



WAIKOWHAI
INTERMEDIATE

Waikowhai Intermediate School

...developing life-long learners...

Issue 2

Term 1

25th February 2022

Greetings, Kia Ora, Fakalofa lahi atu, Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Taloha, Kia Orana, Ni Hao, Buenos Dias, Chao, Malo ni Habari, Dobar dan, Bula Vinaka, Apa Khabar.

Dear Parents and Caregivers

It is a pleasure working at Waikowhai Intermediate due to our staff, students and the support of the community. The current Omicron outbreak is putting a considerable amount of stress on us as a school, but if students, staff and our community continue to work together and communicate, I am confident that we will be able to continue to deliver great learning opportunities for students, in a safe and happy environment. I do need to make special mention to our teaching staff here, who continue to be professional and adaptable in this extremely challenging situation. Also to our students, and the great support they are clearly getting at home, turning up for their learning each day and displaying our school values of Māia (courage bravery), Ako (teaching and learning) and Manaakitanga (hospitality, kindness, generosity, support).

As we enter Phase 3 in our response to Omicron there are some more changes to understand. Now, only household contacts of confirmed cases are required to self-isolate. The isolation period will be 10 days with a test on Day 3 and Day 10. These will be RAT tests, so the results will be immediate. Children need to be symptom free for 48 hours to return to school, and if they are isolating, return a negative Day 10 test. Mask wearing is still required in schools as we remain in the Red Level, and the best defence against COVID-19 remains vaccination. Please get your booster shots if you are eligible.

If your child needs to isolate at home, they should log onto their classes Learning Site. If your child returns a positive test and therefore will be home for an extended period of time, Glenn Lambert-Vickers is our Home Learning Teacher and is available to support your child. Contact details for Mr Lambert-Vickers are on your child's Home Learning site. My apologies to Glenn too for missing him off our staff organisation page in the previous Newsletter, he is a valuable part of our team.

Please continue to inform the school if your child is positive for COVID-19. Please pass on their name and Room number, and the date they had the test. We are continuing to pass this information onto the Ministry of Education for their records. We will acknowledge your email and your child can log into their class' Home Learning site when they are well enough to complete some work and also connect to Mr Lambert-Vickers. Positive cases need to isolate for a minimum of 10 days and return to school when they have been symptom free for 48 hours.

Please continue to send your children to school while they are healthy and symptom free. However, if they do develop symptoms, they should stay at home.

Ngā mihi nui,

David King
Principal

School Tuckshop

The tuckshop is closed until further notice.



Three Way Conferences

We will go ahead with these for those classes whose teachers are well! We of course have a plan for those teachers who will not be able to do their Three Way Conferences on the date and will communicate with the parents and caregivers of these classes as necessary. Similarly, if your household is unwell and cannot make the conference dates, please contact your child's classroom teacher and make an alternative date.

Three Way Conferences take place on Wednesday 16 March from 12.15pm to 5.45pm and Thursday 17 March from 2.15pm to 5.30pm. All Conferences will take place via Google Meet and your child's classroom teacher will send you a link to click on.

Typically, at these conferences we share what we call a Benchmark Report, which includes your child's levels of achievement, in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Due to the disruption in Term 1 this year, these reports will now be issued in Week 10 of the term. The Three Way Conferences will focus on your child's Learning Map, which includes the people, places and tools that support your child's learning. They will also of course be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and discuss how they have settled into school and the year ahead.

School will close on Wednesday 16 March at 12pm and on Thursday 17 March at 2pm. The Auckland Transport buses will run on their normal timetable, so children who catch the 511 and 568 will need to make alternative arrangements. The Kiwi Coach bus to Mangere Bridge will run at the earlier time of 12pm on Wednesday and 2pm on Thursday.

Here is the website and code for making a conference booking.

