



Wilson School

*Me Mahi Tahi Tatou Mo Te Oranga O Te Katoa
We work together for the well-being of everyone*

Newsletter Term 2, 2020

Message from the Board



Welcome to our families, students and staff to term 2.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank all students' families and caregivers, and the staff for approaching the lockdown with patience and flexibility. It has been a challenging time for everybody, especially as remote learning is not easily accomplished with our students. It is fantastic that many students and staff can now return to physically attending school and hopefully it won't be too long before education life can return to a more normal state for all of us.

Since before the beginning of lockdown our acting Principal, Rosemary Jenkins has dealt with continual updates and instructions from the Ministry of Education, and each day she has proceeded with a calm and practical approach. We are very appreciative for Rosemary acting as Principal since the beginning of the year and leading the school through the COVID challenges.

I am delighted to welcome Neil Kefford as our new Principal who joined us from a Hawkes Bay special needs school. Coincidentally he started on 18th May, the day the school opened for students to attend in Level 2. Neil has a wealth of experience working in and managing schools similar to Wilson School, so we are lucky to have attracted him back to Auckland. Please introduce yourself to Neil when you can.

Greg Davey
Wilson School Board of Trustees Chairperson



Principal's Message – Term 2

Kia ora koutou

I would like to introduce myself as the new Principal at Wilson School. I've received a warm welcome from the students and staff team here and am very much looking forward to building relationships with the whole school community over time. I have a background of supporting students with a range of needs and have leadership experience from special schools in New Zealand and the UK. My move to Wilson School comes from Napier, I was very pleased that the alert level was reduced just in time allowing me to travel and be at school when it reopened.

It was wonderful seeing the students return to school last week, staff were greeted with lots of smiles and excitement. I'm very impressed to see how the Wilson Team have embraced the Level 2 recommendations and have made sure our classrooms were ready for everyone to return.

Rosemary and I met with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education last week. They provided very clear communication and guidance to schools throughout lockdown, that has continued now school has reopened. The main messages from the meeting were -

- There is no evidence of community transmission of Covid-19 in NZ.
- Covid-19 is droplet spread, avoid face-to-face interaction if physical distancing is not possible.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Wash your hands regularly, using soap for at least 20 seconds.

It was comforting to hear that doctors will continue to keep Covid testing as a priority, especially when the patient reports symptoms linked to the virus, eg coughing or a sore throat. I suspect that Covid tests will form part of our 'normal' routine and everyday life for some time to come.

Due to the extended period of time everyone was out of school for, we have decided to postpone the teacher only day originally planned for Tuesday 2nd June. This will be moved to later in the year.

I look forward to meeting you all in the near future, if there is anything you need please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi

Neil



Term Dates for 2020

Term 2: Ends - Friday 3 July

Term 3: Monday 20th July – Friday 25th September

Term 4: Monday 12th October – Monday 14th December

Dates for Term 2

Tuesday 30th June – Board Meeting 7.00pm

Monday 1st June – Queen's Birthday – School Closed

Tuesday 2nd June – Teacher Only Day – **Postponed** – School Open

School Transport

It is the parent/caregiver's responsibility to secure car seats into the vehicle, buckle children into their seats and to receive the child at the end of the day. Drivers contracts state that they are not allowed to buckle the children in, so please support them by doing this each day. It is important that there is an adult at home when the child arrives from school. For safety purposes the driver **may not leave** the van as there are other students needing supervision.

Any change of address needs at least 10 days notification before the necessary changes can be actioned, make sure you contact the school well in advance.

Call Sue Purnell at the office or email her - suepur@wilson.school.nz if you have any changes, issues or concerns regarding transportation.

Wilson School Outreach Service

The Wilson School Outreach Service welcomes two new team members to support the service, Sam and Victoria. We have been busy supporting 10 schools and 17 ORS funded students in the mainstream setting. The schools have been very welcoming.

