

Greetings from Weber School!

Striving for Success. Learning. Respect

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Good morning...Morena....Hello!

Term Two is upon us and what an interesting term it looks to be! With the change in the holidays, this is a 12 week term and of course we are starting it at home with our distance learning. I hope that you are all well and safe in your bubbles. It has been lovely to share in the connections between students and their teachers – and there are some absolutely gorgeous connections today through both emails and seesaw. The teachers have been really busy with lots of students to reply to but are so excited to see the response so far... thank you!

Last week I sent out the parent email about how we are proceeding in phase one of our online learning. The main points are

- Daily emails will provide school work for students
- Seesaw (middle and junior) and Flipgrid/Padlet (senior) will provide ways for the students to connect and interact.

We have based this approach on your feedback and after reflecting on what worked in the first few days at home at the end of March. We will be tweaking and reflecting over the next ten days as we build what works for the students, for the teachers and for yourselves. Not everything will work – and we have already had hiccups, but that is ok. As we would tell our students... we just can't do it YET ☺

IMPORTANT DATES

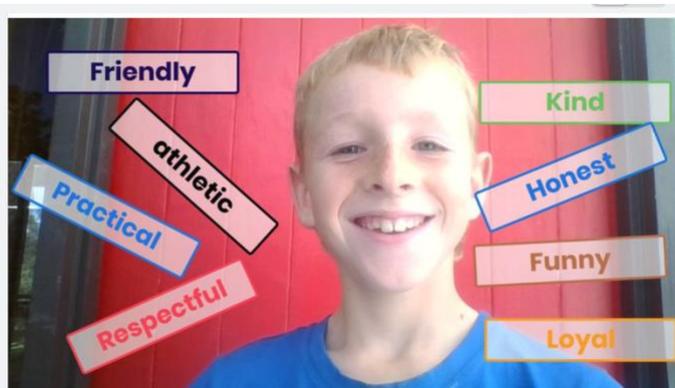
Term Two...so far!

15 April – Term Two begins

27 April – ANZAC day observed

1 June – Queens birthday

3 July – End of term



Please note that we are providing approximately 1.5-3 hours of work per day maximum. Your children are not expected to be working from 9am- 3pm or sitting at a device for that time. Hopefully, working independently or along side you, they would complete tasks faster than in class as they have less disruptions and wait times. There are almost 1.5hr of break time each day, as well as readaloud stories, fitness and PE, social skills, values focus and sharing of ideas and opinions. We also do a lot of brain breaks throughout our sessions as their attention span (as you know) can be short.

While over the weekend there were reports of school starting on the 29th – this is for SOME schools, and SOME students and there is not yet any clear direction about who this may be. Before school sites are opened, the school would need to be cleaned thoroughly, the classrooms will need to be prepared (likely social distancing will impact layout) and teachers need set up time and access to resources. This will not happen overnight so there will be lead in. I do not have any answers yet, but of course once I do, would pass them on. We are working on delivering phase one learning for your children and when we hear more... we will adapt to phase two.



Resources

You will have likely seen the information that learning packs, the TV channel and the devices will be sent out/be up and running over the next week. I am unsure who is receiving what at this stage, and there is no guarantee what might come.

We have so far lent out 13 devices and have several more going out in the next few days to those who indicated the need for one. For families who already have one, I haven't got the devices to give any more at this stage, but appreciate it is difficult with everyone trying to access devices at the same time. These are our school chromebooks, and we appreciate you looking after them and returning once school commences again.

Below are two important pieces of information. Firstly, public health services are available still and also there is free access to N4L – which is what we use to filter our internet access at school. Well worth looking into!

Janine Satchwell
Principal



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND N4L

WHILE YOU ARE IN SELF ISOLATION IN YOUR BUBBLE DID YOU KNOW THAT:

Your school Public Health Nurse Service is still available.

If you have any concerns about your child's health and wellbeing or if you are currently using the service and have not been in contact with the nurse for a while feel free to call.

The nurses can provide support and advice over the phone and are also available to assist with medications for some conditions.

