

END OF TERM 1 2020

# Newsletter

**Kia ora e te whanau,**

What a whirlwind of a start to 2020!

It has been brilliant to have so many more amazing people join our community this term. We have settled into the year, made new friends, experienced new things and then ended the term in a nation-wide lockdown.



This newsletter will share highlights of the term from each Learning Group and then share some of the awesome creativity of our students and families from this week at home.

Before we get into those though, I wanted to thank our community for the way they have responded in this stressful time. You have shown care not just for your own children, but also for others in our community. You really are a special bunch of families to work with.

I also need to make a special mention of our teachers. The strength of this team could be seen all term, but really shone through over the

last few weeks. Whilst other schools and teachers had to react at the last second and scramble to send any work home for students; our teachers had already created and shared a great plan for remote learning. I am blessed to lead such a great team and look forward to seeing what we can achieve together over the rest of 2020.

As we start two weeks of school holidays, I encourage you all to keep the learning going if it is what your child needs but more importantly, keep connecting online. I know there are plans for online D&D games amongst the students who are interested. Apps like Zoom are also able to be used for social catch ups, keep using the AGE whanau Facebook group for sharing what you have all been up to and the shared Google Photo album [can be found here](#). It is by using these tools that we can maintain social connection while keeping our physical distance.

My kids and I have been practicing the Git Up, so I hope to share a video in the Whanau Facebook group next week of this. Are any other families game to take up a dance challenge?

Stay safe, keep connected and please continue to reach out if you need help of any kind.

**Nga mihi, Steve.**

## Emergent Highlights

I have loved getting to know each student in my learning group this term. It has been fascinating learning about their individual needs, interests and strengths. We have painted together, read together, experimented together, done some amazing maths and

literacy, travelled out of school together to the Library, tennis courts, the park, the beach, the bush etc.

BUT.... if you ask the students what their highlight was I think they may just say, taking over nearly half the school using masking tape and cardboard as they created their very own city and world. This was one of those creative tasks where the students took charge, became totally engaged and self motivated and needed very little direction from me. It was GOLD and excited us all greatly. Their rich discussion, their creative minds, and their endless desire to work on their city was inspiring and unstoppable! They didn't want to stop to eat, drink or wee! This was engagement and this for me was a term 1 highlight!



I can't wait for more of these exciting opportunities when we return again once we have finished our 'Bubbled experience'. I can already say that I feel so much more connected to my new work/school whānau because of

what we are all going through and experiencing together. As I walked this morning, I could hear the sound of the birds in much greater abundance than usual, I enjoyed the sound of quiet, and felt the stillness of the earth! It feels like the whole world has something major to learn from this and perhaps it is like a cleansing or a reboot, a time to ponder upon what is most precious and important.

## Proficient Highlights

I think our highlight would have to be discovering our collective interest in the Rocky Shore of Takapuna to Milford. Having the chance to explore this incredible habitat of rock pools and lava forms has been fun for all of us and given us an opportunity to be curious about our community environment. Who knew there were freshwater rock pools on the coast?! Who knew there was a fossil field so close to school?! I'm excited that there is so much more for us to explore and learn when normal life resumes. What a perfect habitat to learn about adaptation next term.





## Junior High Highlights

A real highlight for Junior High was Sea Week when all the wonders worked together at the beach discovering, cleaning, creating, seating up camp & having an AGE campsite sleepover. Hopefully you all saw Tye's movie about this which we shared on the school facebook page.

Another highlight was our slow motion maths lesson which needs to be seen to be really understood. Check out the movie about it through the link below:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1opX5PxRYNBdWWeMTkE\\_1qPLOPVCOkJPj/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1opX5PxRYNBdWWeMTkE_1qPLOPVCOkJPj/view?usp=sharing)

The JH have also enjoyed meeting new people, making new friends and the amazing encouragement given by their Learning Coaches. Wednesday Plant-Based lunches made with aroha by our very own Barefoot Chef - Angus, have been much appreciated and readily devoured!

## Senior College Highlights

Our Senior students have been thriving under their highly personalised approach to learning through PBL. This has resulted in quite different highlights for each person.

Some of these are detailed here:

- Sam R likes to be able to research topics he's interested in, like modern technology
- vegan meals - Phoebe T
- sushi lunches - Ella
- Climbing to the top of a high tree at Junky Monkeys - Amelia
- creating a YouTube Channel and posting my LEGO movie - Tim

- really enjoyed the design aspect of his project this term - Daniel

## PBL-Chocolate making skills

Amelia Baker

\*Collect ingredients

\*Mix together



\*Pour into mould



\* PRESENT!



