

BOT Letter to Community Term 3, 2021

Kia ora TNIS Community, Parents and Caregivers,

As we reflect on life in Level 4 lockdown heading towards the end of Term 3 2021, we trust you are looking forward to the school holiday break after what seems like a term of “what could’ve been” had the Delta variant not arrived in New Zealand.

Unfortunately this term, after really very little disruption to the school year, we have once again returned to remote learning. We are very thankful to our staff who have managed the transition from the classroom to online so seamlessly for our children with very little advanced notice.

We accept that in Auckland lockdown fatigue is likely impacting normal life in our bubbles, and we want to acknowledge the parents and caregivers who are standing up and doing the best they can in very challenging circumstances. This is one of those situations where doing our best is OK.

Wellbeing

We are very fortunate to have our wellbeing resources underpinned through our participation in *The Resilience Project* schools programme. Throughout lockdown, you will have noted the wellbeing activities that are being completed by your children. The Board fully supports this programme as a key to continuing to build the resilience in our learners which we know will be required in the months and years to come as the world starts to re-open and we need to manage our lives within the context of Covid19.

The school continues to monitor the needs of your children and should you, as parents and caregivers also require support for changes you are noticing in your child during lockdown, please do not hesitate to reach out to your classroom teacher in the first instance. The lockdown experience is all about learning to live in a world that you cannot control, and finding a safe and secure place to learn new skills and coping mechanisms.

Mid Year Achievement Data review

The Board continues to monitor achievement data regularly to ensure high educational outcomes are being achieved across the learner population at TNIS. We are encouraged by processes in place to monitor and support learner progress, especially the high school readiness for our Year 8s who will leave us at the end of 2021.

Reading Mid Year

84% of TNIS learners are achieving at or above expectation in Reading. The TNIS Year 8 cohort at mid-year 2021 is achieving 10.6% higher than at the same point in 2020. This is a significant positive increase.

Writing Mid Year

75% of TNIS learners are achieving at or above expectation in Writing. The TNIS Year 8 cohort at mid-year 2021 is achieving 12% higher than at the same point in 2020. This is a significant positive increase.

Maths Mid Year

85% of TNIS learners are achieving at or above expectation in Maths. The TNIS Year 8 cohort at mid-year 2021 is achieving 2.8% higher than at the same point in 2020.

TNIS continues to achieve well above the achievement rate of New Zealand national curriculum expectations.

Property development update

During lockdown we have appointed a contractor and are awaiting formal approval from the Ministry to progress our plans to upgrade Classrooms 1-4 and renovate the School Hall and Music facilities to make them fit for purpose and more usable for our learners.

The Classroom upgrades will commence in Term 4 and the School Hall renovation will follow starting in December, and is likely to take several months to complete. We are delighted that the renovation will allow more flexibility of the hall space to cater for auditorium seating, stage reconfiguration and indoor games space when weather isn't conducive to outdoor activities. The music room and adjoining practice rooms will be sound proofed and purpose built storage designed. The adjoining kitchen and bathroom facilities will also receive a facelift.

It is anticipated that this work will mean the current hall space is uninhabitable for most of Terms 1 & 2 next year, however delays due to materials and future lockdowns could impact this timeline further. Unfortunately there has been no easy way to mitigate this, and we ask for your patience as we progress just as fast and as safely as possible.

BOT Elections 2022

It is the time of the 3 year cycle that we look ahead to Board of Trustee Elections. In 2022 many of our current BOT parent representatives will be looking to step aside as their children move on to higher education.

We are looking for new parents and caregivers to the school, many of whom will be just beginning their intermediate school journey at TNIS to fill these vacant positions. We welcome any parent or caregiver who is keen to learn more about what the commitment of a BOT member entails and the unique opportunity that exists to shape the strategic direction of a local learning institution.

With our diverse cultural identity at TNIS, we are keen to attract those members of our school community across from all cultural backgrounds to help better represent our learner population and community.

Just a reminder, BOT meetings are open meetings, and occur twice in Term 4. These meetings are normally held in the School Administration building.

Please consider standing for election to the TNIS Board of Trustees in 2022, as a way to serve your local community.

ERO

The Board of Trustees is looking forward to working collaboratively with our staff and learners and the Education Review Office during the evaluation of our school. This process will involve both on-site and remote work across 2021 and 2022. We will share more information with you as we work together under the new ERO evaluation format.

Covid19 Level 2 returning to school

The Ministry of Education is working hard behind the scenes to ensure return to classroom based learning in Level 2 is safe for both learners and staff. The SLT is following guidelines closely and will be in direct communication with you following Government announcements on Alert level changes. Please ensure you are regularly checking the School app for updated information in the coming weeks.

As a Board, we continue to be impressed at the resilience of our students and teachers despite the obvious challenges throughout lockdown and the cancellation of so many school events and sporting competitions.

Our thanks especially to Wendy, Sandy and Kate for leading their people and our learners through these last four weeks. Our teaching and admin staff are highly dedicated professionals and committed to creating a safe and stimulating learning environment for every learner in their care, regardless of whether it's face2face in the classroom or over google meets.

As we await government decisions on lockdown, please continue to take care of one another in your bubble, reach out to others who may be in real need and always be kind. We will continue to support your families in any way that we can.

Kia Kaha.

Board of Trustees, Takapuna Normal Intermediate School

Victoria Mahan (Chairman), Russell Clements (Deputy Chair), Kirsten Nevile, Tony Kelly, John Stenberg, Kevin Elmes (Staff Representative) and Wendy Sandifer

