

Week 5, Term 3, 25 August 2021

Kia ora, talofa lava, malo e lelei, 问候, namaste, 인사, 拜啓, mabuhay, bem vindo, fakalofa lahi atu, kia orana, kohomada, bula vinaka, huān yin, foon ying, marhaba, oso oseyo, olà, bonjour, ia orana, welcome!

Kia ora koutou,

### Kids Sing Choral Competition – Something to Celebrate 😊

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of August, the 60 ROPS Musicians in our Y5 and 6 *Royal Harmonics* choir travelled to the Auckland Town Hall to compete in the 2021 New Zealand Choral Federation *Kids Sing Choral Festival*. This was a goal the choir, Whaea Amelia, and Whaea Felicity had worked towards throughout Term 2.

It was very exciting, after so much hard work, to see the choir tamariki confidently ready to perform and looking smart and well presented in our school Cultural Uniform as a choir team. It was also really exciting to have parent and professional musician, Justin Bird, perform as part of the team as our collaborative pianist. Thank you so much Justin!

The children were amazing representatives of our school and performed their three songs very well. Their beautiful, healthy singing sound; musicality; part-singing skills; and joy in being musicians (all things that are strived for in our ROPS Kodály Concept Music Programme) really shone.

It was wonderful news to hear that the choir had received a Gold Award in the competition as a result of their learning and effort. This is an outstanding achievement as only four choirs in the whole competition were given a Gold Award.

Huge thanks to all the parents and staff who have supported our tamariki seeking choral excellence with this *Kids Sing* project.

Royal Oak Primary is a singing school, and we can be very proud of our Choral Programme, and the tamariki who sing in it.

I would like to especially thank Whaea Amelia for her dedication, commitment, and talent in getting our tamariki to achieve this fabulous result. ROPS is very blessed to have Whaea Amelia leading our Music programme.



## COVID-19 Update

I think we had all anticipated a further extension of Alert Level 4, and the Prime Minister has confirmed this. The Alert Level will be reviewed on Monday afternoon, but for now Alert Level 4 will remain in place in Auckland until 11:59pm Tuesday 31 August.

And so our distance learning programme will continue. Thank you to all our whānau who have managed to engage in the distance learning programme or have been working on the hard packs. We understand that every household has differing circumstances, so please only do what can be managed in your household. The wellbeing of your whānau is paramount at this time. On that note, some of our Kaiako who have posted tasks online for the next day's learning have noticed that some tamariki may be staying up late at night completing the activities. The mahi is set for the following day and we are hoping that all the tamariki are getting plenty of sleep. Please also understand that our Kaiako all have their own circumstances at home and they are all working very hard to deliver the Distance Learning programme.

Please note: the school grounds are closed. So please do not come into school during Alert Level 4, otherwise, you will be in breach of the COVID-19 Health Response Order.

Health authorities are casting a much wider net to determine who is a contact of a confirmed case. People who previously might have been considered a casual contact are now being treated as contacts. Where schools may have closed for three days while contact tracing was undertaken, they are now closing for 14 days with staff and students all self-isolating for that time. As a result, there are more than 13,000 close contacts being followed up by health authorities.

There is a lot we can all do to protect our whānau and community from COVID-19 including:

- Everyone must continue to stay home in their bubble
- Do not mix with other household bubbles - if they have COVID-19, it can easily spread to your household, and every other household they and you are connecting with
- As new cases are identified, [new locations of interest are added to the Ministry of Health website](#) - please keep checking this. You can search by your location, and they are sorted by date, so you only need to check the locations which have been added when you last checked
- Wash your hands regularly, especially when you have been out in public
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell and seek advice about whether you need to get a test
- Wear a face covering when out and about, and you MUST wear a face covering in any businesses or services which are open at Alert Level 4 (unless you have specifically been exempted from doing so, which includes anyone aged under 12)
- Keep a two-metre distance from people outside your household bubble
- Check in using the [NZ COVID Tracer App](#) wherever you go or keep a manual record (a reminder the App only stores information on your own phone - no one else will know who it is that checked in, or when)

You can go to the [COVID19.govt.nz website if you would like more information on Alert Level 4 requirements](#).

We can also make sure we are passing on good information. There is a very helpful article by [Dr Siouxie Wiles and Toby Morris in The Spinoff](#) regarding misinformation and disinformation.

## Schedule for Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga

The programming schedule for Home Learning TV | Papa Kāinga on the [Learning from Home website](#) is now available as a downloadable PDF to make it easier to distribute to parents and whānau.

See the schedule here. **Live and on-demand television content**

## **Mauri Reo, Mauri Ora**

- In partnership with Māori Television, the Mauri Reo, Mauri Ora Kōanga 2021 series has been launched to ensure Māori language learning can continue anywhere, anytime for tamariki during and after Alert Level 4.
- The channel is full of new and engaging content, whilst also taking the chance to revisit some of the more popular lessons of the show enjoyed by tamariki in the comfort and safety of their bubbles.
- Every episode is presented by Māori language teachers and exponents with support from expert educationalists. Tamariki are encouraged through play, art, song and imagination to continue learning whether they are in a classroom, at home or in isolation.
- Mauri Reo, Mauri Ora Kōanga 2021 screens on Te Reo channel every weekday from 9am to 12pm beginning today. Programmes will also be available online on the [Māori TV](#) website and on the Māori+ app.