Website: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Code: **va26x**

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Well-being data

We are extremely fortunate as a school that we have a Board of Trustees that support us to have a School Counsellor for four days a week to support our students. Kirsten Malcolm is an invaluable member of our team, and regularly does well-being snapshots of our student body to see where her support, or other wider support, maybe needed. Here are the results of that survey:

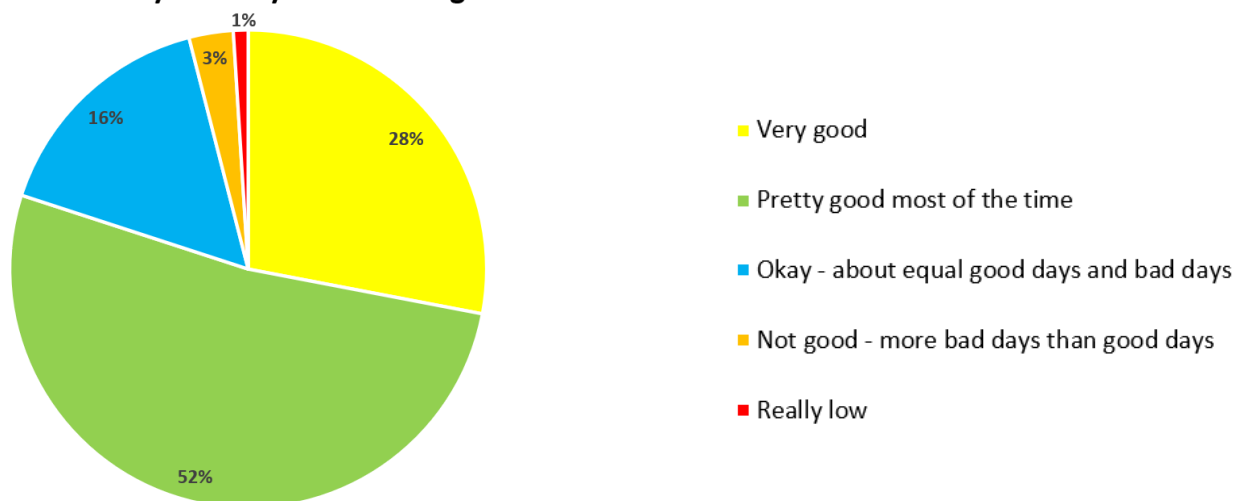
Wellbeing Snapshot – February 2022

This survey was conducted Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 February, when most students had been at school for just over a week.

We received 333 responses, which is 85% of the whole school. This is a bit lower than our usual response rate of mid-90% because some of our students are absent and may not have accessed the survey online.

Students were asked to rate their wellbeing over the past week on a 5-point scale. Students were then asked if there was anything they would like their teacher to know, and given an opportunity to share any ideas, questions or concerns.

How would you rate your wellbeing over the last week?



80% of students rated their wellbeing as either “very good” or “pretty good most of the time” which is a very encouraging indicator of how well the start of year is going so far, even with all the uncertainties of Covid19.

As a comparison, in our previous Wellbeing Snapshots over 2020 and 2021, we usually saw about 70-75% of students rating their wellbeing as either “very good” or “pretty good most of the time” when they were attending school, but that dropped to 62% for those learning at home online while others were at school during the last part of 2021, and was even lower at around 51% while everyone was in lockdown from August 17. These findings reinforce what we already know about face-to-face interaction and connection being very important for the wellbeing of our rangatahi, and this is why we have very good systems in place to keep everyone at school as safe as possible.

Across the whole school, only 3 students rated their wellbeing as "really low" and 9 as "not good - more bad days than good days" in this survey. All students whose responses raised any concerns are being followed up with by members of staff, and appropriate measures to support their wellbeing are being put in place.

Other data collected

19 students requested a meeting with one of our counsellors via the survey; 16 of these are new self-referrals.

46 students took the opportunity of the survey to share something with their teacher that they wanted them to know but had not yet been able to tell them, and 35 students shared some thoughts, questions or wellbeing ideas.

Extension to COVID-19 hardship assistance for whānau

The Government has extended the increased income limits for hardship assistance until **Thursday 30 June**.

This means more casual or part-time workers, or people who aren't already getting financial support, will continue to be eligible for help with their immediate or emergency costs. This is especially important for those who need direct help as part of the COVID-19 welfare response.

People new to MSD can check these links to see the new income limits:

- [Special Needs Grant](#)
- [Recoverable Assistance Payment](#)
- [Advance Payment of Benefit](#)
- then click on our [check what you might get](#) guide.

They'll be asked some easy questions about their costs, then MSD will let them know about any Work and Income payments they may be able to get.

Alternatively, if they'd like to talk with MSD, they can call:

- 0800 559 009 for working age
- 0800 552 002 for over-65s
- 0800 88 99 00 for students

Interpreters are available.

Please note, income limits for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, Transition to Work Grants and the Course Participation Allowance aren't changing.