



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE – MAY 2020

Kia ora koutou,

The Board of Trustees welcomes back staff, students and whanau to Moanataiari School following the COVID-19 lockdown. What a crazy time it has been for everyone.

We hope that everyone remained safe and well during the lockdown, and are adjusting into the new alert 2 routines required to keep everyone safe at school.

The Board would like to make the following acknowledgements to:

- Principal, David Brock for leading Moanataiari School through difficult and uncertain times keeping parents and caregivers well informed of essential news and developments through his new Principal's blog, the Taiari Times of Thames.
- Teachers for adapting so quickly from face to face teaching to online learning. You did an amazing job continuing the teaching with your classroom weekly plans and connecting with students and parents via zoom, email, google hangouts and by phone. It wasn't easy but you did it. Thank you.
- All other staff including teacher aides, admin staff, the caretaker, and the librarian – you have kept things going working from home, doing online classes, delivering library books, reconfiguring the school to meet hygiene requirements, and being ready to go to welcome the students back last Monday.
- Students – you are amazing. What a resilient bunch of children that adapted to the lockdown and to the online learning with manawaroa - grit and determination. Well done for embracing your learning in such a different way.
- Parents – thank you for working with the teachers and providing a learning and support network at home for your young learners. You did an incredible job.
- Essential workers – a massive thank you to all the essential worker families at our school and in Thames for everything you did during the lock down to keep our community safe and supported. You are just awesome.
- Local businesses – we know it's been a tough time. We want to help support you by promoting your business for free on our school sign or Skool Loop. Please contact the school office on 868 6504 if you would like to avail of this opportunity.
- CAPS Hauraki for its generous donation to help support Moanataiari families in need.

A detailed review of the school operations through the lockdown period that looked at things that went well, things that were more difficult or challenging was released via the Taiari Times of Thames and Skool Loop on Wednesday, 20 May. It's an interesting read for anyone who missed it. The Board agrees 'it was an outstanding team effort'.

If you are wondering what Skool Loop is – it's a free app that you can download onto any device. This is the main communications platform between school and our school community so all our important messages and newsletters are sent via Skool Loop in the first instance. You can also use it to notify the school of absences and best of all, it's really easy and quick.

With online learning becoming the new way of learning overnight for all students, we have had a bit more insight into the needs of protecting our school network, students and families from accessing websites that they shouldn't be.

The Board have agreed to engage Family Zone NZ Cyber Safety to give 24/7 protection for our school network and protect against age-inappropriate content. As providers of the account, it will give the school assurance that students cannot access restricted websites from Moanataiari school accounts.

Chromebooks will only be set up for students and their moana accounts. However, some tech savvy students may try and set up another account that isn't related to Moanataiari School on their device which could give them access to restricted websites without this protection.

Parents will have the same assurances when students are working on their school device from home. However, to keep children completely safe from harmful internet content, it is recommended parents should still monitor your children's internet access.

At this stage, the protection does not cover 'bring your own' device to school but while on school grounds, students can only access school friendly sites through their own device.

School devices that the Ministry of Education are providing as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown for students years 4-8 are still to be received. These will be rolled out to students once they arrive. Please note that devices will remain the property of Moanataiari School and will need to be returned when the student leaves our school.

Property continues to be a key focus and we continue to work closely with the Ministry of Education regarding our priority projects and getting them funded and actioned. We hope to provide you with a more detailed plan update soon.

Lastly, as you know these are fast changing times we are in, so please keep an eye out for school communications. As we write this, we await another announcement on Monday from the Government as to whether we will remain in alert 2 or go to alert 1. Important messages will be released via the Skool Loop and the Taiari Times of Thames blog.

Kia kaha.

Ngā mihi

**Moanataiari School Board of Trustees**