



# Board of Trustees Newsletter

## Mokoia Intermediate

### Board Chair's Shout Out

Tena Koutou Katoa

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to thank Matua Rawiri and the Senior Leadership Team, Mrs Hyde and Mrs Jones for their leadership during the Covid-19 Level 4 and 3 lockdown and now into Level 2. A lot of work has gone into setting up the protocols and communication throughout the pandemic to keep whānau informed and all the students and staff safe. Since coming back to school, surveys have been put out to whānau, students and staff to find out what worked well and what could be improved if we have to ever go back into online distance learning or for school going forward. This was presented to the Board at our meeting on Tuesday.

I would also like to thank all the teachers and support staff who adjusted how we would support learning, with only a couple of days' notice of going into lockdown. They put in a huge amount of effort to set up online learning for the students. They managed to keep most of the students engaged throughout the lockdown with Zoom meetings and Google classrooms.

A massive shout out to whānau for supporting your tamariki's learning throughout the lockdown. This was truly a community approach to keep our tamariki engaged whether through online learning or practical life skills.

Overall I think everyone did well in such exceptional circumstances and with the limited time and resources we had. We did request a number of devices for students who don't have access to a device, from the Ministry of Education while we were in lockdown. Unfortunately, due to such a high demand, no devices were supplied. We have been informed that the school will still be receiving these and the Board approved the purchase of more brand new ipads at our meeting on Tuesday. This will add to the schools supply of digital devices.

Regards

Bruce Davidson  
Board Chairman  
Mokoia Intermediate

*We are Limitless! We are Passionate! We are Mokoia!*

#### **2021 Donations Scheme - Mokoia is opting in**

Many of you will be aware from 2019 of the Government's scheme to replace school donations with a \$150 grant per student to Decile 1-7 schools if they choose to opt in. Mokoia Intermediate School qualifies under this criteria again. When we first heard of the scheme we were delighted that this financial burden was being lifted from our community. We would all like to think that the dream of a free education for all is attainable. We waited for the detail to be developed by the Ministry with great anticipation. As this detail has developed it has been interesting that the stipulations around the \$150 sum have grown significantly, so that now the figure not only covers what was

the donation, but also a raft of other school elements. We firmly believe that we want and need to opt into the donation scheme again, for 2021, as this reduces financial expectations on our community. Having said that we have significant reservations about the constraints that this will impose on us as we try to ensure that we provide an engaging and powerful curriculum coverage again. We will of course meet the requirements prescribed by the Ministry of Education. It means that some things are going to be tight as the \$150 figure was not developed in consultation with schools but simply an arbitrary value developed for a Labour manifesto in the run up to the last election. Where we have to, and can under the guidelines, we may ask for contributions. Our aim will be to always minimize these requests but I hope you understand that if we want to offer good opportunities for our students, those extras may require further support. Those items that are classified as 'Take Home' components of Tech Arts will be charged as part of a fee as per normal. Anything that is needed for a student to access the curriculum will be free. We will not charge for any compulsory activities.

## Key dates for Term 2

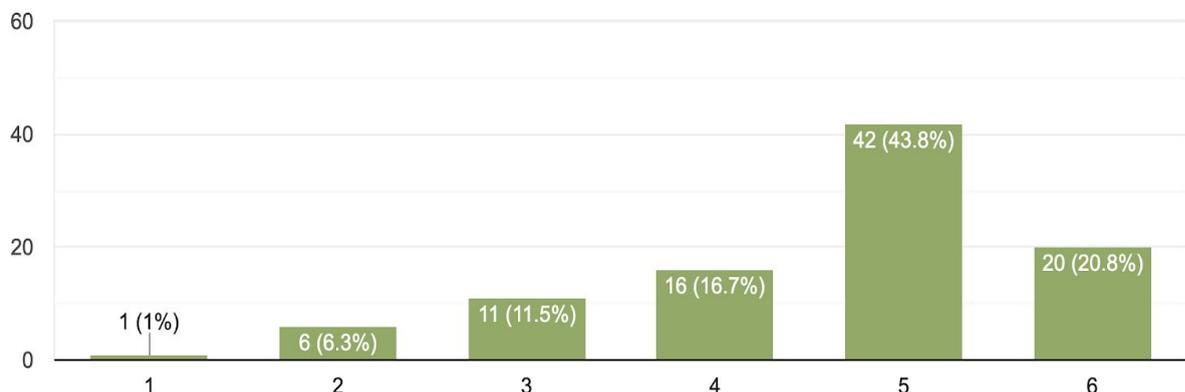
- Queens Birthday - Monday 1st June (School Closed)
- BOT Hui - Tuesday 26th May
- School Photos - Monday 22nd June
- BOT Hui - Thursday 25th June
- End of Term 2 - Friday 3rd July

## Community/Parent Survey

**Family Home Learning Survey** - Below is a snapshot of the surveys we received from parents. We have 96 responses. Thank you to those who took the time to respond. We have discussed this as a Board and staff to help us in the future.

Learning at home worked for our whānau/family.

96 responses



## What have been the successes during distance learning?

93 responses

Google classroom made for a very easy transition. Having the next day planned out meant that our plans at home could fit around it. My doin was more than happy adjusting to learning from home. One of the big successes was after realising how much more focused my son was when he spent a bit of his day remotely connecting with his friends via hangouts or online games. Encouraging that made the rest of the day (school and home responsibilities) much easier.

Lilly could select what she felt like doing for the day.

Giving kids responsibility for their own learning

Having kids that were actually motivated to do online learning.

Understanding how our son learns

A lot more effort went into his reading time, his writing time improved slightly. Sharing and asking questions and letting me look over some, not all of his school work,with him. ( That felt good.) Asked me what I thought about some of the assignments the class were asked to complete. Some times a lot challenging, if I didn't have the answer, it was good using the internet cause it was at his fingertips.

## What have been the challenges?

94 responses

Managing our time working from home along with monitoring our kids lessons

Working full time as an essential worker, and managing school work, and keeping her on task was hard at times.

Week internet connection made online frustrating at times. Keeping up my sons motivation was a bit of a challenge.

I have 3 tamariki all at different ages and helping them all and making sure they get what they all need has been hard

A smashed iPad half way through.

My son found the zoom meetings challenging and I'm an essential worker so worked through lock down, maybe he would hav preferred more parental support

Keeping up school morale from home. Keeping the fun / work balance

## What would be an improvement you could suggest...

82 responses

Nothing. It's only in a European world this would work. It's was great.

Structured times for structured lessons, so they remained on task.

Maybe having a checklist so students who need a structured framework can use this to work through

Just don't think he's a home on-line learner, so can't really provide a suggestion

I think it was all done well.

Antidote for COVID19

Keeping a google classroom active if a child is unable to get to school for a short time if its possible?

None...it was all fabulous! I think having the hard pack in each household may have added to the learning experience ....maybe? Stationary supplies as not all households may have them.

## What is one thing you noticed about your son/daughter as a learner during this time?

95 responses

She's so keen. Thrives on feedback. Wants to learn. Has confidence issues

She loved the cooking on zoom, also being very social she missed her friends, she took a huge interest in her butterflies and making movies.

He was more relaxed - unfazed if he didn't get work done

He really enjoys interaction with Other children

Reminded of her diligence

Learns better in a class environment

She's great at getting on and getting her work done. She was amazing.

Quite organized and I didnt have to remind her of what needed to be done.