



# Excellere College

Whaia te Maramatanga o Te Karaiti

**Excellence in Learning - Christianity in Living**

Newsletter - Te Pānui

August 27 2021

Term 3 Week 5

## From the Principal

### We are Christ-followers

Today we heard that we will remain in Level 4 lockdown, for an unknown time. This means that our school remains closed and distance learning will continue. Please take a deep breath, and realise that these decisions are made to provide the greatest degree of safety for us all. It is very important that all our students are in contact with their teachers, so please have them check Google Classroom, emails and any other form of communication staff are using. We will continue to provide learning on-line until a drop to Level 2 is in place.

Unfortunately we were unable to support Daffodil Day at school. However, we will wait until we return to have a fun mufti for this wonderful cause.

As we continue through this season of Covid we must look to Jesus for our inspiration and example. He showed us that no matter the circumstance there is no other answer, but love. Surrender, forgiveness and Grace is the way to live during difficult times, and the good times as well.

Despite the world swirling about us we must remain steadfast in our decision to be Christ-followers. This means displaying the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5: 22-23).

In all these we are told to love our neighbour, to show the world what the Kingdom looks like. As Christ lived, died, and was resurrected He defeated death, and the principalities and powers that had control on earth. He re-ignited the Kingdom on earth and we are preparing for its full return. Our current lockdown season is a small episode in this epic, yet we are all still part of God's great story, and we each have a part to play. So despite of our current circumstance know that you are always loved by God, and His image bearer.

Blessings,

Graeme Whitehead  
Principal

'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.'  
John 14: 23 (NIV)

### Senior School Update

It has been an interesting week of learning in the senior college. Miss Hale worked hard to create Art packs for her senior art students so they could continue their mahi at home, and the rest of the senior teachers have been busy zooming with their classes.

A friendly reminder to all students and parents that Zoom lessons are important and that students should really try to make these classes. Although these are tricky times, we are blessed in the knowledge that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Ben Keyte, Senior College Leader

### The Preparations for Learning at Home



On Monday there was a massive effort to get supplies out to students and their families with the announcement of the extended lockdown. Awesome work by the senior leadership team and teachers for organizing chrome books and school books for the students. Thanks to the families for helping make the pick up as smooth as possible under these conditions.

## BOT Student Election

The Student Election is still happening according to the Official Rules for all Elections in New Zealand. We are unable to vote online.

The only change from normal for our students is that voting papers are being posted - rather than given out in their homeroom and they will post back their voting papers. Letters have been sent to all Year 9-13 students with voting papers (return postage paid envelopes enclosed) to their home addresses.

Election Day is still 22nd September 2021 with the request that they post voting papers rather than deliver them (if Covid restrictions are still in place - although, if school is open for business as usual they can be hand delivered). Voting closes at 4pm on Wednesday, 22nd September 2021. The Voting Paper states that they can only vote for ONE candidate.

Postal votes will be accepted up until Monday, 27th September and votes will be counted on Tuesday, 28th September.

Candidates will be notified by a member of the Board of Trustees, then everyone will be emailed a Declaration of results with a follow-up in the 1st October school newsletter.

The nominated candidates are :

**Zac Brown, Melisa Tshuma and Ryan Whitehead**

**LATE WITHDRAWAL:** Cody Allan has decided to withdraw from the Elections - he contacted me a little late as everything had been posted.

If anyone is unsure of anything email Maria Shortland at: [returning.officer@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:returning.officer@excellerecollege.school.nz)

## Northland Dental Update

We would like to advise, that as part of the Northland District Health Board's on-going response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be some disruption of our oral health services to schools and communities in the coming months.

Once we have settled into a COVID-19 Alert level 2 scenario, we will be in touch with Principals that currently have a mobile dental unit at their school, to provide an update and seek your permission to resume onsite services. Please note our dental engineer may wish to visit mobile dental units on school sites during COVID-19 Alert Levels 4 and 3 to assess their condition and ensure batteries remain charged.

In the meantime we will continue to provide a relief of pain service for any child who requires urgent oral health care. In these situations please contact our free phone number **0800 MY TEETH (0800 698 3384)**.

Please feel free to contact Neil Croucher, Principal Dental Officer, Northland DHB Oral Health Service if you have any questions or queries related to this communication;

021 442 047 | [neil.croucher@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:neil.croucher@northlanddhb.org.nz)

Nga mihi,  
Oral Health Service Leadership team  
Northland District Health Board

## School Sports Update

The Bay of Islands Beast is cancelled, so is the girls teams badminton tournament. No postponements. We will organise refunds once we return to school.

At the moment, basketball for the Year 9&10s is still on and so is the multisport for the Year 5-6s, well, they haven't been cancelled YET.... but it all relies on alert levels moving to Level 2, then the events are capped at 100 students.

- Zola McDonald, Sports Coordinator

## Springs Challenge



Lockdown could be a perfect time for completing some Springs Challenge tasks. When we return to school, Springs Challenge booklets can be brought to Mr. Keyte for checking and marking off.

The last day for Springs Challenge booklets is Friday Week 10.

## School Yearbook Update



The 2021 school yearbook will be available in Week 4 Term 4 this year. Each family will receive one copy for free. Extra copies will cost \$7 each and will need to be ordered before the end of Term 3.

The Yearbook is reproduced as a hardcopy only. If your child does not have photo consent but you are OK for their photos to be put in the Yearbook, please let their homeroom teacher know.

To order extra copies, contact our office manager Carole Wootten on: [office@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:office@excellerecollege.school.nz)

## Avocado Fundraiser

The Excellere College Support Group has been offered a really fantastic opportunity to partner with a local Avocado grower to sell export quality avocados at a bargain price and keep a portion of the profits to pour back into our School!



