



Adventure School

13 April 2022

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā

This is a non - newsletter week but I thought I would sign off for the term by - on behalf of our staff - offering a very sincere thank you to the parent community for the way you have helped us navigate this term.

There has been a lot of hand wringing in the education sector about how tough it has been for schools and how we would manage during the Omicron onslaught. Well we recognise that it has been tough for everyone. Some families have had a really hard time managing isolation and illness, often more than once and at the same time trying to manage household, work and school commitments.

When I reflect on the term, it is school culture, the nature of the environment and team spirit that always shines through. The Ministry can send out as many notifications and protocols and guidelines as they like but it is the commitment of your people that trumps all. This is driven from the top. We have a Board that never pressed the panic button, never for example wavered in their support of the Year 7-8 camp, when so many schools were cancelling outdoor education activities. They have been unbending in their support of senior management's ability to make management decisions'. The PTNi is mobilising for some big environmental upgrade projects and a big Wheels on Whitby event in early 2023. These are the wonderful Whitby people who lead our school and are totally representative of our community. It's not lost on me that three quarters of our staff are Whitby people and Whitby parents.

The whole staff has been magnificent. Never catastrophising, never moaning, just getting on with whatever each day presented. We have had a good time and it has been an enjoyable term. School terms don't become horrible just because things get hard at times.

Lastly to our whānau. I can't speak highly enough of the support, consideration and tolerance the community has shown our school. As an example, when we opened the gates, took down the signs, nearly three weeks ago now, we were not overrun. Parents can access the school now but many have chosen to continue waiting outside. Whatever the anxieties and difficulties our parents have been subject to, none have unfairly visited them on staff. That is very cool and for this I thank you.

John Wootton

Principal

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.