



Fiordland College Newsletter

Lockdown Special



Thursday 07 May 2020

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From the Principal's Desk

Yesterday, we heard from the Prime Minister what Level 2 will look like when we finally move to it. Clearly, there are big implications for our school.



The key points to note are:

- Schools can open.
- Students at **all** levels will be able to attend.
- Schools will open at the beginning of a week.
- Schools need time to plan and to notify their communities.
- Any educational facilities connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 must close for at least 72 hours, and possibly for a further 14 days.

I am sure that no-one will argue that it is going to be tremendous to see our students and staff back on site. We are certainly all looking forward to it.

Today, I want to acknowledge the work of our support staff over the lockdown period. Their input over the last 6 weeks has been outstanding. I am really gratified that we have such a strong team of individuals supporting the work of our teachers so that we can ensure that the young people of Te Anau have the best possible outcomes from their education, be it on-site or online.

We look forward now to the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday as to when we will move from Level 3 to Level 2.

Until then: Kia kaha. Kia atawhai

E haere rā
Lynlee Smith

Lock-down Learning

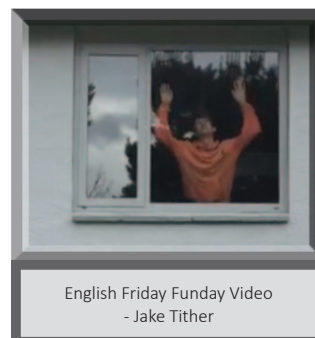
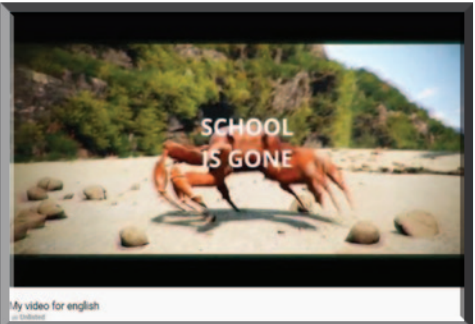
Learning and teaching have taken a very different approach over the last four weeks, at Level 4 Lockdown. We have now moved to Level 3 Lockdown and this is seeing the start of our economy re-opening, but everyone is still asked to stay home and work from home if possible. Our students are still working from home.

Below are a couple of photos taken from videos sent in by students. Keep your eyes peeled for full details in the coming weeks.

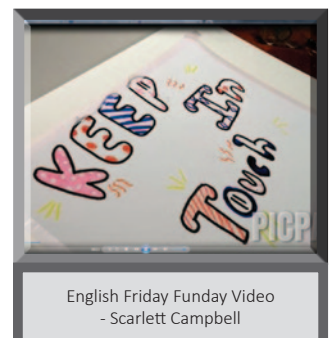
English Friday Funday
Video - Jeb Nicholson

I can't wait to see these videos and will keep everyone posted with results!

Seniors don't forget to get your videos to Ms Rainham



English Friday Funday Video
- Jake Tither



English Friday Funday Video
- Scarlett Campbell



Ms Rainham asked staff to send her pictures of what our latest read was...

Check it out here
<https://read.bookcreator.com/LINcJd3pceJqrEKQwq6yRkxEO2/nU9SRI4ZTW61Hgrib9mirQ>

Left: Mr Vaughn Filmer lost in the world of 'To Sir With Love'

ANZAC DAY

The College still placed a wreath at the ANZAC Memorial on ANZAC Day.

Our respect and reflection on past events was still important, even in Lockdown.



Mr Shaun Cantwell placing the Fiordland College ANZAC wreath

Grace Perry with her ANZAC Wreath

Quote of the Week



When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength
- Arnold Schwarzenegger

Students Working Online

While students are working from home, using their online school accounts, there are a few reminders to be aware of:

- Students need to ensure they are not changing their account name
- They may change the profile picture to something suitable
- They need to ensure they are not signing into any Third Party apps that are not school-related with their school account

Students need to remember they do not own their school account and that it is administered by the school. They must be very careful with what they do and where they go when online in their school account.

Support Staff in Action

Last newsletter we highlighted the learning taking place and how staff and students were adapting to the new constraints of Level 4 Lockdown. This week we want to focus a little more on how a whole lot of 'other stuff' is happening.

A school is a little like an iceberg. What most people see are the things their child, their friends or other observations present you with. But there is an incredible amount of other work and a lot of other people who are working very hard to keep your child engaged and learning.

Most of that is still happening in Lockdown and below are a few examples.

Caretaking and Cleaning:

Mr Steve Davison (Caretaker) has been on duty throughout, ensuring the school is secure, clean, resourced and maintained.