We work collaboratively with schools to assist on raising achievement, engagement, learning and citizenship opportunities. We were very involved with the various schools' teams during the recent events. We provided distant learning support as part of the school teams response, which was much appreciated by schools and families.

The Outreach Service looks forward to another supportive term working alongside our mainstream colleagues.

Joanne, Sam and Victoria
Wilson School Outreach Teachers



Wilson School Therapy Team

The power of video.....

During Covid-19 levels 4 and 3, the therapy team needed to look at different ways of providing support and engaging with teachers, students and whanau. I asked members of the therapy team to give some feedback on how they used video during lock down. Here are some of their comments, the ways we used video as a team and what we have learned during the process:

"In light of the COVID-19 crisis, I found myself researching how best to support our students through video conferencing also known as telehealth, and actively working to adapt my practice to meet the needs of students and their families in the quickly changing face of education." Angela OT

"The greatest power of video for me was the opportunity to see videos of the Zoom shared reading sessions I was able to get some insight into the students' home life, which was great..." Susie SLT

"... for me, the greatest benefit of video is promoting engagement and dialogue with families" Adrian OT

"I found it an effective way of working together with the teacher and caregivers, to share ideas and experiences, and support opportunities to work towards the students learning goals, in their home environments" Ange OT

"It challenged me to come up with creative ways to work with families and class teams. I learnt how to use Sway to share longer videos with families and how to put shorter clips onto seesaw". Laura SLT

"The videoing worked in two ways. We had a parent send us a video clip of a student using her walking frame and switches at home..... it's a great way for parents to contact us to explain what they see and then ask questions. Dermot PT



We have learnt that

- Using video clips can be a powerful way of sharing what we do with Whanau and how we work with their children.
- Videos can be used for joint planning and goal setting, enabling us to work together as a team to plan next steps and identify any support that is needed .
- Our students often engage differently with this media than face to face. It is possible to engage with our students via the mode of video even those who are non-verbal communicators.
- Using videos can be fun.
- Videos can be used as a basis for training. They can be used to show how to use equipment or therapy techniques with no need to provide detailed written instructions.
- Demonstrating the use of AAC/equipment and activities to support home learning can be shared via Sway and Seesaw with parents . Often parents are not able to come into class to see what we do and modelling on video to show how we work with students could give families information and ideas.

Room 1 - New Entrants

The new entrants settled in quickly at Wilson School and adjusted well to the new routine. They enjoy all the various activities set out for them daily.



Room 2

It has been a tricky few months but we have all managed to stay safe and keep others safe, which meant we got our lovely students back in to class as soon as possible. It was great seeing everyone's smiley faces on Monday. I know it was tricky being a teacher and parent at home with the work that was sent out and I am grateful to all of you that tried this work and activities with your child. We have started well this term and we have already started getting back to work and doing some fun lessons.



We can't wait for more lessons at school and for everything to go back to normal.

Room 3

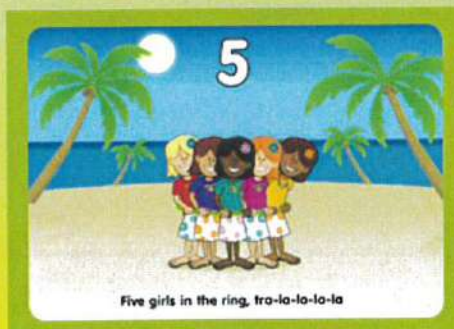
Room 3 students had a busy first term engaging in learning about our water topic. This topic carried over into our home learning during the lockdown. While staying at home was fun, many of our students were eager to get back into their school routine and see their friends again. Below are some photos from our very active first term.



Room 4
We enjoy using
HelpKidzLearn
on the internet.



We like the song
Five Girls in the Ring: we
all have our own hoops.



We make a choice from two photo
choices. At each pause of the activity we
decide if we would like more or stop. We
are learning to recognise the symbols on
the core-board.



