



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE – MARCH 2020

Kia ora koutou,

The Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting on Monday.

**Student and staff wellbeing** was a key focus with the corona virus now in New Zealand and new cases being reported daily.

Principal David Brock and staff have done some excellent work in this space preparing a Moanataiari School Pandemic Plan for what could possibly happen, a school closure. Any school closure would occur as a result of a direction from Central Government, the Ministry of Education and/or the Ministry of Health. It would also occur in the event of a case of corona virus directly at Moanataiari School or possibly in the Thames community.

Staff are preparing for virtual learning and held a Zoom workshop on Wednesday. Can parents, caregivers and whānau please complete the form in this week's newsletter regarding internet / device capability at home for student learning. A hard copy of the school newsletter has been sent home with students each week since the start of term and any forms attached to those school letters are attached so if you have not received them, please check your child's school bags or contact the school office.

There will be an opportunity for parents to attend a Zoom workshop and/or video editorials will be available. More information to follow.

We ask that our Moanataiari school community prepare for the event of a school closure which could occur at any time but to note plans are in place for school to continue from home with parent/caregiver and whānau support.

To help keep informed, download the Skool Loop app, check your student's bags for newsletters, follow Facebook, and/or contact the school directly if you are not sure what is happening. Teachers and staff will be operating from school during a school closure unless unwell themselves.

Please also follow the guidelines in this week's newsletter and previously sent home from the public nurse regarding hygiene, hand washing and social distancing. Thorough hand washing is extremely important to be virus free.

Staff are also taking extra hygiene measures in the school throughout the day to help prevent children and staff getting sick.

Parents, caregivers and whānau are asked to keep students at home if they are sick with a runny nose, cough (that is not asthmatic), have fever or flu symptoms. If students become unwell during the day, parents will be asked to collect their child from school.

Thank you David and staff for your proactive approach to keeping students and staff safe.

## **Attendances**

Attendance (except when sick) still remains a concern with some students not turning up and parents, caregivers and whānau not informing the school as to why their child/children won't be at school. Staff need to know if students are not attending school and why – they need to know that they haven't come to harm on the way to school in the first instance.

Children need to attend school to get an education which provides them with lifestyle choices as they grow. Parents, caregivers and whānau are responsible for ensuring this happens.

Any patterns of uninformed absences will be followed up with Truancy Services to reduce unexplained absences and increase attendance at school.

## **Strategic and Annual Plan for 2020 – 2022**

The Board of Trustees approved the Strategic and Annual Plan for 2020 – 2022 which sets out the strategic goals and strategies to achieve the goals to improve both student achievement and wellbeing.

A key annual learning target is to raise math levels of achievements across the school by the end of 2020. Reading and writing achievements will continue to be monitored throughout the year.

Staff want students to be engaged at school so the Board have funded Mathletics and EGGS for Reading programmes which can also be accessed from home.

Mathletics is a fun and engaging programme for students that they can put their math skills to use through activities and challenges that are relevant and attention-grabbing.

EGGS is similar – it is an online reading tool that makes learning to read interesting and engaging for students with reading games and activities.

The Board of Trustees are working with staff to understand what other resources are needed in our daily school curriculum to help with student achievement.

## **Parent / Teacher Conferences**

With the uncertainty of school closures due to corona virus and the desire for teachers to meet with parents, caregivers and whānau to discuss student progress, parent/teacher conferences have been brought forward and will be now held on **Thursday, 26 March**. Please make a time to meet with your child/children's teacher by completing the form enclosed with the school newsletter or contacting the school office. You can also book your interview directly on the Skool Loop app.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns with your child's progress or wellbeing at school throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact teachers or school office staff. Email details are available on the Moanataiari School website [www.moana.school.nz](http://www.moana.school.nz).

Kia kaha Moanataiari whānau during this unsettling time. Keep an eye out for regular updates directly from the school to help keep you informed.

Ngā mihi

**Moanataiari School Board of Trustees**