



Glen Eden Primary School

16 June 2020 - Week 10 - Newsletter Number 17

Nau mai haere mai Kora

I would like to start the newsletter with an apology. The move to Level 1 came along much quicker than we had anticipated and while we wanted to capture the gains and perhaps look to benefit from some of the things that had been observed during Level 2 I rushed to get a survey out. In the survey things were not always clearly worded and could easily have been misconstrued. I sincerely apologise for this and want to make it absolutely clear that you are always welcome at GEPS.

However, despite the clumsy messaging, what has happened is that we have had some good discussions, debates and new ideas have arisen. This has got us all thinking about what we do and how we do it. Whilst debate may be uncomfortable at times we usually find good things come out of it.

A reminder of why we did the survey is in this excerpt from the Auckland Primary Principals Association: A number of schools across the country have decided to continue with Alert Level 2 drop off routines. One interesting point to note is the fact that many schools had noticed a change in their students during Level 2 and decided to pursue the gains noted – schools independently arrived at the same conclusion so there is merit in investigating the reasons for this observation. There will be many opinions from communities about this news.

Like other communities we have had many varied opinions and I would like to sincerely thank all of those people who came and sought clarification, rang, emailed and chatted in the playground. It is always good to get a range of perspectives. Whilst we may not necessarily agree with each other on all things the common theme is that we all want what is best for our tamariki, kaiako and whānau.

Feedback from the survey can be accessed via this link. [Survey results](#)

As a result of collating all feedback here is what we have decided to trial until Week 2 next term. We feel that this will give everyone time to try things out and see if we continue to notice positive changes.

What we are proposing:

- the "concept" of kiss and wave at a point – this may be inside the gate or at the classroom door but the idea is that each student carries, hangs and unpacks their own bags so that they develop independence.
- staff will be at the main gate each morning to greet students
- at the end of the day students pack bags etc for themselves
- non teaching staff will be on crossing duty each Friday morning so that class teachers can be in rooms
- teaching staff will be in classes on a Friday morning to chat to whānau
- staff will continue to be at the main gate at 3pm
- an afternoon room set up for parents with toys, tea, coffee etc that parents who come early for pick up can go to if they wish

We realise the importance of growing community and the value of friendships that develop between parents. The idea of a place where parents can meet and chat has been an idea we have been discussing for a while now and it seems this could be the right time to trial it. We are proposing opening the Garden to Table room for this. We are going to purchase toys etc for preschoolers and will have hot beverages available. We have already had good interest from parents and a few volunteers who will help to organise this space. If you have ideas about how this space could run please come to a meeting in the staffroom this Friday at 9:15am or email me on donnas@geps.school.nz if you are keen to contribute or have ideas.

This room will be open from Monday next week.

One major bonus of lockdown is that we are more connected with whānau than we ever have been before. All of Kiwi team are continuing to use ClassDojo where parents and whānau can see learning each week. We continue to get excellent feedback from whānau about this and we are excited about exploring possibilities from here on in. We have begun using our school loop app to get trip permission slips back and were excited to receive our first few in today.

It is a bit ironic that our professional learning this year was focussed on digital learning – due to lockdown our students and kaiako have all made huge progress. At our most recent staff meeting each team and our Reading Recovery teachers fed back to the rest of the staff about what they had taught/learnt during lockdown. Our PL facilitator came along to watch too and was impressed with how far we have all come. We look forward to continuing to work with her to build on this new learning.

It was amazing to have our first whole school assembly last week. We loved seeing all of our tamariki together and it was great to see family members there too. Thanks to Mr Polman we have a class back running this week's assembly. We also see a return to the "Friday Free" table which will be heaving with donated clothing and goods accumulated over lockdown. Would love to see you at assembly.

Ngā mihi mahana

Donna Soljan

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Dates for your Diary	
Friday 19 June	2:15pm Assembly - Room 4
Monday 22 June	Rooms 16 - Trip to Children's Science Playroom
Wednesday 24 June	Rooms 3 & 7 - Trip to Children's Science Playroom
Thursday 25 June	Out of Zone Enrolment closes Out of Zone Ballot takes place
Friday 26 June	Rooms 10 & 14 - Trip to Children's Science Playroom 2:15pm Assembly - Room 5
Monday 29 June	Rooms 15 & 6 - Trip to Children's Science Playroom
Tuesday 30 June	Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm in the Staffroom
Wednesday 1 July	Rooms 1 & 12 - Trip to Children's Science Playroom
Friday 3 July	2:15pm Assembly Last day of Term 2
Monday 20 July	Term 3 Begins