## **Home Learning | Papa Kainga TV**

- Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV is back online and on television weekdays between 9am-1pm.
- Home Learning | Papa Kainga TV is primarily for learners without internet connectivity. It can be accessed on Duke+1 (Freeview channel 18). Those households who have Sky can also access Duke +1 on channel 504.
- For households who have internet connectivity they can access the lessons through TVNZ On Demand. Schedules are published on [Learning from Home](#).
- Households may also need a reminder of how to enable captions - [information can be found here](#).

## **Kia Manawaroa: Information hub for whānau Māori**

Kia Manawaroa is a dedicated channel for whānau Māori with tamariki and rangatahi in the education system.

In times of COVID-related change, Kia Manawaroa focuses on providing practical information to help whānau and is sent out as and when significant changes or announcements are made.

- [read the latest issue of Kia Manawaroa here](#)
- [subscribe to Kia Manawaroa here](#).

If you have any questions or comments about Kia Manawaroa, please send an email to:

[Kia.Manawaroa@education.govt.nz](mailto:Kia.Manawaroa@education.govt.nz)

Finally, we know some families in our community may be finding it difficult to access food and essential items such as medicine. This information about [how to access to food or essential items](#) summarises the supports that are available, including financial help to buy food.

I will continue to provide you with updates as they come through from the Ministry of Education - particularly if and when we are facing an Alert Level shift.

Please do take care and let us know how we can best support you and your whānau.

Kia kaha!



## Some Food for Thought

**What if instead of 'falling behind', this group of lockdown kids are actually ahead? Hear me out...**

What if they have more empathy, enjoy family connection, can be more creative and entertain themselves, love to read, love to express themselves in writing?

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own garden and sitting near a window in the quiet? What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if this generation are the ones to learn to cook, organise their space, do their laundry and keep a well-run home?

What if they learn to ride a bike, play a board game, do simple crafts, learn to bake, climb a tree, play without a screen?

What if they learn to understand the value of money, what's important and how to live with less? What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

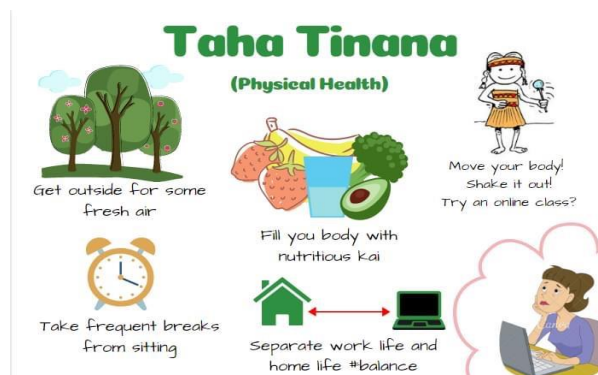
What if they learn to just be: to be resilient, to be content?

What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential support workers?

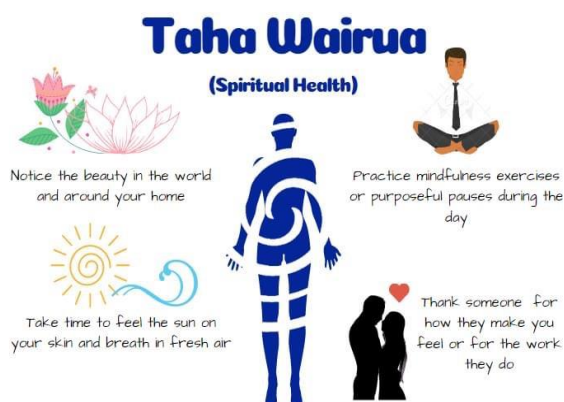
What if, among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life to truly learn what really matters in this life?

**What if they are AHEAD?**

## Te Whare Tapa Whā (Mason Durie) to Support Your Wellbeing During Alert Level 4 ☺



## Taha Whānau – Providing us with aroha, strength, belonging, sharing and caring



## A Message for Michael Berry - Presiding Member of ROPS Board of Trustees

The school's Board of Trustees met on Monday evening via Zoom.

- The board is thankful for the dedication of all our kaiako in shifting so quickly back into the online teaching space. This includes the work of Whaea Megan and the senior leadership team in working to get devices and resources to tamariki who need them. The board tautoko the messages around wellbeing and support during these challenging times - thankful for the strength and support of the ROPS community.
- The curriculum report was presented by Whaea Bernie Jackson around the area of Physical Education and Health. She celebrated the wide variety of PE and sports activities that form a part of life at ROPS. The report covered the in-school program, various out of school sports opportunities and initiatives looking forward. ROPS is well served by a diverse range of opportunities for our tamariki to be involved in sports and to get out there and 'give it a go'. The dedicated contribution of sports leaders and parent volunteers was also recognised and celebrated. The board is thankful for the work that Whaea Bernie does in this area of school life.
- The Board regularly reviews its policy documents required under the National Administrative Guidelines (NAGs). These Policy documents support the variety of more detailed school procedures that are managed and maintained by Whaea Megan and the Senior Leadership

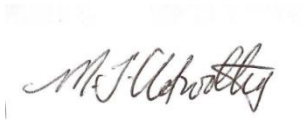
Team. This month, we completed an ongoing piece of work to review NAG-5 (Health and Safety) as well as a regular review of NAG-6 (Administration).

- Each meeting also receives a number of regular reports. These include financial reports and a report from Whaea Megan as tumuaki addressing a wide range of areas in the life of our school including progress around the board's strategic goals.

The next meeting will be held at **6.00pm on Monday 27 September** - hopefully in the Staff Room! As usual, you are very welcome to attend. Our curriculum focus for this meeting will be around inquiry and local curriculum.

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Michael

Have a happy fortnight.  
Keep safe and well.  
Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Clotworthy', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Megan Clotworthy  
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