēnā ra tatou katoa,

As part of my role to communicate with the community I will be providing an update of activity and progress at the End of each month until approximately June 2022. This is the first communication to the school community.

Acknowledgements

I would like to start by acknowledging the work of the Board to this point in the service to the school and community. Board roles are big and complex and I have respect for anyone who volunteers their services to school Boards. To our previous Board members of the school, thank you!

I had the pleasure of speaking with our Principal, Jim, briefly on the phone recently. He is well and passes on his kind regards to all at the school.

Staffing

I have had the pleasure of meeting all staff recently through the weekly Senior Leaders meetings we have and also the fortnightly staff meetings. I was impressed by the spirit, goodwill and desire to serve children's learning. I am in awe of their heart during Covid times and some new requirements that involve teacher's employment to be on site and to remain employed as teachers in schools. The staff have been very positive.

Whanau and Community

I am grateful for the people I have met at the Meet and Greet sessions over the last two weeks and the 1:1 sessions people have asked for. The school is rich with people who care. I have attached a summary of the key ideas and themes I gathered from those discussions. Please take a look for your information. I am grateful for these koha/gifts and they will form part of the work ahead for us all. There were many good and potential ideas for improvement to support learners. Based on your feedback the focus that we are collectively working on this term is systems and culture of the school. I intend to have more sessions with parents and whanau in week 7-8 of this term.

Over the next weeks information will be coming out to whanau where you will be asked to provide any feedback and thoughts, for example, in policies that are being reviewed. It is helpful if you read these, ask questions or provide feedback or confirmation of support. If we do not receive feedback then we will assume that people are generally supportive. My email is kawhiakainga@gmail.com If you want to direct feedback that way.

Priorities for Focus

- Reports - Staff have been busy discussing how reports and report meetings will work this term given the disruption of Covid, more information on reports will be available soon.
- Finance – the 2019 audited accounts are all but signed off by our school auditor and once complete will be placed on our website for our community to view and as is required. The 2020 audited accounts are being prepared now.
- The schools 2022 budget is being drafted by management and will be presented to me for approval in the next few weeks.



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- School staff and leaders are preparing the professional development priorities and plan for 2022. I expect to have this in the next few weeks and to share our staff development plan with the community.
- Policies – a number of policies are being reviewed and these will be placed on the school website for community input and feedback before being approved by me.
- Staffing for 2022 - management is preparing the staffing plan and needs based on school roll and presenting to me for approval in the next few weeks.
- Staff files are being audited and updated to ensure the school meets its legal obligations for maintaining staff records.
- Student achievement – staff are checking their school achievement data for July 2021 and will use this as the basis for the relentless pursuit of student achievement.
- In relationship with our colleagues at the Ministry of Education two Student Achievement Facilitators will be working with the school to support student achievement goals and targets.
- Property – the playground shade covering is well under way and the roof due for replacement has been approved for commencement.

The recent decisions regarding vaccinations for schools

Schools across New Zealand have been working with the Government's decisions regarding Covid-19 requirements for schools. In brief, the latest stance is;

Everyone who works for a school who may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present, must have had a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by 15th November and be fully vaccinated by 1st January 2022. From 1st January 2022, schools must only allow those that are fully vaccinated to provide onsite services. This includes:

- Principals
- Teachers
- Relief Teachers & Casual Staff
- Administration staff
- Caretakers & Cleaners
- Contractors & tradespeople
- Service Managers
- Caregivers & other staff

It also includes unpaid workers, such as volunteers and any members of the community who are regularly on site during a time when children and students may be present. Throughout this guidance we have used the term staff member to refer to paid staff members, unpaid workers, volunteers, contractors, and other workers at school.

The vaccination requirements apply wherever in person schooling occurs, such as on the school site, but also at school camps, swimming pools, museums, or where other education outside the classroom (EOTC) programmes take place. This means that both school staff and volunteers who are involved in EOTC should have had a first vaccination by 15th November and be fully vaccinated by 1st January 2022.



Whanau feedback sessions and queries: Summary of discussions

In school detention and exclusion – is that legal.

Can we get parent guidance for homework?

Do students have individual learning plans

It would be better to see and hear strengths based and positive messaging about children's learnings

It's important that school office and all staff are welcoming and embracing, I'd like to feel more welcome at the school

I would like to see a sole focus on student learning and student achievement and a safe environment for children,

It would be good to have less drama requiring parents to be involved

We would like more communication from school about how individual students are learning and where they need to go next,

We need more emphasis on the kids and less about adults

I want my children to be successful

Support for teachers to make sure all staff are current and up to date and have access to PD and great teaching practice

Ensure any comments and reports on our kids can be substantiated with evidence

Less unkindness towards each other,

Ensure there is professional conduct and practice.

That staff at school maintain confidentiality and privacy of whanau.

We have legacy whanau – 3 generations of attendance, large amounts of long attending whanau

High level of aroha and passion for the school and kids

Opportunity for parent volunteers to support teachers with clear roles, responsibilities, police vet, confidentiality to help our school

Reports – we would like data that is evidence based, sometimes we feel rushed in and out, we would like reports and meet the teacher's opportunities even though its Covid,

Us and them umaki and general – we play together, live together, work together – it's not a competition, but it feels like we are separate, and we don't need to be, can we have whole school events planned in 2022, e.g., sports, athletics