



Aparima Matters

E ngā mātāwaka o Aparima, tēnā koutou katoa

This week has seen us welcome back all our students and staff to school and it has been a particularly enjoyable week seeing everybody settle into school so well after an extended period at home. While life at school is not quite back to normal yet, this week has again shown us how resilient the majority of our students are and this is a really positive reflection for our community.

Obviously, the governments review of Level 2 restrictions next week will have an impact on school life – hopefully a positive one. We are reviewing our programmes and plans as the rules change but keeping in mind that main focus on health and safety for all. While in Level 2 we are being extra cautious about illnesses and have had to send a few kids home when we normally do everything we can to keep them at school ! Also, we are running things a bit differently with buses etc and not running the canteen for the first few weeks. Over the course of next week we should be in a position to make some decisions about those things and move a little closer to normal activities resuming.

In other news, we unfortunately are saying goodbye to Mr Kelvin Goodall – our HOD Science. Kelvin and his family have made the decision to return home to the United Kingdom to be closer to their family in light of the pandemic. Mr Goodall was only with us a for a short time but we will miss him and wish him and his family all the best for their urgent travels home. We are now in the process of replacing Mr Goodall and hope to have that sorted by the middle of June.

So – welcome back to this version of Term 2 and we hope that everybody has made it out of the higher levels of lockdown without too much hardship.

Take care and stay safe.

Nāku noa nā

Cameron Davis
Principal

May 2020

Students - Lockdown Experiences

Top Things from Lockdown!!

Gaming, Sleeping, Watching Movies/TV, Working and Running

Access to Pantry
24/7

Family Time

Lots of Walking

Sleeping In

Nice and quiet -
No traffic !!

New skills learnt in Lock down!!

Learning Guitar/Ukulele
Learning at home

Top Things Being Back at School!!

Outdoor Rec, Friends, Woodwork, seeing Our favourite Teachers, much easier to learn at school

Life Skills

Year 7/8B have been excited about learning some life skills in financial literacy classes. This week they have been given a budget and are looking at meal planning.



Murihiku Coastal Treasures Conference 18 - 20 March 2020

Jamie, Alexis, Dom and Mrs Grove were delighted to be sponsored by the Toimata Foundation to join delegates from as far afield as the Far North, Wanganui, Hutt City, Coromandel and Auckland for the amazing presentations and fieldtrips on the Murihiku Coastal Treasures Conference pre-Lockdown. Environment Southland and DoC staff looked after us extremely well, particularly in the face of the stringent hygiene and social distancing requirements that Covid-19 determined.

Having just worked through our Bronze reflection with Megan on the previous Monday afternoon, we were still riding the wave of positivity from the realisation that we had made a good start on our sustainability learning journey, and we were ready to be inspired about potential environmental directions that we could follow for the Silver stage of this EnviroSchools journey.

The Conference definitely provided us with a multitude of possibilities. Day 1 was based in the Bill Richardson Transport Museum, reminding us that one person's passion for restoration can be hugely infectious. The twenty sustainability professionals and volunteers who presented on their area of specialty were equally passionate and infectious – in a good way! For example, Keryn Roberts described how coastal dune lakes could be restored gradually with careful management, and Dune Restoration coordinators from Coromandel, Waikato West and East explained the processes they had followed, under the mentorship of scientist Jim Dahm, to manage the threats of pest plants and erosion from the sea.



Joyce Kolk and Ben Knight showed how we can all help by systematically cleaning-up the waste washed onto our beaches, something which Aparima College has already signed up for. We left the Museum with brains bursting with new information but also feeling reassured that so many capable people are so invested in protecting and restoring Aotearoa's coastal ecosystems.

Day 2 involved jumping on a bus for a fieldtrip to Curio Bay in the Catlins. En route we had fascinating, and at times hilarious, commentary from Lloyd Esler, Paul Duffy and Jessie Bythell on the botanical, cultural, historical and political environment that we were passing through. The Curioscape film was inspiring, especially as Dom was in the process of making an enviro-film depicting our Creatives project at College. Slope Point revealed a hidden jewel in the shape of a dune lake and Waipapa Point rewarded us with an entertaining sealion and a blustery walk from the lighthouse across farmland which is currently being invaded by dunes. Discussions along the way showed that people were really happy to share their successes and frustrations on various aspects of looking after coastal environments, from the eco-sourcing and propagating of seeds through to the importance of inclusivity and a long-term perspective when making any changes to the environment.