Mrs Pascale Brown (Assistant Caretaker/Cleaner) and Mr David Thomas (Cleaner) are both back and not just cleaning areas. They are also tending to gardens and shared spaces - especially sanitising.



Mr Steve Davison
Caretaker-Taming the lawns

Mrs Pascale Brown
Assistant Caretaker/
Cleaner

The grounds needed a good tidy up once we got to Level 3 Lockdown

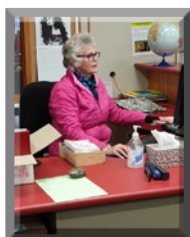


Mr David Thomas
- Cleaner

Autumn leaves are beautiful but a big job to keep on top of

Library:

Last week Mrs Gowan Heaney was shown working at home - this week she has been able to get back to the place she loves the most - her library.



Teacher Aides:

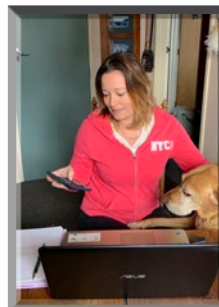
Our Teacher Aides, led by Mrs Marie Galland, have been very hard at work.

They have all been assigned a set of students. Staff include the Teacher Aide in their online learning sessions and the Teacher Aide then follows up with individualised sessions to assist student learning.

A lot of what has been occurring educationally has been largely due to this assistance from very valued members of our staff team.

Ms Sarah Anderson -
Teacher Aide

I enjoyed the P.D that was on offer by Mark Herring, learning about online learning tools such as Google Drawing, Ed Puzzle, Book Creator and Jam Board. It will be great to try to keep up with the students on this. I have also been emailing students to see how they are coping with learning remotely and attending Zoom meetings. All a bit 'bits and piecey' while homeschooling too.



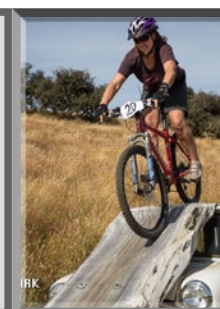
Mrs Zita Matthews
Accounts, Teacher Aide & Distance Learning Administration

I have been busy contacting students for learning support, career planning sessions and paying accounts. I have also done a lot of work on my own studies over lockdown.

I can't wait to see everyone back at school.

Ms Kiri Bell - Teacher Aide

I've been on Google Classroom for every student I support (up to about 35 separate classes now. It's a few to keep track of!) and contacting specific students via email to offer assistance. I've joined in some Google Meets, commented on posts and made suggestions on students' work. Learning about Google Classroom has expanded my own knowledge as I wasn't too familiar with it prior to lockdown.



Ms Tracy Couling - Teacher Aide

I have been in contact with some students and their parents about the work they have been set and helping them when needed. I have also been looking at the great work students have been doing on Google Classroom.

Lily and I completed Casey Brown's 30 day challenge and I have to keep the peace in our house over the limited wifi with Brin and Wilf home as well.



Support Staff in Action

Administration:

Meanwhile nothing functions at all if we do not have the 'linkages' to ensure a smooth operation including resources ordered, accounts processed, photocopying and admin help, students and whanau phoned, payroll checks, meetings minuted, newsletter, school magazine and a zillion other essential tasks completed.

Here our team of Sue Walker, Liz Hodgson, Suzanne Carruthers and Zita Matthews make for a total team effort and are a large part of the above and below surface component of the 'iceberg'.

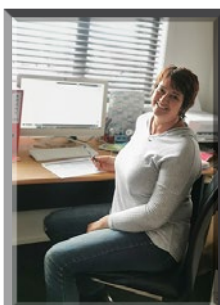


Mrs Sue Walker
Admin Manager has an innovative work space!



Ms Liz Hodgson -
Principal's PA

is lucky to still have work colleagues



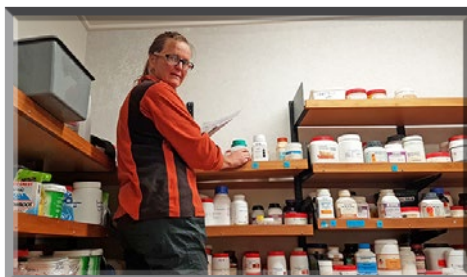
Mrs Suzanne Carruthers
School Secretary also has an office at home



Mrs Zita Matthews
Accounts also has a helper at home

Science:

Our College Science Technician, Mrs Sue McKenzie, took advantage of no students at school, to complete a full audit of chemicals and set up a number of improvements in our Science Labs.

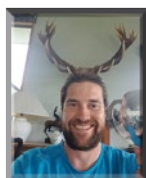


Ms Sue McKenzie
Science Technician

Stocktake time of all things Science. Running out of anything is not going to happen with Ms McKenzie on the job!

