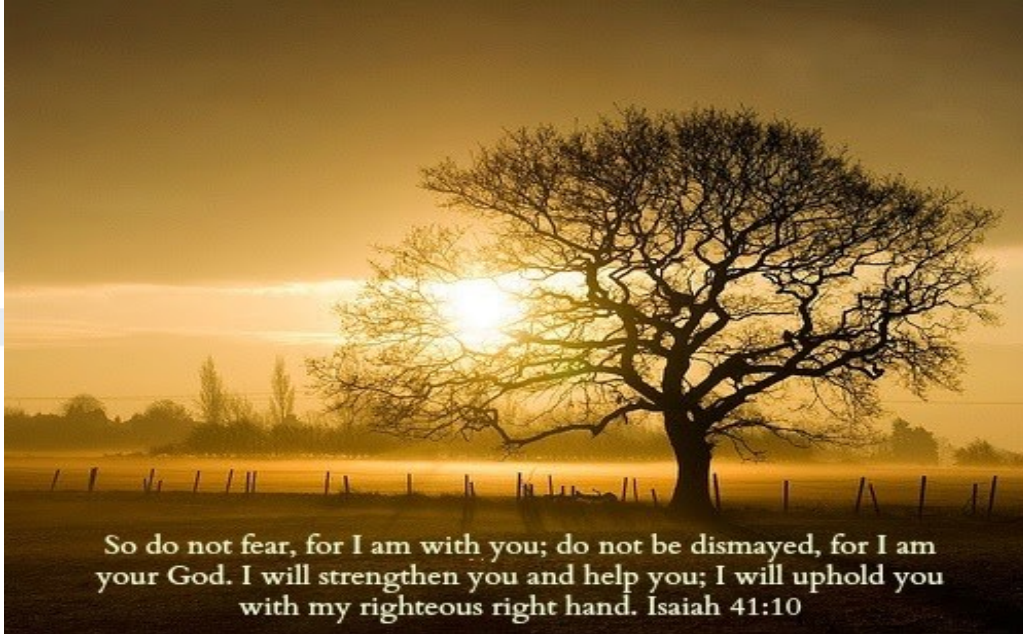


Newsletter

Friday, 20 March 2020



So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Tēnā koutou katoa

What a rush of information regarding the Covid-19 virus we're getting!

Regular updates help us to keep informed but also allow room for fear and panic to set in. As children of the Most-High God, we should not live in fear. **He is our rock, our hope, our healer, our source of peace and joy.**

At school, we are being **extra vigilant** to keep your child/ren safe. To this end, we are putting special effort into extending our hygiene practices.

Students are currently being instructed to...

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow or by covering their mouth and nose with tissues.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately.
- Wash their hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds) or use hand sanitizer, especially before eating.
- Not to touch their eyes, nose or mouth if their hands are not clean.
- Avoid drinking directly from shared fountains or taps.

To support the hygiene practices above, we are closing access to all drinking fountains from next Monday (23.03.2020). From next week, **please ensure that your child/ren come to school with their own drink bottles.** We do have measures in place should some children forget to bring them and will be arranging times when their bottles can be refilled (with water) during the day.

Furthermore, this week, we began to restrict the amount of time students are gathered for assemblies and are distancing students at such times, as much as practical. Additional cleaning practices are being implemented including the use of a long-acting anti-viral spray onto contact areas and regular cleaning of devices and learning through play equipment.

Additionally, we are taking steps to **prepare for possible school closure**. There has been a lot of discussion about school closures in the media with many varying opinions being expressed and **misinformation being deliberately spread**.

We encourage you to **keep focused on official advice and keep battling away the rumours and gossip**. In the meantime, we will continue to prepare should the government direct us to close. In particular, we are actively exploring ways we could continue to deliver learning by distance via online tools such as Google Classrooms.

Our 'Readiness for School Closure' CareMonkey survey is currently active and will close off on Sunday. Thank you for taking the time to complete this form which enables us to prepare.



We do all of this because it is wise; not because we are fearful!

In Matthew 6:25-27 (NIV) Jesus teaches us not to worry:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

Please note, **Jesus does not say don't be concerned or careful, He clearly says do not worry!** There is a difference between being concerned and being worried. You can be concerned, but as soon as it consumes you, or controls your actions and emotions, it becomes 'worry' and 'fear'.

Be encouraged and see this as a time to be brave and **witness God's love and peace** (that transcends all understanding) to those around you. What a great opportunity to be showing our children, families, colleagues and neighbours how to react in **FAITH** as fear has the ability to paralyse while **faith is something that enables and has the ability to free us**.

Let us be the source of calm and peace that so many need, pointing them to the Father's love and grace. At a time of panic buying, self-centeredness and disregard for others, **let us be generous, loving and supportive**.

May God bless you all with His peace and with many opportunities to share that peace with those in need of it.

In His love

Steve Farrand & Lexia Copp
Principal & Deputy Principal

Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in You.

Coming Up...

Monday, 23 March - Bee Healthy bus onsite
Tuesday, 24 March - Bee Healthy bus leaves
- Assembly 2pm, Kakariki & Tui presenting
Thursday, 26 March - Mufti Day Fundraiser, please bring a can to donate
Friday, 27 March - Pitapit available through Lunchonline
Tuesday, 31 March - BOT Meeting
Friday, 3 April - Hotdogs/Chicken Nuggets available through Lunchonline
Tuesday, 7 April - Assembly 2pm, Kereru & Piwakawaka presenting
Thursday, 9 April - Last day of Term 1
Tuesday, 28 April - Term 2 Starts



Welcome to the following new students:

Kiwi Class: Praise

Kereru Class: Yli

Ruru Class: Zaney

Kotare Class: Chemine

We hope you and your families have settled in quickly and feel part of the Maranatha School community. We are so happy to have you join us!

SHOUT OUT

We would like to give a "shout out" to Rachel, Alex and Brooke Fransen for stepping in to help with the hotdog & chicken nuggets on Fridays this term. We are really grateful for your help. Thank you from the PTA and the students!

Mathletics update

Earlier this month we sent out a CareMonkey survey regarding Mathletics participation. For those who indicated they wished their child/ren to have access we have enabled access which should now be available and is at a reduced rate to what you were initially told. This will be added to your school account.

Lower Hutt Primary Schools' Sport Association

Parents can view photos of students at the events, view lost property, get updates and be kept in touch about event postponements and more, all through the LHPSSA [Facebook page](#). If you *like* the page you will get a notification when there are updates. It's a good place to stay up to date with Zone sports happenings.

Reminder: No parking past the tree on the field at all times please.