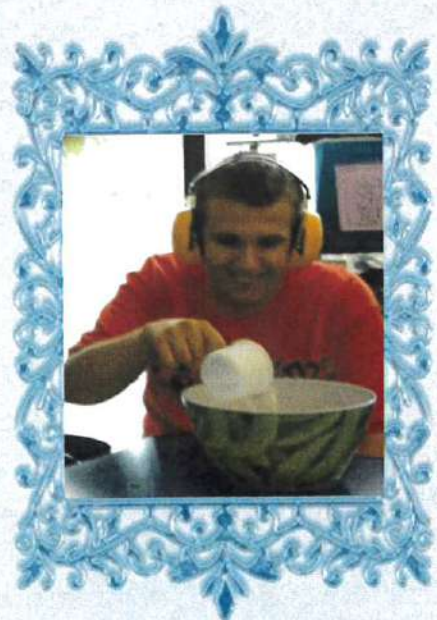
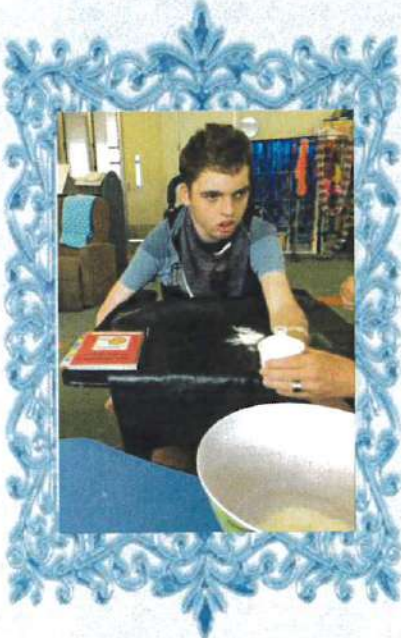
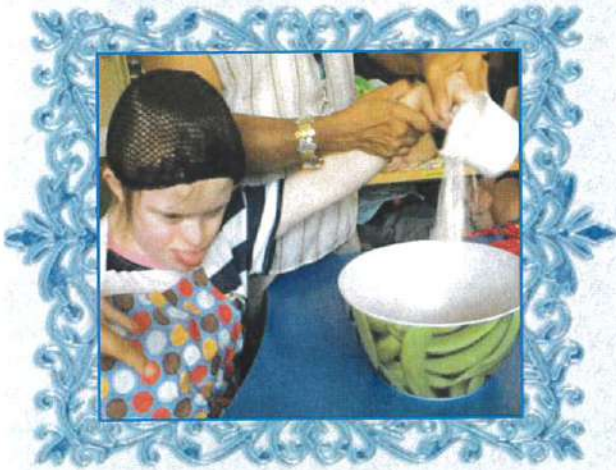
Room 5

During Term 1 we learned about caring for our world and each other. We are all still practicing taking care of each other by staying home until we are sure it is safe to come back to school.





Rangatahi Room 6



BAYSWATER 1: Successful Home Learning Programme



The class has actively participated in our 'Zoom Online Learning Programme' which includes 1:1 teaching, music and sensory play. The kids are very excited to be back at school!

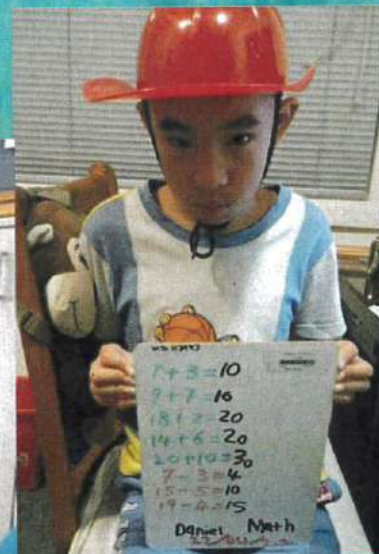
Collaborative Learning on the first week of school! ☺



Bayswater 2



Room 2 have enjoyed a rich variety of activities over the past weeks both at home and school. All the children made lots of art, craft creations and cooking – pancakes being a favourite!