Day 3's fieldtrip to Waituna Lagoon was equally amazing. As the oldest and largest RAMSAR site in New Zealand, Waituna has a wealth of natural resources and dedicated Landcare groups who are looking after them. Murray Waghorn described his lifetime's attachment to this beautiful place and Katrina Robertson detailed the complex relationship between farming and the environment. From there we returned to Invercargill, visiting the New River Estuary, which we saw with fresh eyes, having heard from Gavin Gilder about the reclamation of the land on which the airport is built and the fragility and expense of flood mitigation efforts. Familiar Oreti Beach was also fun to visit with a bunch of interested environmentalists and we experienced a fresh appreciation for the huge resource that we have in Sandy Point. Our final session at the Mauri tangi Scout Den gave us the opportunity to hear first-hand about pest eradication on Stewart Island, and to end on a positive note with Richard Kyte describing the power of story to connect individuals and groups with their local environment.

Our big take-aways from this Conference:

1. Working together towards a common environmental goal is important, as well as listening to a range of perspectives and aiming for a holistic response which values both traditional knowledge and uses modern technology and equipment.
2. The best place to start is just to start, ie. to do something small. For example, Tui Lewis from Hutt City enthused Alexis to document the historic buildings in Riverton 'Time-team' style, in order to collect 2020 data that can be used for comparison, and we have gained permission for her to do this as an Elective option.

In conclusion, we found the Conference delegates and organisers generous with their time and knowledge. We have a list of about 12 projects that we want to develop over the next year or so, some using the mentorship and capability of these awesome people. As Year 13 Enviroleaders, Jamie, Alexis and Dom feel excited to share the ideas we have heard from the last three days and, as a teacher, I feel enthused and buoyant about our EnviroSchools projects. Thank you so much for providing the opportunity.



Aparima College becomes a Bronze EnviroSchool

Just prior to Lockdown, Environment Southland's EnviroSchools coordinator Megan Bates helped the College's student EnviroCouncillors to reflect on the five projects that they had been working on for the past eighteen months. You may remember the Tremendous planting that the community helped with in August 2019 when we planted 350 trees and shrubs. At that time, we welcomed Ruud Kleinpaste and Riley Elliott, who broadened our perspectives on bugs and sharks. The Tree Project is ongoing and by March we had planted a total of 700 plants, as well as starting the construction of an outdoor classroom area and creating a Wellbeing Walkway under the Creatives-in-Schools programme.

Our School Gardens have been similarly fruitful. Our Year 11 and 12 students built raised beds and compost bins and helped construct a tunnel house purchased with the prize money from the Environment Southland Community Awards. Students have been growing garlic, herbs, potatoes, peas, beans, tomatoes, rhubarb, sunflowers and raspberries. Now we are back at school we are beginning to plant winter vegetables. Last year the Environment Centre, SuperValue and some kind individuals donated 'surplus' vegetables so that our students could make nutritious soup for hungry children, and we are hoping to use a mix of similar donation along with our own vegetables to repeat this service during our winter this year.

Waste and recycling has been another focus. The entire school has participated in Clean-up events in the local area and we have signed up for the Sustainable Coastlines Litter intelligence programme, which involves doing scientific surveys along set stretches of local beaches and reporting what we find. Again, we will be resuming these surveys now that school is up-and-running. With a focus on reducing plastic waste, we have been given a grant by Keep New Zealand Beautiful to set up some recycling bins dedicated to the recycling of plastic bottles.

Our staff and students have also enjoyed a series of events where we have 'learned outside the classroom' and have visited sites of best practice when it comes to environmental sustainability. We are grateful to Jade Maguire for teaching us about Maturanga Maori practices at the Whakaoraka nurseries, and to the Guyton's for showing us around their Food Forest. We have also been fortunate to have representative attend the Murihiku Coastal Treasures Conference and the Sustainability Roadshow which gave us the opportunity to learn about the wide range of environmental projects that are being worked on around Southland.

