

Greetings from Weber School!

Striving for Success. Learning. Respect

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



Welcome to week two of our phase one of distance learning. While it was a short week as such, it was AWESOME! So many positives and a great platform for us to build on this week. We are making minor changes only this week, students/parents will receive their daily email with schoolwork and seesaw/flipgrid etc will be used for communication and connection. It may be that a few groups trial zoom this week and if so, teachers will make contact. Even in staff zoom meetings we have trouble with the connection dropping out so I imagine you will also have some frustrations – but we thought it was worth a try so we at least have some data to inform phase two.

The most important thing I want to say this week is.....

YOU ARE ALL DOING AN AMAZING JOB!

Everyone is doing this differently and you need to do what works for you. There are some children doing a lot of work, some doing practical work and some have moved the classroom outside. Some are moving their day around, some working a day behind so they can plan, some have set up mini classrooms so they don't take over the dining table and some are just surviving – especially those with preschoolers!



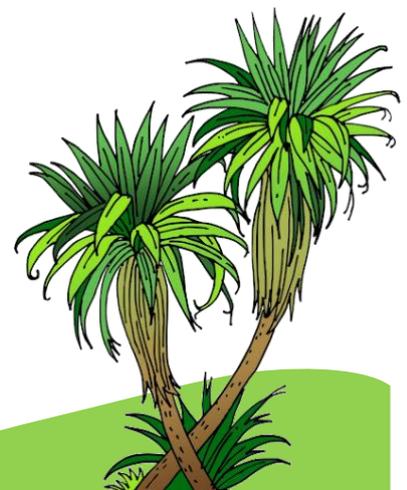
A few exciting snippets to share.....

- Rocky Hales has started in the junior room and is busy getting involved in his tasks. **Welcome Rocky.**
- Cooper Halliwell has lost his front tooth – and it was a delight to hear him talking with that gorgeous wee lisp they get with missing teeth!
- Charlie Kjestrup and Bridget Thompson have completed a science badge each.
- Miss Holyoake was awarded honours for her entry to a photo competition.

Hi stock truck drivers

**Thank you for still taking our stock to the works.
It is important that we keep the maet up so people
can eat good food but we can't do it without you.
You are awesome!**

From Patch.



Reflection so far....

Thank you for your feedback. Your honest reflections are much appreciated and your suggestions are also being taken on board. There are not many changes to our programme this week – but you may see some of your feedback acted upon as we move into phase two.

Positives	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections between students • Seeing their teachers and classmates 'virtually' • Being able to print worksheets • Children working together by facetime – on the task (great idea) • The early email – or working one day behind so they can plan the day • Teacher responses • Picking and choosing – not doing it all • Set routines • Baking and practical tasks as well as cross country practise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling overwhelmed – life continues and this is an addition to daily routines • Students in different classes so having different platforms and different tasks. • Internet – feeling we are missing out as cannot use seesaw, technology problems – sunshine online not working • A multitude of places to go – websites, emails etc • Preparing on the same day – have moved to a day behind • Preschoolers!

Next steps

Last Thursday there was the announcement that schools will reopen at level three for those who need to attend. The confusion, and subsequent media articles, were mainly a reaction to the word voluntary, and it has been clarified as being for those who need to attend, and who cannot stay home.

A lot of work has been done behind the scenes since then and clarification is being sought for the many differing school situations. There are so many things to think about, but there is also time to ensure a considered and careful approach.

- If it is announced that we will move to level three, the earliest that school would open is 29th April.
- We are already beginning to plan what this could look like at Weber – but, like all schools, need a lot more clarification.
- At this stage, all I would like you to do is to consider whether you think your child/children would need one of the places at school if we were to open. Further information about what this would look like would be given before you are asked to make that decision.

Most importantly – what this looks like for Weber school, its students, staff and community will be based on what works and is appropriate for us. Health and safety is paramount and you will be clearly informed as we move forward.

**Thank you
to all the
doctors for
keeping the
Taranaki
safe from
Covid 19.**



**I also thank
Metalform
for making
the masks
to help our
doctors safe
from Covid
19 while they
work.**



The Real Deal...week one!

Continuing in the same vein as last week.... just my perspective and am continuing as the feedback I received was that others felt the same way, and it was nice to hear it wasn't plain sailing 😊

Chalking up Wednesday as a bad day, I figured the day couldn't get any worse. After finishing the newsletter and wrapping up with staff who had had their first 'official' day back for term two, I headed to school to prepare the remaining devices. What should have been a quick job was held up by the fact the front gate appeared to be locked. How – I have no idea. We do not have a key, never have... and have never locked it. I decided to scale the fence instead of walking around, as the vehicle gate is heavy and to be honest... I couldn't be bothered. I caught my bag on the way down and suddenly realised it wasn't the smartest idea as if I had hurt myself... it would have been a long wait. On entering the school, I realised my computer was still in the car to print labels, so had to go back out and walk round anyway!

With Aaron at home on 'days off' I was able to scarp out to deliver devices to Mr. Appleton at 9am Thursday morning. It was lovely to see him, and to feel some normality in a situation which is everything but normal. The actual handover took only a few minutes and as I sat in the car, I wondered if Aaron would notice if I just didn't return for a while. We had been to the supermarket so there was no need to go there but the feeling of freedom with no children asking me for something was too good to give up, and there was some definite Facebook surfing and Stuff newspaper reading!

Me during a zoom call, answering emails and refereeing two children (and Aaron)!



After the debacle of Wednesday, I decided on my return that there would be no home-learning on Thursday morning (great example I know). I spent the morning doing admin tasks and the children spent it on YouTube and playing outside with Aaron. No one came near me as I am pretty sure they thought if they did, schooling would commence. I was able to look through Mrs. Phelps' email, and made a checklist of tasks for both kids. I added handwriting, a diary entry and prodigy as I knew these tasks they can do alone and therefore the intense need for my help which drove me batty the day before, could be lessened. This system worked much better, and so after they had completed the tasks, I set up their day for Friday – luckily, I had the inside scoop on what they would be doing as I had planned it 😊

Friday dawned and it was my teaching day. Aaron was in charge of home-learning for the day so it was very satisfying to forward my email to him at 9am, wishing him luck but secretly hoping it was 'hard yacker'. Working online with the middle room children was amazing. I hadn't realised how much I had missed that contact and their gorgeous perspective. It was a really busy morning with lots of going back and forth between the students, the parents and myself... and it was interesting listening to what was happening in 'school' here at home. Eli got two spelling words wrong so I checked in about him knowing the pattern or rule. Aaron asked me what I was talking about and I asked if he had read my email. Apparently – he saw there were some instructions but couldn't be bothered reading it so went straight to the new lists and tested the children. Obviously, he reads my emails as intensely as he listens to me usually lol!

So, we survived the last few days of the week, but mainly because we did what worked for us. I had to rethink the plan each time it wasn't working. I also had to lighten up, which I actually... hate to do! This week Aaron will be working shifts so it will be quite different again, and I wonder if I can use the 'detention' that he threatened them with on Friday (much to my delight)!