## JH STEM Challenge:

Isaac Penney's Passion Project.

Isaac is enthusiastically completing the STEM challenge by fixing a broken toy instead of throwing it away. Fantastic repurposing skills!

He took a broken toy car and has spent quite a few hours removing the chassis, sanding it, removing the window pillars and creating a new chassis out of Lego.



He has now masked it ready to spray paint.



We are really looking forward to seeing the end product.

## **JH C x 4 = Creative Covid19 Writing Challenge**

**Corona's Journey - By Holly Mackay**



Hi guys, Corona here. You're probably cursing my name as I speak, but don't be so hard! I'm

just helping out with overpopulation. Oh, and stop eating bats! That's how I got here in the first place. Personally I'm rather happy to be given the gift of life, but you should still consider the environment a lot more. All living beings, including me, have an instinctual desire to stay alive and reproduce, so that's why I enlisted your help. You don't even think about how I feel!

I'm loathed and feared!

Most of the people I live with get better, and for each person that dies a million of my children are snuffed out like candle flames! Here's a story of me and my human.

**December 31, 2019,**

I wake up drifting through the air, but the stream of humans walking past reminds me that my life will end if I don't find a home. I drift down into the mouth of a yawning human and settle in a small fold in their throat. After searching for an easy to penetrate cell I land on top of it and inject a small amount of my DNA so that the cell can reproduce for me. It's an ingenious method - why go through the painful dividing process when you're surrounded by other cells that can do it for you? Also, it's free!

I employ many more cells before going back to visit the first one. Many baby Coronas are drifting around, and the mother cell is looking a bit tired. I want to speak with them, but I have no method of doing so. I go back to work when one of the human's cells land on me! I panic, but I don't need to. After a few seconds, it simply drifts away.

**January 5, 2020,**

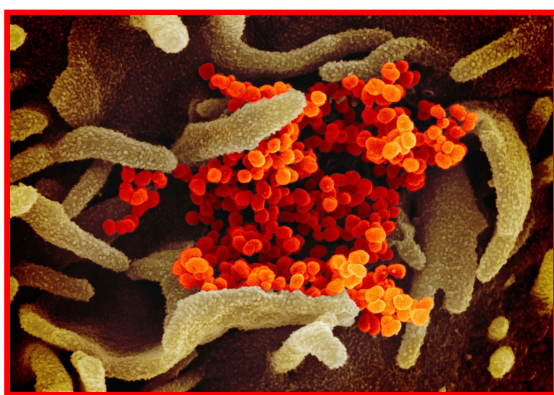
A few days later I come across a horrifying thing - an army of T cells and white blood cells are hunting me and my children! We fight back and eventually kill all of the immune system's soldiers, but with many casualties on my side. After a quick rest, I herd all of the Coronas

down into the lungs to escape from the destruction that will follow now that the immune system knows that I am here.

January 7, 2020,

I am unable to rest because I need to be on the lookout for more Armies. Some of the cells that have been helping me breed for a while have died, but thankfully my children have employed even more cells than before! The ones that die at the hands of the Army are reproduced by my workers. Now the human has started coughing, allowing me to find more people to live with.

After a silent goodbye, I send my children into the windpipe to begin their journey to another human.



January 11, 2020,

At first, I thought I could live like this forever, but I am worried now. More and more cells are dying, and new employees are in short supply. I say goodbye to as many of my children as possible for fear of the human dying. Suddenly the heartbeat slows down, followed by the loud, long beep of a hospital machine. The humans in the hospital are too careful for us to be with, so now the only thing to do is to hope that my children have survived and wait for us to perish.



A taste tester to ponder while the  
'AGE Student News' takes shape:

**This is just to say.....**

I have spread my virus  
To all the people in my  
Country

In which was *probably*  
VERY dangerous...

Forgive me sick world,  
The bat looked so sweet  
And very juicy.

By Asha Kasbe



## Shout-outs to:

- Holly Mackay- **winning** the C x 4 Covid Creative Challenge
- Oscar Cornes - **reading mileage**
- Amelia Baker - IXL and Education Perfect **dedicated practice**
- Ben Baker - IXL Maths **engagement**
- Harvey Baker - IXL Maths **commitment**
- Sam Armstrong -IXL Maths **persistence**
- Antoine Rossi - **Guide** to using AirPlay to the TV
- Lucas Armstrong - DnD **Community Action**
- AGE Whanau - Cool, Calm, Connected children **THRIVING** in your care