Information Technology - IT:

Mr Greg Sheppard continues to keep this area functioning - barely a week goes by without him needing to complete back-ups, solve problems or assist staff.



And hasn't this area been vital throughout lockdown?

New Staff:

Even our newly arriving Hard Technology and Graphics teacher, Mr Daniel Hermann, has been in on the action. He has been in touch with his new classes from Tauranga, and from his vehicle as he moved down the country (due to a special moving dispensation), arriving in Te Anau on Wednesday.

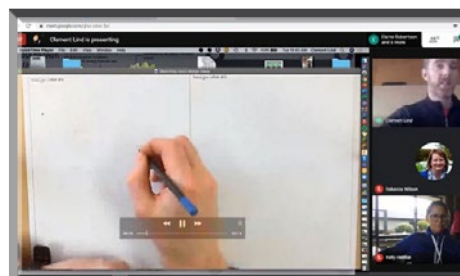
Welcome Mr Hermann!



Mr Dan Hermann
Hard Technology &
Graphics

His quiet space is his car!

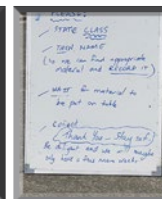
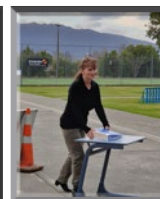
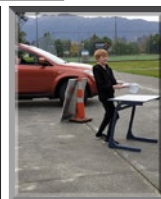
Other Titbits



All the staff have completed a number of Professional Development (PD) sessions. This one (photo left) was presented online by a company called UTB and covered videos and other Technology applications.

Student Material Pick-up

Pick-up area for extra material staff have prepared that is not 'online'. Students and caregivers collected these from the College with all Level 3 safety rules in place.



School Site Work

Along with a range of smaller maintenance jobs around school, the College section adjacent to Milford Rd has been tidied up.

Te Anau Earthworks flattened the site and removed waste material.



Year 9&10 Class Challenge

Over the past five to six weeks, the Year 9 & 10 students have been working on a form class challenge. The first part of the challenge was to make some origami cranes, and the second part of the challenge was to carry out acts of kindness in their bubbles.

There has been a fantastic response from the students. I have even heard a whisper that a Y10 student has folded over 1000 cranes!

Below are just some of the pictures that have been coming in of the students' efforts.



*We are
so proud
of you!*

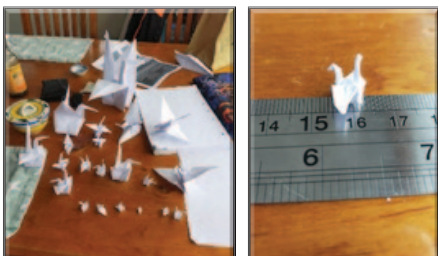


Agustin Cerda's Origami Cranes



1m high crane!

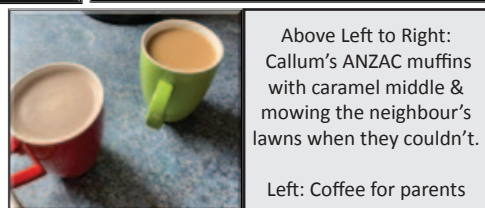
Max Harrington's Origami Cranes



Hunter Grieve's Origami Cranes



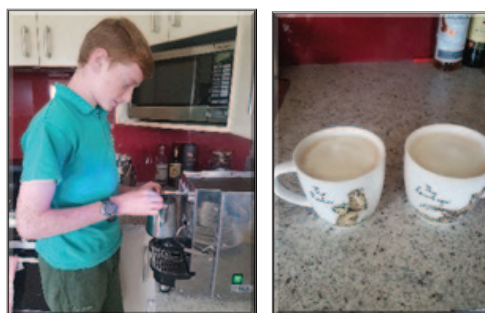
Callum McMurtrie's Acts of Kindness



Riyanna Stevenson's Origami Cranes
There are 103 in this picture!



Max Kempthorne's Acts of Kindness



Guide for Parents, Caregivers or Whānau to help students manage NCEA assessment remotely during COVID-19 Alert Levels 3-4

What can parents/caregivers do if you are worried about your young person's achievement?

- Remember you are not expected to be your young person's teacher.
- Support and encourage your young person to keep engaged with their learning, and their classmates.
- Check communications from teachers and NZQA regularly. We may use email, Facebook, our website, our school app, and online portal to regularly update you on arrangements for senior students.

Ensure that your contact details (phone numbers, email addresses and home addresses) are up to date so that the school can contact you

- Let us know if you have any concerns or questions about NCEA assessment and how your young person is getting on.