Windy Ridge 1

We love being back at school and seeing our friends in class again.



Windy Ridge 2

Term 2/2020

We, the staff experienced the most precious moments when opening the taxi doors on Monday morning at school and immediately being greeted by smiles of happy students. The students explored every corner of the class, very happy to see their friends, the staff and favourite play activities. We miss Yassin who will join us soon when it is safe.



Manuka 15



Term 2 started with us learning at home. A highlight was our Zoom Scavenger Hunt.



Back at school we were greeted by a friendly cat and lots of autumn leaves!



The leaves and the cat helped us with our learning in Art, Literacy and Maths.



Manuka 16
We love school
We love learning
We love being with
our friends
We are proud of our
achievements



Albany Junior Satellite 15

We are so excited and happy to be back with our friends!



Sharing is Caring!



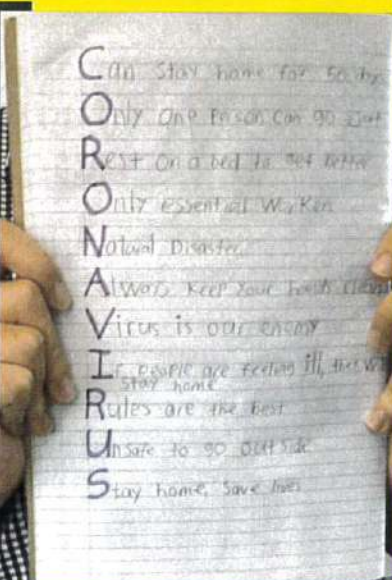
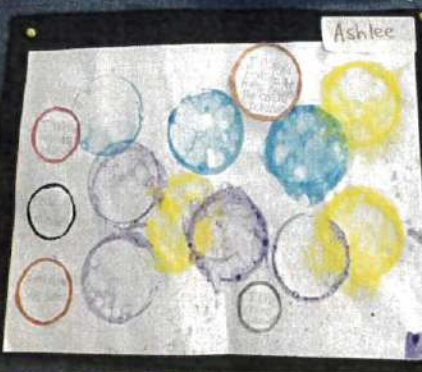
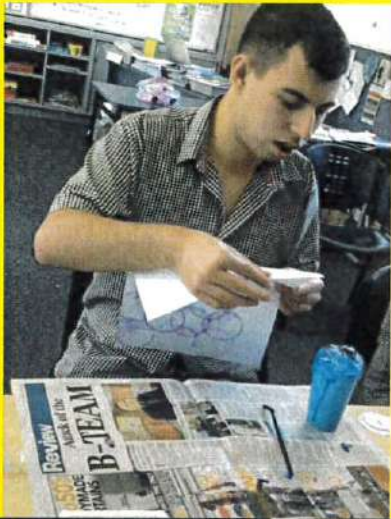
Albany Junior Satellite 16



Three of our students celebrated birthdays in lockdown ... so we had a big party when we got back to school!



College Junior



Glenfield College Junior students were all really excited to be back at school. Corey, Ashlee and Sophia made bubble art last week which was lots of fun and we also wrote acrostic poems about the Corona virus lockdown. Grace joined us this week and is loving doing her study-ladder questions on the computer.

College Junior Transition



**When we're
having fun it
makes learning
fun.**



**We are truly grateful
for our great
friendships in our class**



**Exploring new
horizons within our
school**



**Home school jam
session**



College Transition Class

Students and teachers alike were so excited to catch up again on the first Monday back at school. There were many laughs and new experiences as we got used to a programme based in our class 'bubble'.

We got started with making collage plastic elephants. We started by tearing up small pieces of coloured paper for our collage.



Shohrab and Joshua



Marcus



Atawhai



Aidan



Ted



Levi