- Export quality - each Avocado is large—average w200g+
- Picked to our order
- Ripening period of approx. 10-12 days
- Supporting a local Northland grower

Further details on how to order will be confirmed once we know more about the covid levels.

# Lockdown Learning in Room 6

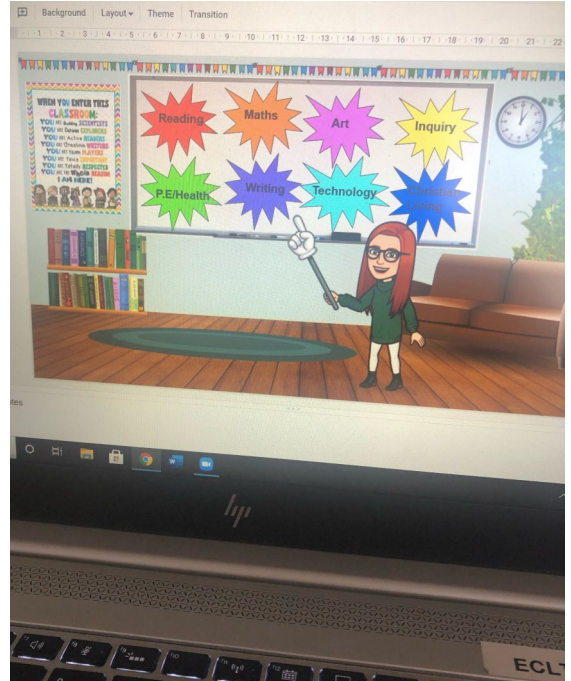
Some different learning that is taking place with Room 6. We are keeping lockdown diaries, we record what we have done each day and also how we are feeling. This is helping us look after ourselves/wellbeing.

1. Mrs. Matheson getting ready to have a PJ themed zoom call with Room 6
2. Room 6's online learning platform
3. Izaiah sharing the news of a new calf being born at his house
4. Mikayla and her family roasting marshmallows over a candle
5. Jaejin teaching the class how to make Korean sushi

- Larissa Matheson, Year 5 Teacher



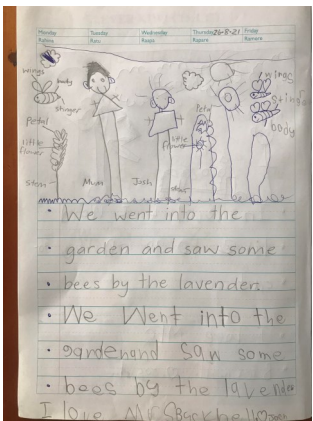
Onesie zoom meetings!!



## What have you been up to in Lockdown? Share your pictures!



Jadon and Ryan Fensham have been busy baking, doing some beautiful artworks and getting out riding bikes during lockdown.



Josh (new entrant) has been busy writing stories including some pretty cool illustrations - with a very detailed go-kart! He has also put his maths skills to use, counting 130 daises with his sister Mikayla.



# Year 4's Disability Awareness Challenge

Room 4 have been doing an inquiry on the Paralympics and accepted the challenge over lockdown to experience what it might be like to live with a disability, even an imaginary one.

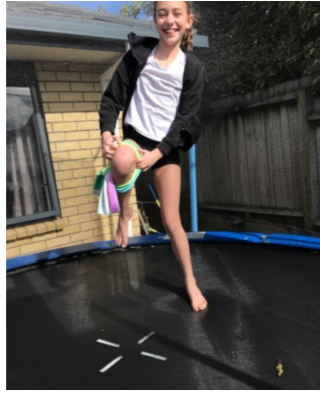
The Student's had to choose one of the following:

- \* Blindfolded
- \* Arm in a sling
- \* Only move on one leg

They could do this for half an hour, an hour, half a day, or a whole day.

They had to take photos or draw pictures of what they did and explain what their disability was, what they did, how the disability changed their activity and how it felt to have this disability.

- Marisa Mills, Year 4 Teacher



## Leane - Only move on one leg

**FUN** - It was hard to get on and off the trampoline but I got there. When I was on I kept falling but it was fun.  
**HARD** - had some trouble getting in to my house... but I got there in the end.  
**EVEN HARDER** - Then I decided to do some netball. I was falling a lot. Oh....and I didn't get any in.  
**TIRED** - After that I was very tired and I found a stick to help me keep balanced.

## Josiah Blindfolded

Josiah found out how hard it would be to be blind and try and play soccer. He could still play a little but couldn't shoot on target! He says it would be very hard!



## Gracie - Arm in a sling

I pretended that I had no left arm for half of a day. It was very hard to do things. It was hard for me to get ready for the day. It was boring so I tried to get mum to let me be blindfolded instead. She said no.

I tied my arm to my body. I tried to get a drink of water but it was hard to do it all with 1 hand. I also had fun trying to get my jacket on, putting the dishes away and going to the toilet. But I did get annoyed sometimes. My mum always says it's a good thing God gave us a brain to solve problems. I learned that it's hard with 1 arm for a lot of things. I can imagine what it's like to have no arm.



## Thanks to our Business Sponsors:

Business advertising available \$5 per week, \$50 per term or \$200 per year. The money raised will go towards digitally printing the school year book. For details contact: [julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz)



Zola McDonald – Registered Nutritionist.  
 \* Specialist in Human Nutrition & Eating Behaviour  
 P: 0276348566 | E: [zola.mcdonald12@gmail.com](mailto:zola.mcdonald12@gmail.com) | F: @Z-Health

**Caleb Lawrence Orthodontics**  
 Caleb Lawrence Orthodontics is a specialist orthodontic practice based in Whangarei. We pride ourselves on providing quality personalized treatment to patients in our care.

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