

31 August 2021

Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Blockhouse Bay Intermediate.

Yesterday's announcement by the Prime Minister that Auckland will remain in level four for a further two weeks is not the best news for students and whānau, after an already difficult two weeks.

While continuing to be highly disruptive, we all understand that keeping our community safe is essential if we are to end the current Covid outbreak. Many of our families affected by cases at our local High Schools will be out of isolation by now (or shortly) and will be very happy to be able to put the experience behind them.

We trust you are all staying safe and managing family life and work commitments to the best of your ability. Once again we are in a process and one that we will continue to manage to ensure we can return to a settled term four. Students are being assigned work that is at their level and should be able to be done independently. Please remember to contact your classroom teacher if you require any assistance with your child's learning.

Covid and the disruption to the school year

For the second year, we have had to cancel sports camp, cancel AIMS and reschedule or cancel many events.

This is hugely disappointing for staff and students alike and while we have been here before, it does not diminish how disappointing it is to have all the organisation, the training and the preparation behind these events being cancelled.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Ms Chungson, our teachers, our parents involved in training and all our students for their commitment and hard work.

Planning ahead

Last year we held a performance night (Festival of the Arts) which was a huge success following lockdown. This was an opportunity for our community to come together, enjoy our spaces and watch our students showcase their talents.

We are in the planning process to provide something similar for Term 4, Week 7.

Out of Zone Ballot for 2022

Due to the impact of COVID level 4 restrictions, the Ministry of Education has allowed Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School to delay the closing date for all enrolment to the **18th October 2021**. Our contributing schools have shared this information with their community.

Could we please have all in zone and out of zone applications prior to this date. This will allow parents an opportunity to drop off any enrolments to the school office once we reopen.

We need all applications complete, with information required to include these in the ballot. Please check your emails as some online enrolments are incomplete and require further information.

We would like to thank all those families who have completed applications to date. You can drop any **(in and out of zone)** completed enrolments in the school letterbox and they will be picked up and processed.

Intermediate experience days

Intermediate experience days are integral to a smooth transition from Primary to Intermediate school. They alleviate anxiety, allow our students to see and experience their new school and to meet our staff and our own students.

This is one event that is too important to cancel and so we are working with our primary schools to move these to a later date in term four.



Agencies you can contact for assistance

Many families may find it tough going back into Alert Level 4. It can be challenging having children at home, being cut off from family and friends, trying to make ends meet and have high stress levels.

For people with disabilities or autism and their support people, the Explore 0800 000421 phone service is available to provide advice or support.

- This includes advice or support around challenging behaviours.
- To access this service, you don't need a referral and it doesn't matter whether you're new to Explore, currently on their waitlist or you've worked with them previously.
- The service is available Monday to Friday 9.00am–5.00pm.
- When you phone the 0800 number you will be connected with an administrator who will then book you an appointment with one of the specialists.

[COVID-19 info & advice translated into different languages](https://covid19.govt.nz/iwi-and-communities/translations/)

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Pasifika Futures

If you need a Whānau Ora Family Support Package, please call this number 0800 890 110, or click on the following link to connect with one of our partners

– <http://pasifikafutures.co.nz/covid-19-support-packages/>

If you or anyone you know wants some advice or support over this time here are some further options that might be useful.

Support services that remain open:

- Women's Refuge 0800REFUGE or 0800 733 843
- Shine 0508 744 633
- Alcohol and Drug Helpline 0800 787 797

- Oranga Tamariki call centre 0508FAMILY
- CADS 0800 367 222a
- Narcotics Anonymous 0800 628 632
- Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 229 6757
- Lifeline 0800 543 354 or free text 4357
- Youthline 0800 376 633 or free text 234
- Samaritans 0800 726 666
- Outline (LGBT) 0800 688 5463
- Depression Helpline 0800 111 757
- Suicide Prevention Helpline 0508 828 865
- The Fono West (Social Services) 09 837 1780
- Counselling Free Call or Text 1737
- Healthline for COVID-19 health advice: 0800 358 5453

Work and Income services centres are closed. However, you can apply for assistance via <https://my.msd.govt.nz/> or phone the contact centre on 0800 559 009.

If you need some assistance with groceries, these food banks may be able to help. Call first for instructions of how they are operating to ensure physical distancing:

- Auckland City Mission (City) 09 303 9200
- Salvation Army (Henderson) 09 837 4471
- Vinnies Auckland (Newton) 09 815 6122 or 0800 6800
- Hope Centre (New Lynn) 02108048436
- Vision West (Glen Eden) 09 818 0716 – Mon, Wed, Fri only

Foodbank Support Auckland

<https://www.foodbank.co.nz/west-auckland>

If you're in Auckland, [the Auckland Emergency Management website](#) may be useful.

If you know someone who needs financial assistance, please tell him/her to call the free government helpline 0800 779 997 (8am–1am, seven days a week).

If you know someone is feeling anxious, frustrated or needs a listening ear, they can call or text 1737 to talk with a trained counsellor. It is free 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Student Volunteer Army will be delivering groceries for people again during lockdown. Orders can be made from Thursday 19 August, from 12pm. Delivery will occur in 48hrs of the order. You can contact them online on <https://sva.org.nz/> or phone 0800 005 902

Take care and we look forward to seeing our community shortly.
Michael Malins | Principal - Blockhouse Bay Intermediate