Pukekohe Christian School

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NEWSLETTER

Edition 6 - 7 May 2020

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EBBETT
MARQUE OF EXCELLENCE
Proudly sponsor our school van

Term Dates 2020

Term 1: 28 Jan to 7 April
Term 2: 23 April to 26 Jun
Note: *Teacher only Day - Tues 2 June 2020*
Term 3: 20 July to 25 Sept
Term 4: 12 Oct to 10 Dec

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to term 2!
It is very strange to start a new term without seeing the whole school come together for line up each morning. I am missing all the students and looking forward to when we are able to move to Alert level 2.

Just a reminder that line up still happens each morning and is posted in Teams under Whole School Notices. We encourage all students to **watch line up from 8.15 each morning**. The prayers and notices feature a number of our student leaders as well as messages from me.

This term we welcome a number of new students and their families to our school. These students are:
- Hannah and Jacob Tucker (Year 2 & Year 5)
- Madison Pointon (Year 5)
- Ellen and Shelley Zhan (Year 5 & Year 7)
- Aviv Tzabari (Year 9)
I know that these students and their families will be warmly welcomed by the PCS community when we can meet in person.

Due to the enfolding situation with COVID-19, all exams for Years 7-10 have been cancelled for term 2. This decision was made to minimize the additional stress on our students and teachers at this time. As a result, assignments completed at school and online will be used for the report grades.
Year 11-13 students will need to complete exams within 2 weeks of returning to school and should be preparing for these during Alert level 3. I have been incredibly impressed with the efforts of our students whilst working online. They have been focused, hardworking and independent. Thank you to all our parents for your hard work in supporting them.

I also want to thank all of the teachers, teacher aides, support staff and administration team for your unfailing enthusiasm and desire to teach, encourage and support our students during this time. I am so blessed to work with such an inspirational team.

Yours in Christ

Clare Humber

Important dates - Term 2 2020

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
WEEK 3	4	5	6 Assembly (Virtual Online)	7 Newsletter 6	8
WEEK 4	11	12	13 Assembly (Virtual Online)	14	15
WEEK 5	18	19	20 Assembly	21 Newsletter 7	22
WEEK 6	25	26	27 Assembly	28	29
WEEK 7	1 JUN	2 TEACHERS ONLY DAY **SCHOOL CLOSED**	3 Assembly	4 Newsletter 8	5
WEEK 8	8	9 Yr1-6 Parent Teacher Interviews	10 Assembly Yr1-6 Parent Teacher Interviews	11	12
WEEK 9	15	16	17 Assembly	18 Newsletter 9	19
WEEK 10	22	23	24 Assembly	25	26 Progress Reports Year 7-13 Reports Year 1-6 **LAST DAY OF TERM** **School closes @ 1:10pm**

- **CAMBRIDGE EXAMS UPDATE**

Cambridge made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 mid-year exams across the globe. The students that opted to continue with their enrolment in the mid-year exams have been advised of the alternative arrangements. Those that opted to withdrawal have been withdrawn and do not need to do anything further.

CAMBRIDGE International Examinations
Excellence in education

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office on (09) 238 6449 or email monica.fourie@pcschool.co.nz

• REACH ASSESSMENTS

At this stage, UNSW Global Reach Assessments are still set to go ahead, with the first of the assessments due to commence on 15th June 2020. If this changes, we will notify those registered immediately.
Should you have any queries, please direct your enquires to shannon.wilson@pcschool.co.nz or for more information regarding assessment dates or entering your child, please visit https://www.unswglobal.unsw.edu.au/educational-assessments/products/reach-assessments/

• COVID-19 LEVEL 3 AND SCHOOL

During COVID-19 Alert Level 3, online learning is continuing for all students, with most of our students completing their studies at home. For those students who do come on-site there are significant restrictions and limitations for the physical movements of all and this is definitely a challenging time for all involved. We are so incredibly grateful for the amazing support and understanding from our school community.
As this is an extremely fluid situation, we are constantly working hard to plan the next stage and ensuring we are providing you with the most up-to-date information we possibly can. Once we are aware of the timeline and guidelines for Alert Level 2, we will communicate with you as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your continued support and understanding.

Unite against COVID-19

• HEALTH & WELLBEING

We understand that this is a very stressful and anxious time for many students.
We want to reassure you and your children that the team at PCS is still here for our community. If you have a pastoral concern we encourage you to contact Mrs Courteaud on Teams, or email her directly on jill.courteaud@pcschool.co.nz
We also have our caring and willing Friend Supporters who are available to support students of all ages, even if it is just to offer a listening ear at this challenging time. Students can join the Friend Supporter team and in addition, you can visit our Facebook or Instagram pages to find out who our Friend Supporters are.

• WALK-A-THON RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who supported our Walk For Our Hall - Walk-a-thon.

Our Overall Winner (who raised the most across the whole school) is: ***Elijah du Plessis*** *(Year 1)*
Our runners up were: ***Grace Morse*** *(Year 9)* & ***Lily Stewart*** *(Year 7)*
Our individual class winners (who raised the most in each class) were:

Year 0: ***Addison Chitty*** Year 2: ***Meisha Loef*** Year 3: ***Xavier Halliday***
Year 4: ***Liam Loef*** Year 5: ***Finn Verna & Eliana Sululoto***
Year 6: ***Sean Macaskill*** Year 8: ***Lucia Fisken*** Year 10: *Sienna Fisken*

Congratulations to all our winners and we will be sure to get your prizes to you as soon as we possibly can.

