



Te Kura Maori o Nga Tapuwae

STANDARDS & EXPECTATIONS

Wednesday 13th April 2022

Tēnā koutou e ngā Mātua,

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge our students and whānau who have made a concerted effort to return to school after covid caused us to close for a couple of weeks. I'm proud to say that for the past two weeks we have been back at a 90% attendance rate with most of the remaining 10% in isolation. Congratulations to you all and thank you for prioritizing your child/rens education.

Unfortunately, there has been a prevailing side effect of the past two years lockdowns and recent isolation periods. Most of our students/your children are really struggling to form and maintain good, healthy kano ki te kano relationships with other students and the staff. Research has shown that this is a worldwide trend but it is one that my staff and I are determined to squash but we need your and your child/rens buy in!

Last week I spent time at the boys' camp and then met with the girls yesterday where I reiterated my concerns around their self-esteem, self-confidence and inter-relational connections. Our school aim is to be kind, caring and respectful of each other and ourselves. I challenged the girls to have 'lunch dates' with others outside of their 'normal click' to expand their circle of friends and promote kindness. Students have been reminded that they have a voice that is to be valued and one that we all need to hear because they MATTER! I have asked every student to lift their head up so we can see their faces and to use their voice so they can be heard – even if it just to say "Kia ora!" We are concerned that holistic and mental wellbeing has suffered at the hands of Covid-19 so I ask you as parents to take a few minutes out of your busy schedules to sit down with your children and ask them how they are feeling and leave the door open for them to talk openly and honestly about how they **really** are. If we utilise our tri-partheid commitment to ensure that your child has both us as staff and you as whānau to talk to then their holistic wellbeing will definitely benefit.

What has also been a side effect of the lockdowns and disengagement from onsite learning is the serious decline in our school standards. As such, I am writing this newsletter because I am extremely disappointed by the decline in students standard of dress, hygiene, personal presentation, behaviour, punctuality and attendance. I have been the principal for 27 years and this is the lowest standard Ngā Tapuwāe has ever reached. As such, I want to clearly outline and reiterate what our expectations are for every single student enrolled in Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwāe. The staff and I will be on high alert next term, so I implore your support as parents who agreed to these expectations upon enrolment – to ensure your child/ren meet the following standards by day 1 of Term 2 and maintain them forever!

Standard of Dress Expectations

Students must:

- ✓ Be dressed in full school uniform. Winter uniform only in Term 2. If you are unable to afford to purchase any items of winter uniform please email info@ngatapuwaee.school.nz requesting a WINZ quote, a time payment option or details

for Social Service providers who may be able to assist you. But there is no excuse for students to arrive on the 2nd May in incorrect uniform.

- ✓ Uniforms must be washed and not have grease stains etc all over them from previous days/weeks.
- ✓ All creased uniforms must be ironed before students leave home
- ✓ Skirts must not be hemmed too short or be too tight. They need to be fitted where girls can sit, stand, walk and bend easily. The bottom of skirts must sit no higher than the knee. Far too many girls need new skirts especially those who like them super tight and look like they are about to burst open if they have to sit too quickly.
- ✓ Boys shorts must not be too big where they fall below their hips or their shirts cannot stay tucked in all day.
- ✓ Black lace-up shoes must be worn in winter and cleanly polished. If wearing a skirt, they must be paired with white socks or natural coloured/black stockings or black opaque stockings for extra warmth. If wearing shorts, they must be paired with knee high grey school socks. If wearing trousers, they must be paired with plain white, grey or black socks.
- ✓ Socks must be washed daily and shoes aired out at home

All items of the school uniform can be purchased from the office. School shoes are free from the office for all ages and we encourage students to wear them.

We have also secured warm softshell jackets from KidsCan for all students. We have taken them to a printer to get the school logo on the front and a new Kaiwhare design on the back with our whakatauki. The school has drastically subsidised the cost but students will need to pay \$10 to get a new jacket. These are now available at the office if you'd like to purchase one in preparation for the new term.

Personal Care Expectations

Students must:

- ✓ Arrive at school having had a wash, brushed their teeth and hair
- ✓ Hair requirements are as follows:
 - Must be brushed and tidy every day
 - If shoulder length – must be tied back into a ponytail, plait or bun (Kura Tuarua girls were given examples this morning – I expect these to be met immediately)
 - Boys' hair must also be tidy, off the face and out of your eyes
 - Hair must not be dyed and must remain a natural colour at all times
- ✓ The only piercings that are permitted is for a single stud in each ear. There are to be no nose, tongue, eyebrow or multiple ear piercings.
- ✓ If boys have previously shaven then they must remain clean shaven at all times
- ✓ Love bites are not permitted at all!
- ✓ Nails must be natural and of a style and length that they can actually function at school.
- ✓ Face masks will remain mandatory for our Year 4 – 13 students next term to keep everyone as safe as possible during the colder months when illnesses are much more transmissible.

Behavioural Expectations

Students must:

- ✓ Attend school everyday unless there are extenuating circumstances such as sickness or tangi. Unnecessary absences like “too tired today”, “need to rest because I worked

last night" and "I had an appointment to get my false eyelashes done" are not acceptable.

- ✓ Arrive to school by 8:30am every morning and be punctual to all classes throughout the day
- ✓ Uphold all school rules at all times
- ✓ Ensure our focus on Manaakitanga and Whakaute (Respect) is upheld and shown to fellow students and staff. Bullying behaviour will not be tolerated!
- ✓ No chewing gum or leaving rubbish around the school.
- ✓ Homework needs to be completed by deadlines given to students. We ask parents to check-in with their children about what they are currently working on and allow them the time and space to complete it.

Areas of Concern

There have been a number of areas of concern that staff have noticed creeping in this term and I want to put all students on notice that this must cease immediately.

- ✘ Vaping at school or in school uniform is absolutely against the school rules and regulations. We know students have been vaping on the field and in the toilets which must stop immediately. I ask that all parents talk to their children about this habit and ensure they DO NOT make vaping a part of their school life – either on the way to/from or at school as it will result in a stand down or suspension. If your child is caught it will result in several hours of paperwork for my staff and myself followed by a 3 day (minimum) stand down for your child and then an onsite meeting with your whānau and I. All this time wasted for a pathetic vape when we have already lost so much teaching and learning time. So, I ask parents and students to seriously consider all of these factors and its impacts as it affects everyone of us.
- ✘ As I outlined at the start of this newsletter – we have been focusing on kindness, caring and respect. It has been very disheartening to see and hear what students have been saying to and about each other. This is apparently happening on social media as well as spilling over to onsite disrespect. Therefore, I also want to whānau to address this with your children. It is not ok to say mean things to/about each other, it is not ok to write mean things to/about each other, it is also not ok to accept mean things being said to you either especially if you did nothing wrong. Everybody deserves respect, kindness and caring so this is going to continue to be a focus for us all in the new term!

As you can see, I have fleshed out what our school expectations are so there should be no misconstruing of the standard we expect and will be keenly monitoring from day 1 of next term. I intend on ensuring the restoration of the quality of standards and presentation because punctuality, attendance, behaviour and presentation of self, MATTERS!

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office on Ph: 551 6161 or info@ngatapuwaeh.school.nz

Ngā manaakitanga,


Arihia Stirling
Principal

