

17 August 2022

Kia ora koutou, Talofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Faka'alofa lahi atu, Bula vinaka, Namaste,

You may be aware that there was a fight this afternoon at school involving a number of students. We immediately phoned the Police who arrived swiftly to shut it down.

We are extremely disappointed that an incident like this happened on school grounds as we strive to make our school environment a safe place for everyone.

We will be taking time to investigate what happened and determine our next steps. We will liaise closely with the Police and the Ministry of Education to ensure that we act appropriately in response to this.

Our senior leadership team and Ministry of Education staff have met and consider it is best to close the school on Thursday and Friday this week to enable us to investigate and for emotions to return to normal within the school. There will be no formal classes but students will have plenty of work to go on with, which will be available on teachers' google sites. We will be in touch prior to school restarting on Monday.

We recognise that the school closing for two days will be inconvenient for some of our families. If your son/daughter is younger than 14 and has no supervision at home on Thursday and/or Friday, please let us know by emailing Mr van Etten at [p.vanetten@papakurahigh.school.nz](mailto:p.vanetten@papakurahigh.school.nz) as we can provide supervision at school.

We also know that it can be very confronting and upsetting to witness a fight, so we recommend that you touch base with your rangatahi to see how they are feeling and if they need support. Our counsellors are available for anyone that would like to discuss this confidentially - students or parents can make contact with Mr England at [t.England@papakurahigh.school.nz](mailto:t.England@papakurahigh.school.nz) to arrange an appointment.

Please be assured that we do not take events like this lightly. Our senior leadership team and staff will spend the next few days carefully reviewing this incident, our response to it and anything that comes out of the investigation. We have a wonderful student body and this incident is not reflective of the general values, attitudes and actions of the vast majority of our students.

I will be in touch in the next few days, but in the meantime would like to thank you for your support of our students and staff.

Ngā mihi maioha,



Simon Craggs  
**Tumuaki/Principal**