



JCHS School Newsletter

Wednesday 10th February 2021

Kia ora and Greetings,

Haere mai, Welcome

Welcome to the start of the 2021 school year. The year has got off to a great start.

Our school is fully staffed and we have welcomed 16 new Teachers to our staff, from over 150 Teachers who applied to work with us.

Our senior students have been coming in over the last 2 weeks following up on the NCEA results and confirming their courses for the year.

Last week we welcomed our Year 9 students, their whānau and new staff at our pōwhiri, which was an amazing way to start our year.

This week, the whole school is on-site and timetabled classes are underway.

In this the first newsletter for the year, I am including a range of things that we believe are important to share with our families.

These are in no particular order, but will hopefully give you a good understanding about the year and the term ahead.

Nau mai, Haere mai, Welcome.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, welcome to the start of another new year. Welcome to the students, whānau, and staff members joining us for the first time, and welcome back to those joining us again.

Our Board of Trustees is pleased with the directions that our school is taking, and the awesome progress we are making. We are also proud of the collegial and collaborative relationship we have with our staff, and that they have with each other.

2021 is going to be an exciting year (but hopefully not too much so). Our Board meets on the last Thursday of every month, and you are always welcome to attend.

No doubt we will see and meet many of you at school events during the year.

Nga mihi,
Waru Clark
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Ngā Mihi



Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tihei mauri ora!

Ko Aoraki te māuka
Ko Takutimu te awa
Ko Takutimu te waka
Ko Te Anau tōku tīpuna
Ko Kāi Tahu tōku iwi
Ko Awarua tōku Rūnaka
Ko Te Rau Aroha tōku marae
Ko Waitaha ahau
Ko Grant McMillan tōku ikoa
Ko Tumuaki tōku mahi

Nau mai haere mai ki te whānau o te
Kura Tuarua o James Cook,
Tenā koutou katoa.

Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a
sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious
day.

The mountain that I affiliate to is Aoraki
Mt Cook
The river that I affiliate to is Takutimu
The waka that I affiliate to is Takutimu
My ancestor is Te Anau
My Iwi is Kāi Tahu
My Rūnanga is Awarua
My marae is Te Rau Aroha
I am from Canterbury
My name is Grant McMillan
I serve as your Tumuaki•Principal

Welcome all to the family of James Cook
High School.

Last Year

2020 was a challenging year with all of the interruptions of Covid and lockdowns. Looking back, and after talking with other Principals, I am proud of how our school, (especially our staff and students) responded to everything that happened.

It was a challenging year, but it was also a great year for our school with some very significant successes.

Our school was given a Limited Statutory Manager (LSM) in 2017, and in October last year the LSM was removed, because our school doesn't need this support anymore.

We started our new **JC Junior Diplomas** in Years 9 and Year 10. This has been hugely successful and our students achieved in these higher than we had imagined.

Our 2020 year ended on two very positive notes.

In December we received a **Congratulations Letter** from both the Chief Executive of the Education Review Office (ERO) and the Secretary for Education congratulating us for the progress we have achieved as a school. A copy of this letter is on our website.

A few days ago, we received our interim **NCEA results** for last year. These are very pleasing.

In 2017 our staff and Board set some very challenging targets for NCEA for the future, and made significant changes to how we did things.

Our initial targets were for our students to achieve in NCEA at the same level or better than:

- Target 1: Other schools like ours, then
- Target 2: The other third of NZ schools similar to us, then
- Target 3: The national average for all NZ secondary schools.

Covid-19 interrupted learning a lot last year, and in August we decided to focus mostly on NCEA Levels 2 and 3. Our Level 1 achievement was pleasing, being similar to the year before (2019).

I am thrilled to report that our school's achievement in Level 2 NCEA increased again in 2020, and is almost at the same level as our "target 2". However, our overall Level 3 NCEA achievement is almost at the national average for all NZ secondary schools! Well above our first two targets.

Our Board of Trustees formally congratulated our staff, students and whānau at their meeting in January, and I am very proud of what our people have achieved with our students.

We will report back more fully on our NCEA later this term, after NZQA have confirmed our results.

The First 8 Weeks

We are placing a lot of emphasis on the next 8 weeks.

Focussing on routines, expectations, communication and student engagement, because the start of the year provides the foundation for the rest of the year.

One of the simple things that you might hear is our expectation that everyone is "in class, on-time, and ready to learn".



Tumuaki-Principal's "Office Evenings"

Knowing how important the start of the year is, for the rest of this term I will be at school in the office **every Monday evening from 5 to 7pm.**

Please feel free to pop in if you wish to – you don't need an appointment.

