

6 August 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa, Mālō e lelei, Talofa lava, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia orana,
Namaste, Magandang araw

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Please see these updated, current opportunities for engaging with us this term;

Academic;

Ngā Hononga Ako: Bringing Learning Home Tuesday 3 September

- 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 7pm meeting the teachers, subject competitions and learning showcases
- NCE A-Z Workshop 12pm to 1pm (school hall)
 - This workshop is designed for our Year 10 and Year 11 and prepares them for the NCEA journey. We invite students and their whanau.
- Fundraising stalls 1pm onwards (barn)
- NCEA me te Whanau 4pm to 5pm (school hall)
 - This workshop is designed for parents and caregivers in supporting their tamaiti/tamariki. It covers every crucial aspect of NCEA and offers guidance on how to help their tamaiti/tamariki make informed subject choices
- Year 8 Parents Introduction to our school 5.30pm to 6.30pm (Allen Kukutai Room)

Pasifika Achievement Awards Night - Wednesday 11 September 6pm

Cultural;

Cook Island Language Week - Monday 5 August

Tongan Language Week - Monday 19th August

Filipino Language Week - Tuesday 27 August

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori - Monday 16 September

Performance;

Cafe nights - Wednesday 25 September and Thursday 26 September

Community;

Hui Whaanau Maaori - Tuesday 10 September 5.30pm to 7pm

Teacher only Day - Monday 26th August

You will hopefully be aware of the teacher shortage in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond. Our teachers have been called upon time and time again to cover classes when teachers are sick or taking trips out to enhance the contextual learning experience of students. This is not sustainable and we will be acknowledging their time by holding a teacher only day which allows them to catch up on the marking, moderation and administration relevant to their roles. Supervision will be available by the Acting Principal, Lisa Mortimer, for any student under the age of 14 who can not remain at home. We will need the names of these students sent through to Mr Chris Matthews (c.matthews@papakurahigh.school.nz) by the end of the week please. All other students are expected to be working from home and their attendance will be marked for the day to reflect that.



We wish to remind you of the following systems and processes that help us to help all students reach their potential;

Attendance

School starts on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8.50am beginning the day with Academic Mentoring. During these sessions the kaitohutohu follows a program which covers elements including academic tracking, option choices, NZQA requirements and attendance. All of these aspects contribute to the overall success of students in school. Students who do not attend are not getting the support required to reach their full potential.

Uniform

We are seeing the return of non-uniform items. Please see our uniform process; <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NxW3RB1XoZLqnep1Mgw-mdGLAILmS77IN9RUQnS6qal/e/dit?usp=sharing> We do have a small selection of uniform items that we are able to issue to students in need. On that note, if you have any second hand uniform in good condition that is no longer being used, we will pay \$10 per item via bank deposit. This will then be distributed to students in need at no cost to them. Please bring items to reception for assessment, with details of your bank account.

Calling/texting students

As you are aware, since the beginning of Term 2 this year there was a national ban on phones in schools. We have recently sent out our process for dealing with students who are still using them in school time. Some students are receiving calls or texts from their whaanau and this goes against the policy of phones away for the day. If you need to contact your child then please call our attendance officer (0508 ABSENT) who will either have the student collected from class or else get your message to them. Please do not make the classroom environment more challenging for the teacher by contacting them directly.

Pro-Jects & Electives

Our Wednesday Pro-Ject and Elective program is now finalised for Term 3. With 86 new courses and many new partnerships with industry and providers, this Term is set to be our biggest and most significant yet, with many trips and opportunities to learn outside the classroom. Because of this it is crucial that all students attend regularly and arrive on time to school for a start time of 9:20 am so they do not miss their transportation or the start of their learning.

As many of our courses have waiting lists, from this Term, we are introducing a two strike process whereby if a student arrives late and misses the bus to a trip twice (without valid reason), they will be removed from that course. This is to ensure that students who are eager to engage and attend these trips have the opportunity to do so. If this occurs, we will contact home regarding this and work with the student to make another selection. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Ashleigh Young, the head of Pro-Jects and Electives via email (yng@papakurahigh.school.nz).

We very much appreciate the support and connections we have with you. Please look out for future notifications of other events and news.

Yours sincerely,

Papakura High School Senior Leadership Team