



## School Newsletter

21 October 2021

Kia ora e te whānau

I hope this finds you well and you managed to spend some quality time with your children during the holidays. Unfortunately the Delta Covid-19 situation continues. As a result the start of Term 4 still sees us needing to comply with Alert Level 2 requirements. Just to remind you, these are:

- Please wear masks.
- Please use the NZ COVID Tracer App.
- Remember physical distancing and try to stay at least 2 metres from others.
- We still prefer that parents do not enter any classrooms or buildings, including the office, during Level 2. Please call (03 348 7492) or email (admin@ilam.school.nz) with any queries.

We have had to cancel, postpone or change various events in the first half of this term. If this current alert level remains, it will affect many of our traditional end-of-year gatherings and assemblies. I will update you as the term progresses of what the impact of this will be.

A reminder that Term 4 sees hats needing to be worn as part of the school uniform. If children forget their hats or have misplaced them they will be required to play in a shady area of the grounds until they have been reunited with their hat. It is vital that hats are clearly named so they can be easily identifiable.

The rest of this email contains information regarding:

- **Athletics Day**
- **Mandatory Vaccination for Workers & Volunteers in Schools**
- **Consultation on Ilam School Education Plan**
- **PTA Calendar Art**
- **Swimming Changes This Year**
- **2022 Class Placements**
- **Creative Writing Awards over 2021**
- **Teacher Only Day - Monday 15 November**

**Year 3-6 Athletics Day - No parent spectators please.**

Next week's Athletics Day will now take place for Year 5/6 children only, Wednesday 27 October. Year 3/4 children will participate in a similar event later in the term. Due to Level 2 requirements, we ask that parents do not attend to watch their children participate in events on this day.

### **Mandatory Vaccination for Workers & Volunteers in Schools**

I'm sure you are aware that it will soon be mandatory for workers and volunteers in schools to be vaccinated. While this was announced by the government on the 11 October we are yet to receive clear guidelines from the Ministry of Education about this. I will update you, once I receive more information.

### **Consultation on Ilam School Education Plan**

Ilam School is working with the Ministry of Education to modernise our school buildings in a Redevelopment Project. Much of Ilam School is over 70 years old, and while this is not a full rebuild of our buildings, we have an opportunity to shape our school in a way that meets what we need for teaching and learning now and into the future.

The Board of Trustees will work in partnership with the school leadership team and Ministry of Education to deliver the project over the next two years. We have a limited budget which means we have to make some hard decisions, however we also want to use this opportunity to make a good plan for the future. To balance our needs and the budget, we want to present a full picture of teaching and learning activities that our community, whānau and children/tamariki experience and expect at our school. We also want Ilam School and our facilities to reflect our unique community.

**We would like to engage our school community to gain your thoughts and ideas to help guide this project. Please note there is no pre-determined Ministry of Education design for this project. We would appreciate it if you can please answer some questions to help us with this work.** We encourage you to discuss these questions with your children to hear their thoughts about Ilam School.

You have three options:

- (1) Fill in a Google survey online now or anytime to share your feedback - [Building Redevelopment Survey](#)
- (2) Fill in, and return the booklet that is being sent home today to the classroom teacher.
- (3) If Alert Level restrictions change, come to one of our drop-in community sessions and share your thoughts.

We are aiming to complete consultation this term to keep the project moving forwards. Thank you for your time and contribution to this important project.

### **PTA Calendar Art**

PTA Calendar Artwork order and information flyers were sent home with your children on Monday. Please use the order form with your child's individual unique code to order your items. Please refer to the frequently asked questions on the back of the Artworks order form if you have any questions. Any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the office.

### **Swimming Changes This Year**

This year our end-of-year swimming lessons will be held at Kings Swim School in Sockburn for Year 2-6 children. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has had an impact on the number of sessions and classes receiving tuition. Children will receive 5 lessons, one per day, during the following weeks:

- Year 2 - 22-26 November
- Year 5/6 - 29 November - 3 December
- Year 3/4 - 6 - 10 December

In order to group children based on their swimming ability, a google form will be sent out to parents in the next few weeks.

### **2022 Class Placements**

The process of organising classes for the 2022 academic year is about to begin. If you know your family is going to be leaving Ilam at the end of the year, or beforehand, it would be most helpful for our planning, to know this information.

Our classroom make-up across the school in 2022 will be similar to this year, with Year 1 classes, Year 2 classes, Year 3 & 4 classes and Year 5 & 6 classes. As you will appreciate, class placement organisation is a complex process in determining the most appropriate groupings for children with whom they will learn for the following year. Children's academic and social needs are taken into account when being placed. As educational professionals, the staff know your children very well when considering placements for 2022 classes, however if there are any extraordinary circumstances that you believe we are not aware of, and which may need to be considered when determining class placements, please put these in writing to me, or e-mail ([admin@ilam.school.nz](mailto:admin@ilam.school.nz)) by TOMORROW, Friday, 22 October.

### **Creative Writing Awards Over 2021**

If your child has attended Creative Writing with Kerrin Davidson over the past year and has received an award, certificate or special mention, please contact me by Friday 29 October at the following address: [belinda.kennedy@ilam.school.nz](mailto:belinda.kennedy@ilam.school.nz) If you could include the following information when emailing please: Child's name, Room and the competition and award they received.

### **Teacher Only Day - Monday 15 November**

Our final Teacher Only Day of the year will be held on the Monday following Show Weekend - 15 November. Ilam OSCAR will be open on this day. Please visit this [link](#) to make your bookings.

Nga mihi nui (Kind Regards)



Paul Dolan  
Tumuaki/Principal