What will be different and the same as going to school each day

- Our school will have different expectations for senior students depending on their remote learning environment and the level of alert in the community.
- Teachers will be communicating with students, and setting and marking work regularly throughout the week, just as they would if they were at school.
- Parents, caregivers and whānau can help their young person by supporting them in their learning and encouraging them to:
 - establish a routine
 - check communication from their teachers regularly
 - develop a plan/timetable to complete the work set by their teachers
 - communicate with their teachers if they need help and guidance.

This link on assessment during COVID-19 could be useful: [NZQA response to COVID-19](#)

Evidence from changes made to assessment following the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes showed that:

- More flexible assessment opportunities do not affect the expected performance or the credibility of the results.
- The flexibility of NCEA means teachers can gather assessment evidence from individual students at any time and in a variety of ways to meet the needs of the student's situation e.g. oral, visual, as well as written.

Support for schools communicating to parents, caregivers and whānau about NCEA during COVID-19 disruption

Your young person can still do assessments, although there may be changes to what they will 'hand in' and how:

- Assessment could include:
 - Work done on the computer. Your young person can get work to their teachers through Google Classroom, One Note, SchoolBox, email, messenger or another application. Their teacher will tell them what to use.
 - Work done on paper. Your young person can complete activities on paper or in workbooks and keep these to hand in later or keep in a file or portfolio.
 - Class activities. These can include discussions in Zoom, Facebook, Google Hangouts, Skype, message threads, or in-person activities.
 - Practical or physical work. This could include technology, art, design, science, and performance work that students record or hand in later.
- NCEA internal assessment does not have to be done under test conditions so teachers have ways to assess these remotely, where this is possible.
- Assessments requiring supervision can be deferred until the alert level permits.

Support for schools communicating to parents, caregivers and whānau about NCEA during COVID-19 disruption

How teachers know a student's work is their own

- Teachers check that work is authentic by:
 - Having checkpoints or milestones for big assignments
 - Checking plans, drafts, notes and working
 - Using digital tool features such as revision history, plagiarism checkers, and 'googling' content
 - Talking to the student to check the depth of their understanding.
- Submitting work for assessment that is not their own work can result in the student getting a *Not Achieved* grade.

What about exams?

- The timing of our school practice exams may change or may not be possible, depending on the extent of COVID-19 disruption in our communities and the alert level we are in.
- Even if our practice exams are not possible, teachers will be collecting evidence of student learning for external assessments in the same way they collect evidence for internals. Grades can be derived from this evidence and may be used when student performance in NZQA examinations is affected by circumstances outside their control.
- NZQA's preparations for end of year external paper-based and digital online examinations are on track. However, if a student or group of students are unable to sit them due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will follow the usual process for NZQA to award derived grades in examinations.

Students with special learning needs

- **Special Assessment Conditions** These are still available, where practicable. Students who use a reader, writer, or other arrangements for assessments in school need to check the arrangements they will have in place for their assessments. This might include accessibility tools available online, like *text-to-speech* to read a passage, or *speech-to-text* to write a response. We will advise you. Parents or family members can't act as writers, but students may use a computer.
- **High achievers** Students who are working at different NCEA levels at the same time can continue to do this. It is still possible to achieve Merit and Excellence grades, course endorsements, and NCEA Certificate endorsements.
- **Gateway / work experience / STAR / Trades Academy** Some assessments that your young person would usually complete out of school, such as booklet work, will still be able to continue while they are working remotely. They may not be able to be fully completed, depending on the practical work and observations that are required. We advise students to stay in touch with us and the course provider to keep up to date with arrangements.

Support for schools communicating to parents, caregivers and whānau about NCEA during COVID-19 disruption

Students can still get their NCEA – Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Vocational Pathways, University Entrance, Merit and Excellence grades, and endorsements

- NCEA is a flexible qualification and teachers are using its flexibility to reduce the impact of the Covid-19 disruption.
- We are making sure that any changes we make to learning and assessment programmes will still enable students to get credits, achieve their qualifications and awards.
- Merit and Excellence grades, course and certificate endorsements are all still available.
- Students are still able to move on to the next qualification level if they have not completed the previous level qualification. For example, Level 1 students can fill any qualification gaps using credits achieved from a higher level.
- You may find these resources useful:
 - [Parent resources on NCEA](#) - understanding credits, internal and external assessments, numeracy and literacy.
 - [Watch a video on how NCEA works](#) (available in Te Reo Māori, Cook Islands Māori, Vagahau Niue, Gagana Samoa, Lea Faka Tonga and New Zealand Sign Language).