We look forward to building on our environmental knowledge and practice as we plan our journey towards Silver status over the next year or so. Thank you again for all those who have encouraged and supported us through the EnviroSchools programme.

by Mrs Grove



Project Regeneration

The completion of our Creatives-in-Schools project has been postponed until November this year because of the disruption to teaching and learning caused by Alert Levels 3 and 4. However, you may have already noticed the 5 sculptures that have been installed along the 'Wellbeing Walkway' in the Tree Project area. There are about ten further sculptures waiting to be completed and installed. All the sculptures were created by our Year 10 students under the mentorship of Wayne-of-the-Hill and Teoti Jardine and facilitated through English lessons.

They are based around themes of Turangawaewae and connection to this place. The materials are all 'found' from nearby locations and recycled. The students also produced poetry and creative writing that expressed similar themes, and involved them researching local stories and information, for which we are grateful to Oraka Aparima Runaka and Te Hiko. The project was designed to help students explore their creativity as a method of improving their wellbeing. We hope you feel a similar sense of wellbeing as you walk along the pathway.



Year 9 Music

Inspired the UK group 'STOMP', we will be getting geared up to make some interesting sounds using our surroundings. Whilst our focus this term will be 'bucket drumming', we will also be looking at the items in our classroom to make percussive sounds with (desks and chairs make for great drumming!!). So far the year 9s have been an enthusiastic group and have confidently made some epic performances. Watch this space!!

Mrs Bond



Young Enterprise Company thrives.....

Aparima College Young Enterprise company Whenua Photography was the recipient of both national and regional seed funding awards during the lockdown period. These massive grants have been instrumental in the development of the photography business ran by Dom Riddell. Initially, the development of canvas printed artwork was the selling point for Whenua Photography which transitioned into Zoom Backgrounds to pivot and still make sales during Covid-19. This was a highly successful venture and now Dom is working with 13 businesses from Southland and even some in Canterbury.

With this success, Whenua Photography has begun to transition into fine art imagery which is printed on the highest quality Hahnemuhle Photo Satin Rag. These prints are shipped in both 100% recyclable and 100% compostable packaging. This is vital to Whenua Photography as it means the beautiful landscapes of Aotearoa can be re-distributed without leaving a mark. The aim for Whenua Photography is to represent Aparima College at the national Young Enterprise finals in Wellington towards the end of the year.



UP AND COMING EVENTS

28 May 2020

HPV Vaccines Year 8's 9-10:00am

1 June 2020

Queen's Birthday

2 June 2020

Board of Trustees Meeting 6:00pm Room 5

3 July 2020

Last day of Term 2

20 July 2020

First day of Term 3

COMMUNITY NOTICES

No Community Events to publish

Young Enterprise - Simply Green's Kohi bags

For Year 12 Business Studies, students are required to come up with an idea which will then be produced and marketed in hope for a providential outcome. Simply Green is a YES company focusing on producing culturally and environmentally sustainable products. Our product is vegetable bags which are made with recycled materials, known as Kohi Bags. We made a video to pitch our idea to some regional sponsors and won \$300 plus of marketing time on the WhatsOnInvers Facebook page.

Due to the Covid 19 outbreak we were forced to pivot our idea to suit lockdown restrictions. This meant for us we could no longer continue with the production of Kohi Bags as supermarkets were discouraging the use of non-disposable bags at that stage. As a result of our situation and Mother's Day being just around the corner, we used the resources we had to come up with the same concept of reusable bags but themed it to favour Mother's Day. These Mother's Day Gift bags were a smaller bag containing a personalised handwritten note, chocolate and the bag itself, which we hand delivered in order to guarantee that the customer received the gift on time. The bags were intended for small jewellery items that are easily misplaced.

After evaluating our product against our new idea, we made the decision to stick with our original idea and to alter it slightly. The alternation was to further target the cultural aspect of our product and to add in a Karakia Kai.

by **Kauia, Casey, Grace**

 <p>APARIMA FIRST</p> <p>Taumata Service Resilience Integrity Focus</p>	<p>Aparima College 33 Leader Street RIVERTON 9822 Telephone: 03-234-8900</p>
	<p>Email: office@aparima.school.nz Website: www.aparima.school.nz</p>