

# Amisfield School 2020

Term 2, Week 6

Together We Achieve

- Respect
- Excellence
- Commitment



## Upcoming Events

**Board Meeting:**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May

**Queen's Birthday Weekend:** 30<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Teacher Only Day:**  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

**Parent Teacher Interviews:**  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

## Welcome

Rane  
Sofia  
Xander  
Evonne  
Patu  
Jacob



21 February 2020

Kia ora koutou,

I want to begin by saying thank you for the kind words and warm wishes that I have had from the Amisfield community so far. I have been made to feel very welcome.

It has been great to have finally had the opportunity to see the school with students in it. I have enjoyed the last few days seeing classrooms around the school in action! The students have come back from lockdown with great attitudes and wide smiles.

I have been so impressed by the dedication and commitment the team at Amisfield School have shown towards the health and safety, and wellbeing of our students. It has been a strange time to begin a principalship, and it must have been very strange for the staff to have to begin working with a principal who was just a new guy on a video call as we moved into Alert Level 3!

Speaking of new guys on video calls, I would like to welcome Cameron Brown, our new teacher in Room 4. Mr Brown joined the team in Alert Level 4 and worked closely with Mrs Hearmon to support distance learning. You will also find an introduction from Mr Brown later in this newsletter.

Thank you again for all of your support and I look forward to meeting more of you as the term goes on.

Ngā mihi nui,

Gareth Gilmour  
Principal

## Teacher Only Day

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June we have a Teacher Only Day. This has been in place for some time for our Kahui Ako to lead professional development for teachers across Tokoroa. Despite this event being cancelled due to social distancing rules and the challenge of organising professional development after lockdown, we will be keeping this as a Teacher Only Day. This will help provide time and support for our teachers to effectively transition from a focus on wellbeing to planning for learning in their classrooms, therefore enabling teachers to get all of our learners back on track after the significant disruption caused by COVID-19.

We appreciate your support at this time, and can assure our teachers will be using this opportunity to ensure they can give one hundred percent to the education of your child.

## Parent-Teacher Interviews

Our parent-teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday 30th June, Wednesday 1st July and Thursday 2nd July from 3.30 pm - 6.00 pm. We look forward to discussing your child's progress and achievement. If you have any other questions regarding your child's learning please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school or your child's teacher.

## COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is still having an effect on our day to day lives, but fortunately a smaller one. School is a fairly normal place now apart from a few key differences that are in place to keep your child and our staff safe.

Firstly, soap and hand sanitiser are available all around the school in every space people regularly use. We have encouraged parents to drop off and pick up their children at the gate. This is as much about helping you to avoid the inconvenience of signing in everywhere at school as it is to minimise the number of people on the school site. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of those parents who have been observing social distancing when dropping their child at the front gate. It is great to see everyone still doing their bit to beat COVID-19.

Our class programmes look a little bit different at the moment. It will be a little like the start of a year as we transition our learners back into school. There will also be a major focus on wellbeing activities in class to help our learners make logical and emotional sense of what they have been through. It really has been history in the making.

Thank you for all of your support as Amisfield School has navigated its way through our various levels of lockdown, and as we try to come out the other end of all of this as successfully as we can.

## Mr Brown: Our new Room 4 teacher

Firstly, I feel privileged for the warm and supportive welcome from the school and community and thank all my colleagues and Amisfield whānau. I look forward to eventually getting to meet all of you in person.

Originally from Paisley in Scotland, I started out in media and broadcasting where I had some work in Wave FM and Pulse FM as the tech ops and sound designer. Taking that passion, I studied Music and Sonic Arts at The University of Abertay in Dundee where I earned my honours Degree and met my now wife whom studied at the School of Arts.

We both set out and taught as English Teachers in South Korea before moving to Aotearoa and training at The University of Canterbury in Christchurch in the Graduate Diploma in Teaching and learning, graduating in December 2019.

I have a passion for music, sound design, media and the creative arts. Further I am looking forward to using all my training and expertise in the classroom to help bring out the best in our modern learners.

Ngā mihi nui.  
Cameron Brown

## Bike Track

Over Alert Level 3, Southstar Trails were able to work on a new bike track for our school and also tidied up the existing track. At this stage, we are planning on using these as junior and senior bike tracks to allow riders of all ages to ride comfortably and confidently.

There are still a few minor pieces of work to complete before we can open the new bike track, and we are looking forward to having it become a well-used and much enjoyed part of what we do here at Amisfield School.

I want to take this time to thank Rebecca Stevens for taking a lead role on this project along with former staff member, Gennie McCloskey. It is their work and commitment that have made this bike track possible.