Please come to the front door of the school office.

Please help your child to be here at school by 8:30am each day, and 9:30am on Wednesdays.

Classes start at 8:40am every day, except Wednesday when they start at 9:40am. The habits formed at school, like being early or on time, also help them later in life, including in the workplace.

Enrolments

By now all our students should be enrolled in school and in classes learning.

If you have whānau or neighbours who have a child who should be at school, please encourage or help them to come in to enrol.

We are also offering a Year 14 option for those students who may need to complete some additional Level 3 courses for their next steps.

This year, the Māori Wardens from Manurewa Marae are also helping us to make sure that no young person is out of school. Please help them if you see them.

Every day of learning is important.

Changes to School Timetable

We have changed our school timetable to support our involvement in the new School Lunches Programme (see below).

The school day still starts at 8:40am (except for Wednesdays which start at 9:40am), ends at 3pm and interval and lunchtimes remain unchanged.

However, the day now starts with periods 1 and 2, and then Tutor Time (also called registration time) then interval.

Please support your child to be at school by 8:30am each day, and by 9:30am on a Wednesday, so they are ready for class.

Kai in School

Late last year our school joined a new programme which means that every student will get a nutritious lunch-meal every day. There is **no cost** to families or our school for this.

Our school has been supported by KidsCan for the last few years, and the most popular time for our students to eat was at interval (11am), which made sense as it was in the middle of the learning day, and if students had skipped breakfast.

We have changed our timetable so all students will meet with their Tutor Teacher just before interval at 11am, share kai together and whakawhanaungatanga. Then go to interval.

The kai is provided by a commercial catering company who are paid by the Ministry of Education (Ministry) to provide the food, deliver it, and take away all of the rubbish, etc.

We know that some of our students have different dietary needs. So, all of the kai provided is halal, with vegetarian and gluten-free options also available every day.

Each day the menu is different, so your child shouldn't get bored with the food. Some days they might try things that are new to them.

If there is surplus food, this is given to students who want it from our canteen at lunchtime. Any surplus after this is given to local community groups.

We had our first kai delivered last week. We, staff and students, were impressed with the quality and presentation of the food.



Because a lunch-meal is now provided by the Ministry we will have less need for KidsCan kai, and we are no longer selling food at the canteen.

Thank you to both DeeJays and KidsCan for their support over the last few years.

We know that this may not suit all students and that some students will still bring their own kai to school with them, which is fine. If you have any questions please contact us.

Communication

Our website is probably the best place to look for information, including all school newsletters, calendar, and links to other useful websites (e.g. information about NCEA).

Our FaceBook page is updated regularly, and will highlight current events and student successes.

We send home school newsletters throughout the term, and your child will also be given notices from the teachers from time to time about school activities.

Or, if you are unsure, please just call in to our Office; message us on facebook or Instagram; or phone (09 268 3950) and ask.

Phone: 09 268 3950

Website:
www.jchs.school.nz

Email:
admin@jchs.school.nz

Facebook: James Cook High School

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/jameschs2020/

School Stationery

Our school sells stationery packs for \$10. These can be purchased through the office before 9am each morning, and after 9am from the LCR during the day.

Coming Events

JCHS Athletics, Friday 19th February (Next Friday)

This is the first major inter-house event for the year, and is also important for selecting students to compete at the Counties-Manukau inter-school competitions later this term.

Your child will receive information about this later this week.

Year 9 Settling-In Reports and Meet-the-Teacher

Soon after the start of the year we send a brief written report home to let whanau of our Year 9 students know how they are settling into school, followed by an evening for where parents and caregivers can meet their child's teachers.

These reports will be issued on Friday 5th March, and the Meet-the-Teacher evening will be in Thursday 11th March. More details of this will also be sent home soon with our Year 9 students.

ASB PolyFest 2020, 14-17 April at the Manukau Sports Bowl

We have just been advised of the new dates for PolyFest this year. Which will be most welcome, after two years of interruption.

Our school is again sharing the lead (Kura Matua) with Kia Aroha College for the Māori stage, and we are the lead school (Mana Kura) for the Tongan stage.

Students will soon be asked to join groups, which is a fabulous opportunity to share their own, or another culture's performing arts, get to know other students, and perform in the Southern Hemisphere's biggest cultural event.

Nga mihi, Kind regards,



Grant McMillan

Tumuaki • Principal 09 268 3954 or principal@jchs.school.nz