**They are contactable via 0800 153 042.
schoolhth@midcentralthb.govt.nz**



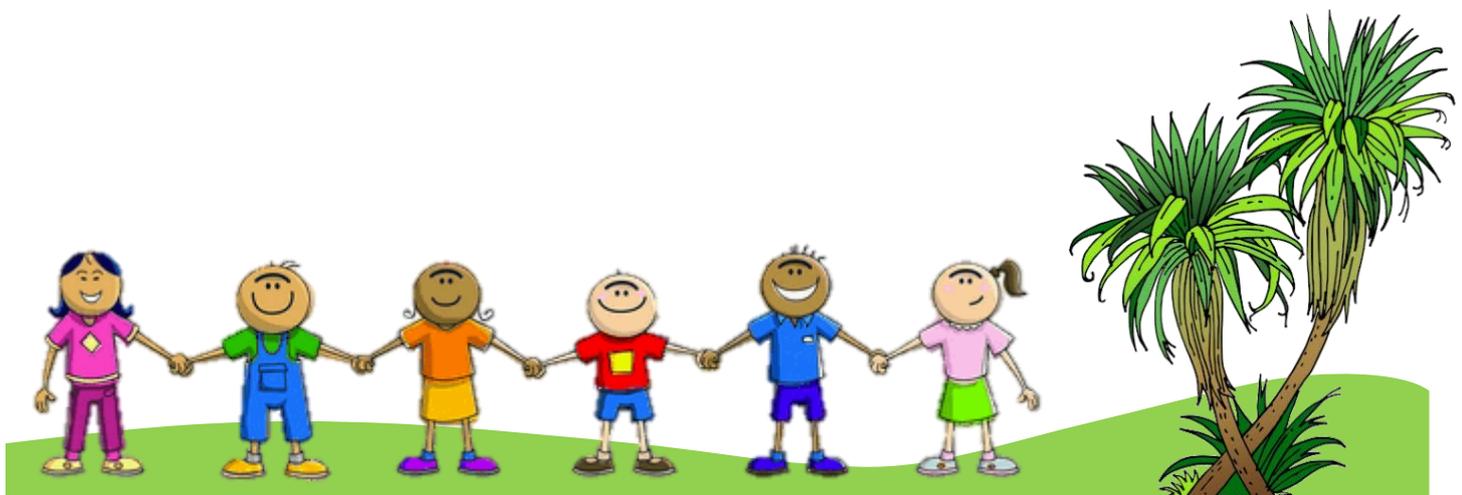
switch on safety

When children learn from home, it's important to help them stay safe online.

Network for Learning (N4L) helps to keep your child safe at school. So while your child is learning from home, we have a simple, **FREE** way to block the worst of the web.

To Switch on Safety, you need to change the 'DNS' settings on your child's device. We've outlined simple instructions for the different devices at switchonsafety.co.nz

[VISIT SWITCHONSAFETY.CO.NZ](https://switchonsafety.co.nz)



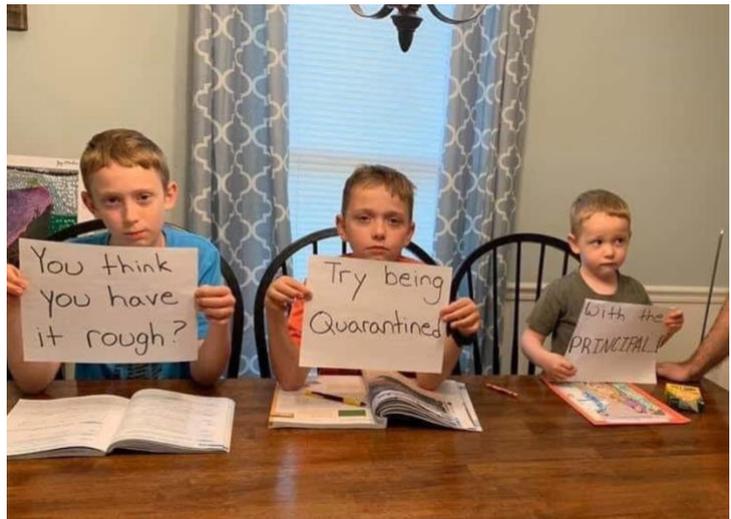
The Real Deal...Day One!

I wanted to add a recount from my perspective as a parent in regards to distance learning and its reality for me. My intent is to show my honest reality as I try to work from home and support the online learning for two children. Nothing about this time (or this term) is normal and we are all just trying to get through it as best we can! Feel free to read, ignore or also send me examples in case I add another reflection next week 😊

While there was the normal annoyance with each other after 20 days in lockdown, I did think the official day one of term two should be ok. As a teacher I should be able to help with the work and manage two children, as well as support the staff on their first day and complete admin tasks which are continuing.

We started with math. The word problem worked for one and the other thought a whole and a half might be a quarter. Child one's 'scoffing reaction' was noticed by their sibling and the beginnings of world war three brewed. As we continued through the activities, child 1 then managed to lose his pencil. He has not left his seat and no one else is near him – how could he lose his pencil? The 'teacher look' on my face said it all... and it was then found quickly on the floor.

I found that even managing two children who were both doing math activities was quite hard. They both wanted my attention at the same time, and when one spoke, the other butted in and then when one was working the other would hum. I pulled out the 'internal dialogue' line within the first 10 minutes. I also realised quickly why they have to have their hands up in class, but wonder how stupid that might look with just two students!



We moved onto writing and they started a google doc instead of writing in their book.

Their task was to share some news about what they had been up to. They both quickly decided what they might write about. I offered to send a photo to child 1, and then child 2 wanted one. There was a tussle about who chose a photo first, troubleshooting ensued and they had to share their doc with me so I could insert the photo. 10 minutes in and there was not a word on the page! Child 1 prefers the google doc and is a fast typist. Child 2 was in tears as she wanted every word to be correct and managed to delete her work in one click. Looks like tomorrow she may be working in her book again so she can guess, underline and MOVE ON!

There was more success with the seesaw tasks which quite possibly saved the day. Both children loved seeing their friends and classmates' pictures, although there was a very quick lesson about where to take the photo as one child paid no attention to the background and none of you need to see any messy areas in our house!

Hubby arrived back and proceeded to take the kids out for 'PE' and then baked cookies with child 2. While it meant I finally got some work done, his declaration that "this teaching thing is easy" hasn't gone down well and I am pretty sure that comment will be NOT used in this house in the near future.

Today I had some wins and some definite losses. I have been able to now get some work done which has eased some of my frustration, but already know that we need a better system than today's if we all are going to survive. I take my hat off to anyone with a preschooler and I will admit... while refereeing the children, communicating with staff, answering emails and feeling the building pressure of the kids not having yet done a seesaw task....there was an f bomb dropped during 'schooltime' today that would have been very deserving of a yellow card!

