

MENPS News

Te Whare Akoranga o Maungawhau, October 21, 2021

COVID-19 Update

From The Principal

Kia ora koutou,

The Government announcement yesterday confirmed that Years 11 - 13 students will return to school next week, and indicated that primary schools can expect to continue working from home for several more weeks. We await further information from Minister Hipkins on Friday, and further elaboration from the Secretary for Education over the next week.

We all share the challenge of the current uncertainty, and concern about students' education being disrupted. You and your children may experience different feelings and reactions to news and developments. We are all working outside our comfort zones, and responding to changes that happen frequently and often at short notice. We are all in the same storm just in different boats.

From the feedback I receive it is clear that every home situation is different and our families approach home learning in many different ways. Some parents have asked for more structure, and other parents have requested less interaction with Google Classroom, and more licence to learn at home in their own way. It is difficult to meet the needs at both ends of the spectrum. I again encourage you to take and implement the Home Learning programme in a way that best suits your own family. Please do reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Overall, the well-being of your family is the most important thing and the priority for now must be to look out for the wellbeing of our children. The research is quite strong that having a gratitude focus helps us to get through difficult times. Staying positive, optimistic and realistic are constructive ways to navigate the challenges of Level 3. This includes the reassurance that 'this too will pass'.

Looking forward to a more positive 2022 we will soon begin the process of class placements for next year. I include the Board's Class Placement Policy for your reference [here](#).

Class organisation is a fine balancing act and we follow strict criteria in line with the Policy. In order of priority, we aim to achieve the following:

1. A reasonable demographic balance of factors such as gender, ethnicity and language support needs
2. A balance of academic achievement and specific learning needs
3. Social, emotional and child-specific wellbeing considerations

From a parent and child perspective, these aims can be overshadowed by thoughts of 'best friends' or the 'ideal' teacher. For obvious reasons, however, it isn't a realistic or workable basis for organising classes or making decisions about teaching and learning.

While we consider positive social grouping, the reality is that 'best friends' don't always make the best classroom combinations. Friendships change and develop over time, and the opportunity to meet classmates often means new friends. We have great confidence in our outstanding teaching team. All our teachers are dedicated, hardworking and consistently achieve excellent outcomes for their students. For this reason, it is essential that we stick to the Policy, focusing on learning needs and achieving a range and balance across the year level.

While it can be tempting to make requests for specific teachers or children to be placed together, please don't, as we are unable to make exceptions in this regard.

Of course, there are any important factors that your child's teacher may not already be aware of, it is important to let us know as soon as possible. Please email our Class Placement coordinator, Associate Principal Nicky Hill. She can be contacted by emailing: nickyh@mteden.school.nz.

The deadline for all class placement information is **Friday 29 October**, so please ensure you contact us on or before this date if you would like it to be considered.

Ka kite anō au i a koutou

Maria Matene
Acting Principal



————— **MENPS** · DISTANCE LEARNING —————
Login • Check In • Schedule • Share Back • Celebrate

Getting Started with Distance Learning

Visit the link (directly below) to access the 'Home Learning' page on our website. Select the 'Click here to login to MENPS Distance Learning' button to be directed to the login page. For

recommend bookmarking the page): <https://www.mteden.school.nz/copy-of-home-learning>

1. Login

Our distance learning materials are available via Google Classroom. To access this, simply enter the email login and password for your child's room (eg: room2@mteden.school.nz). This has been sent to you via email. (If a welcome screen opens asking if you are a teacher or a student, click student)

2. Check In

Once logged into the Google Classroom, click on 'Classwork', where the teacher's video clip and weekly tasks can be viewed.

3. Set up a schedule

Go over the tasks and instructions, agree activities for the day and discuss any materials/resources that may be needed.

4. Share back

The programme includes some items the children are invited to share (these are colour coded in the programme notes). Documents, images and other files can be uploaded into the named folders in each Google Classroom.

5. Celebrate

Set aside some time for your child to share what they have achieved for the day. What did they enjoy? What did they find hard? What was easy? What are they most proud of? What are their goals for the next day?



