

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the whanau and people of Christchurch affected by the tragic events last Friday. As a school we have kept the whole thing low key and asked teachers to talk to children who have asked questions, to answer them with the facts as they stand.

All teaching staff met first thing on Monday morning to discuss our consistent approach to dealing with any questions or discussion or possible reaction/fallout.

We have tried to avoid group discussions to minimise the emotional impact on some children, to be age appropriate for our younger children and to avoid navigating the complexities of this issue and the media.

Parents are in the best position to know what is best in discussing this with your child/ren. At the same time, we must listen and offer our assistance where and when required or requested.

Nothing can prepare any of us to know how to deal with this type of tragedy - we are best to look to the experts. If your child has viewed any of the online live footage it would be best to contact a professional to work through this. If you require further assistance with any of this do not hesitate to contact Tony who can link you up with the appropriate assistance.

I have been forwarded this link from a psychologist at the Parenting Place in Christchurch that offers insights on how to talk to children about trauma.

[https://www.theparentingplace.com/how-to-talk-about/world-trauma/?fbclid=IwAR26iYrZTzqZajuRbNQjyS\\_N9BK49MdIP1xxbfhdTm30\\_vw78PfPxaTcVIA](https://www.theparentingplace.com/how-to-talk-about/world-trauma/?fbclid=IwAR26iYrZTzqZajuRbNQjyS_N9BK49MdIP1xxbfhdTm30_vw78PfPxaTcVIA)

**Nathan Wallace**, who is an expert in young people's brain development, gives this advice for our children:

1. Turn off TV and media - it only reinforces the trauma.
2. Show you are concerned like them, but still feel safe now. If you feel safe, they are likely too.
3. Express confidence in how quickly the police responded and their ability to protect us.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**22 March – Dream Chaser fundraiser**

**20 March – EBOP Swimming Competition**

**26 – 29 March – Nga Peka Camp**

**4 April – Family Zone Cyber Safety Parent Meeting**

**12 April – Last Day of Term 1**

**29 April – First Day of Term 2**

4. Be especially aware of how your “tween” is responding. Eleven is a very vulnerable age for loss and grief.

5. Pamper them, cuddle them, support them.

This link and information above might be helpful for you over the coming weeks if your child(ren) are asking questions about the tragic news of killings in Christchurch. ***I urge you to remain vigilant and aware of leaving children unsupervised on devices, given the risk of them accessing messages and images on social media, breaking news, pop ups etc. We would appreciate you informing us if your child(ren) is particularly adversely affected by these events, so we can do our best to support them as we work with you to support our tamariki.***

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ONLINE

Ohope Beach School have an excellent tool that is used to limit sites that our children can access via the internet. This is also available to all parents. ‘Family Zone’ can give you a high level of control of devices that your children are using and possibly accessing the Internet - **There is a Family Zone Cyber Safety Parent Information Evening April 10th 6pm at Ohope Beach School.**



## **LOCK DOWN DRILL**

We have had some questions about what a Lockdown (some refer to them as reverse evacuations) looks like at our school?

Here is a simplified description of what is involved. The long version is not much longer as it is quite a simple procedure normally managed by other authorities (Police etc).

Whilst it isn't appropriate to practice a lock down drill this week. We will do a practice soon.

As a parent here are some main points to be aware of:

- If you are at school during a lockdown you need to move to the nearest class and follow the directions of a staff member, you will not be able to leave the school.
- If you are at home or work you will be contacted via Facebook, text or email - depending on the situation there maybe radio messages broadcast - so tune into our local stations for these messages.
- It is important that you stay away from the school until you are notified - please do not come into the school grounds.

Children will not be released until the appropriate authority (usually the Police) give the all clear.

***The 'Lockdown' procedure implies all doors and entrances will be locked and not unlocked until an all clear is given.***

**EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY SWIMMING CHAMPS** – Well done to all our amazing swimmers who represented our area Yesterday. We have heard of some amazing results. Confirmed results will be in the newsletter once we have received them. Thank you to all the parents who provided transport and supervision.

## **PRIDE VALUES**

**P – Positivity - We participate in all activities with enthusiasm. We say kind and positive words.**

**R – Respect - We listen and use our manners. We care for ourselves, our belongings, the environment and each other.**

**I – Integrity - We make the right choices and do as we say. We are trustworthy.**

**D – Diligence - We try our best in all activities and take on challenges. We work hard to achieve our goals.**

**E – Empathy - We think about others and their feelings before we act.**

**Our focus this week is Diligence**

Each fortnight at our Monday Morning assemblies, we present 2 to 3 children from each learning space with a Pride certificate related to the current Value focus and a coloured band. Whanau should be extremely proud if their child brings one of these home. Children who have also earned pride tickets around school or on the bus also go into a draw to win an ice block. This term those with the most Pride tickets or Pride points from each class also get to have a special treat on Friday.

**Winners for week 7 were –**

**Te Tiwai – Lachlan F, Lili, Olivia, Sophia, Winnie, Robert**

**Nga Peka - Tracey, Jayden H, Heaven, Beau B, Cyrus S**

At the end of this term all those who have received a PRIDE ticket go into a draw for prizes.



The Bay of Plenty Rugby Holiday Programme is back for 2019 in Whakatane and Rotorua!

Registrations are now open for our April School Holiday Programme but spaces are limited so register today!

Thanks to Patchell Group and Si-Lodec for proudly sponsoring the Central Bay of Plenty Rugby Holiday Programme. [REGISTER NOW](#)



**Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. (TOMORROW)** As a school we will be dressing in yellow to fundraise for the Dream Chaser Foundation.

Dress in yellow and bring a gold coin donation. There will also be a sausage sizzle. Order forms will come home next week.

The Dream Chaser Foundation was set up in memory of Chace Topperwien; it is a charity focused on supporting children and families facing childhood cancer.

## Whakatane Community of Learning

### Teacher Only Day

### NOTE DATE CHANGE!!

## Friday May 31st - and not the 21st as previously advertised (Friday before Queens Birthday Weekend)

### Early notification of a Teacher Only Day next term (Term 2)

Our Community of Schools (CoL) group is holding a Teacher Only day for our district on Friday May 31st - this is an opportunity for all the local teachers Early Childhood through to Secondary to all come together for some shared professional development, sharing of information, skills and ideas.

All local schools will not be open for instruction on that day.

### Important Dates:

**Term 1** is an **11-week** term and will finish on **Friday April 12th**.

**# NOTE** - The Easter holiday falls within the school holidays this year.

- **Tuesday 26th – Friday 29th March** - Nga Peka Camp
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Family Zone Cybersafety Parent Meeting**
- **Friday 12th April** - End of Term 1
- **Monday April 29th** - Start of Term 2
- **Friday 31st May** - CoL Teacher Only Day

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS**

**7 June 2019**

All of New Zealand's state and state-integrated schools have a board of trustees. The board of trustees is the Crown entity responsible for the governance of the school. The board is the employer of all staff in the school and is responsible for setting the school's strategic direction in consultation with parents, staff and students, and for ensuring that its school provides a safe environment and quality education for all its students. Boards are also responsible for overseeing the management of personnel, curriculum, property, finance and administration.

This three-minute video is for use with prospective trustees and briefly outlines what trusteeship is all about.

<https://www.trustee-election.co.nz/becoming-a-trustee/>

EVENT	DATE
Select Returning Officer by	Wednesday 1 May 2019
Close Main Roll	Noon Wednesday 8 May 2019
Call for Nominations by	Friday 10th May 2019
Close Supplementary roll	Noon, Wednesday 22 May 2019
Nominations Close	Noon Friday 24 May 2019