• SCHOOL FEES DISCOUNT FOR MAY 2020

As a school, we are very aware of the huge financial impact for many of you over the last few weeks as a result of the COVID-19 situation.
In light of this, the PCS Trust and PCS Board have given all our families a ***35% discount on school fees for the month of May 2020***. We hope that this will go some way to providing a little relief in these challenging times. The discount will be automatically applied to your May invoice, however if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Clare or Louise at accounts@pcschool.co.nz.

• VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY

We are still holding our usual Wednesday School Assembly. This takes place at **9:30am every Wednesday** on Teams in the Whole School channel. It is a virtual Assembly, opening with the National Anthem and includes wonderful musical and other entertainment items from students. Our Student Council members and House Captains are also sharing devotions and praying for our school. We ask that all students attend assembly and warmly welcome any parents who are able to join us too. We hope you enjoy!

• TEAMS ONLINE CHAT

We are very proud of the students' attitude towards online learning and appreciate the support you have given your children whilst they work in this different way. Whilst I am keen for the students to be able to have social interaction via Teams, we are finding that a small number of students are abusing the chat function and are enjoying "group chats" with friends during lesson times. This means that they are distracted from their work and the teacher is unable to contact them directly. As you will appreciate, we do not want learning to be compromised and so we ask that you talk to your child about this and explain that **if they have been added to any group chats that they do not want to be a part of, they must "leave" the group**.

Tomorrow the form teachers for Years 5-9 will explain to the students that:

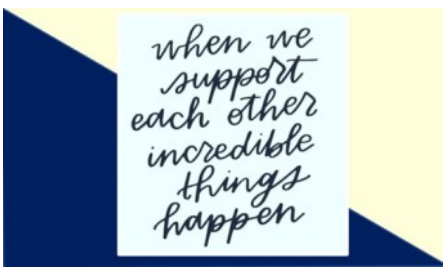
- They must not have group chats/video calls during lesson time. Chatting should happen during break times, just as it does at school.
- If we do find that this continues to happen, we will have no choice but to disable the chat function for all members of the group having the video call. This is because it is impossible to tell who is saying what when they use the video function.
- If a student persists with group chatting, setting up group chats during class time etc. we will have to disable the chat function for a longer period. Students and teachers can still communicate using Teams so students would not be disadvantaged academically.

If you would prefer that your child does not have the chat function, please contact Neil Vorster directly and he will organize that for you and inform your child's teachers.

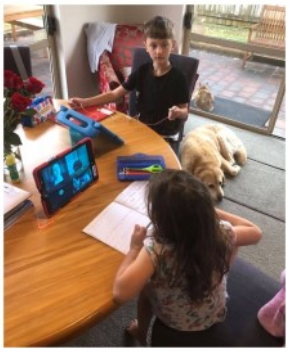
Thank you again for supporting us in this difficult time when you are juggling online teaching and your own work commitments. It is not easy and I appreciate how much you are doing to help your children with their studies.

• PCS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

We are putting together a business directory of all the businesses that our school families own, run, or work for. This is an opportunity for us all to come together and support other members of our school community. We will be encouraging our parents, teachers and friends to use the directory when looking for a service or product. We would love for you to complete the form, by following the link with your business/work information if you think that it could be useful to other families. Click **here** to fill our your businesses information.



• ONLINE LEARNING & SCHOOL FROM HOME



• VERSE OF THE WEEK

• ADS & NOTICES

Unite against COVID-19

We are currently at Alert Level 3.

For full information on Alert Level 3 visit: *https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-3/*

B2B BACK TO BASICS

BACK TO BASICS NZ *make and design fun, quirky eco-friendly and practical bags. They also have copper bottles & cups and stainless-steel lunch boxes. They have kindly extended an offer to our PCS community of* ***10% off online purchases*** *as well as* ***10% of the sales coming back to the school.*** *Just use the discount code* ***PUKEKOHE*** *at checkout. Visit: www.backtobasics.net.nz or @backtobasicsnewzealand*

EBBETT PUKEKOHE NISSAN

If you are in the market for a new, or used vehicle, visit the team at Ebbett Pukekohe. Mention that you are a PCS family and their team will be sure to look after you and your family. Phone them on **0800 40 50 50** or email ross@ebbett.co.nz or visit their website at www.ebbettnissanpukekohe.co.nz

Freedom
COUNSELLING MINISTRIES

freedomcounsellingministries.co.nz

Children counselling now available

Freedom Counselling Ministries is excited to welcome a second counsellor to the team.

Colleen Thompson BApp (couns)

Colleen's main focus has been children aged 7-15, however, she sees clients of all ages.

She has been counselling at a local primary school (children aged 7-11 years) for the past 2 years and continues to do so, along with being the school counsellor at Pukekohe Christian School.
Colleen uses a variety of interventions, within her practice to help bring about freedom for those she works with.

For further information or to book an appointment visit: freedomcounsellingministries.co.nz

Or contact Colleen
Mobile: 021 024 83380
Email: colleenthompson2307@gmail.com

Franklin Baptist Church

Loving God, Loving People