Events & Reminders

Sunday 24 October: Home Learning materials for the coming week published at 3pm

Monday 25 October: Labour Day



MENPS PTA

Mount Eden Normal Primary School Parent Teacher Association
www.menpspta.co.nz

WELCOME AIMEE: OUR NEW PTA CHAIRPERSON!



A warm welcome to **Aimee Chikunda**, our freshly elected PTA Chairperson, who has stepped in to take over from me as my work commitments escalate.

Aimee's family moved to Mount Eden just over a year ago and love this vibrant community. Aimee and her husband Emmanuel have three children: Christian in Year 1, Nala who is two and super-cute, six month old Leo! We feel very lucky that Aimee has volunteered her time to help the PTA; with her background in architecture, and years of fundraising experience, she brings very valuable skills to this role.

I met Aimee a few months ago, and knew immediately that she is the perfect person to carry the PTA through these challenging COVID times and out the other side (hopefully!). Aimee is excited about looking after the schools valuable sponsors and supporters.

From Aimee: "Given that we have three children who will all attend MENPS, I am passionate about rolling up my sleeves to help the school and it's students. I'm excited and thrilled to see new MENPS projects come to fruition, and want to be part of many more to come. I hope to encourage engagement and participation from other parents to help the school fund valuable projects. I look forward to putting in the hard mahi!"

Thanks so much, Aimee - the baton has been officially passed and I really look forward to working with you.

Renata Latimer



THANK YOU, RENATA

The entire PTA committee wishes to thank Renata profusely for all her countless hours of blood, sweat and mahi over this difficult year and a half.

We plan to honour her and recognise her AMAZING contribution as soon as the COVID rules allow us all to gather together and celebrate!

Deputy Chairperson and FAIR Manager

We are looking for **PTA Deputy Chair and FAIR Manager**.

We hope to find those special people with the energy, enthusiasm, time and organisational skills to bring our MENPS community together; supporting the school and parents to achieve a great educational experience for our kids.

There will be busy weeks but you have a great team to help you! We'd love to hear from anyone who's keen to be involved at menpspta@gmail.com.



Cancelled PTA Events

The safety of the children are our top priority, and given the ongoing uncertainty of whether students or parents will be allowed back on school grounds, we have had to cancel the following events:

- **Halloween Celebrations - CANCELLED**
- **Sunblock Fundraiser - CANCELLED**
- **Calendar Art - CANCELLED**



Yummy Apples Stickers has been extended

Please save your sticker collections.

Designer Clothing Donations

The MENPS Fair team are hoping that you have been able to clear out your cupboards and might have found some special items that you'd like to donate!

I would like to collect any special, designer clothes that you are now ready to part with - so please contact me to organise a contactless pickup or delivery.

Many thanks for your support,

Jane Cunningham (Secondhand stalls coordinator)

Ph 021 673 074 or jane@cunningham.co.nz



Second Hand Uniform Shop

We will provide you with new dates soon.



PTA - Supporting Our School Through Fundraising & Fun Events

 Facebook

Chairperson Aimee Chikunda

Deputy Chairperson Marina Borodatova

Secretary Melanie Woollard

Treasurer Linda Waddington-Miller

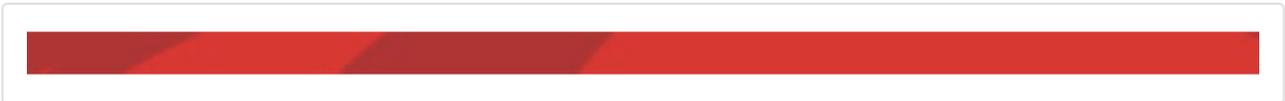
Class Coordinator Leader Jane Cunningham

PTA Advisor Scott Optican

Follow us on Facebook and keep up to date with the PTA on Mount Eden Normal Primary School PTA page.

 menpspta@gmail.com

 menpspta.co.nz



Keep in touch

 Facebook

Check back on our website, or join the official Mt Eden Normal Facebook page to keep up to date!

 admin@mteden.school.nz

 mteden.school.nz