

## Principal Update - 17th September 2021

Dear parents and caregivers

Apologies for the lengthy newsletter today but there is a lot of information and news to share.

Today the Minister of Education has confirmed that the school holidays will not be changed, therefore the school **holidays will begin on Saturday 2nd October**. We understand that for many parents it may be difficult to understand the reasons behind this decision, so I have included the statement from the Minister of Education directly.

*"I've carefully considered advice on the implications of shifting the dates and concluded that on balance, maintaining the status quo is the best course of action," Hipkins said in a statement. The decision wasn't straightforward, he added, saying he was aware of the added pressure on parents and families. "But as education minister, my primary concern has to be the effects on children's education and wellbeing and on the good running of our schools," he said.*

*"Keeping the holidays as they are will avoid disrupting the plans already in place for students, families and educators, including curriculum and activity planning and families planning their holidays, and will reduce anxiety."*

*It also means no extension to term four, said Hipkins, when fatigue is already at its highest among students. "It has the added advantage of there being higher vaccination levels among students aged 12 and over when they return to the classroom, which principals have advised is important for student mental health and wellbeing."*

Once Monday's official announcement confirms Auckland is moving to Level 3, we will immediately communicate further arrangements with you. Schools are **essentially closed at Alert Level 3** with the exception of those few children whose parents and carers must go to work at Level 3, and there is no appropriate caregiver at home. Your family bubble can be cautiously extended to include a caregiver if necessary. Due to the additional safety requirements for schools under Level 3 this time, supervision can only be offered in bubbles of 10, with strict separation of each bubble. There is no expectation that these students need to continue both bubble school activities and their class online learning. The supervision staff will be running separate programmes, allowing our teachers to continue working from home, and current online classes running as normal for the rest of the school.

Thanks to those families who have confirmed (via the link) that their children will require supervision when we move to Level 3, as the registrations are critical as we have very limited supervision. **The link is now closed**. If there has been any change in circumstances please email [lelder@albany.school.nz](mailto:lelder@albany.school.nz) directly. We will be in touch with you to confirm details once we have received confirmation of the change of levels.

Please note there are no lunches or before and after school care available under Level 3 conditions.

The staff are continuing to readjust events that may have already been missed this term or may need modification going forward depending on Alert Levels. We will keep you informed as as soon as possible depending on Level notifications. One such event was our previously planned Dances in Schools, which we are delighted to confirm has now been offered in an online format. Please see the letter below for details and payment options.

While the next few weeks will present their own challenges we remain optimistic that despite Level 4 thanks to the efforts of all staff and your wonderful support in our partnership with you in your child's learning, that all is not negative for our learners. I was sent this wonderful reminder from a fellow colleague about the power of life learning (not just a classroom).

### **What If Instead Of Being Behind These Kids Are Ahead after Lockdown Life?**

- *What if, instead of falling behind, our kids are advanced?*
- *What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read and express themselves in writing?*
- *What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyards and balconies, sitting near a window in the quiet?*

- What if they notice the birds and the dates and different flowers emerge and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?
- What if our kids are the ones to learn to cook, organise their space, do their laundry and help keep a well run home?
- What if they learn to stretch a dollar and live with less?
- What if they learn to plan shopping trips and make meals at home?
- What if they learn the difference between want and need?
- What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good in sharing the small delights of every day?
- What if they are the ones who place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, healthcare workers... just to name a few who are taking care of us right now while we are sheltered at home?
- What if among these children a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and simpler life to truly learn what really matters in life?

**What if our kids are ahead?- Jaime Ragsdale**

I have witnessed so many of these beautiful examples of your child and family sharing these “ahead” special moments of learning together. Just this morning a teacher shared an example of her class “Thoughtful Thursday to thank people who were special to us.” Thank you Akiyoshi for remembering those essential workers who have worked tirelessly to support us all, so that Aoteroa remains safe and well, and the virus is contained once again.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Bathurst





**ALBANY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Where learning makes a difference...*

## Dances for School – Dance Curriculum

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

As we continue to explore our Term 3 Inquiry concept about ‘Discovery,’ we are excited to share that we have been able to reschedule our international dance instructor Dean from the Dance Curriculum to provide 8 lessons for each class, over the next two weeks. Lesson will be held live using the links below and recorded for teachers and students at Albany to revisit once we are all back at school in person.

Dance Curriculum provides a world-class dance curriculum to Primary Schools around the world, delivered by male role-models. You can find out more about the Dance Curriculum on [www.dancecurriculum.com.au](http://www.dancecurriculum.com.au) and you may want to join in as a family as the music and dance moves are very addictive!

As the planned ‘Dances for School’ experience will not be able to happen onsite at Albany School under Level 2, 3 or 4 we have managed to negotiate a reduction from \$15.00 per child to \$8.00 per child. We value your contribution which supports these types of experience to be able to occur. If you have not made your child’s activity contribution for this year, the cost of the event will be \$8.00.

Electronic payments can be made to:

12-3107-0043717-00. For our bank statement. Please state your child’s first initial and last name, year level and Dances for School as the reference (e.g. F. Smith Y1 Dances for School)

Kind regards,  
Class Teachers

### Timetable:

<b>Times Week 9</b>	Monday 20th	Tuesday 21st	Wednesday 22nd	Thursday 23rd	Friday 24th
12pm-12:40pm	Seniors	No dance	Seniors	Seniors	Seniors
12:50-1:30pm	Juniors		Juniors	Juniors	Juniors
1:40pm-2:20pm	Middles		Middles	Middles	Middles

<b>Times Week 10</b>	Monday 27th	Tuesday 28th	Wednesday 29th	Thursday 30th	Friday 1st
12pm-12:40pm	Seniors	No dance	Seniors	Seniors	Seniors
12:50-1:30pm	Juniors		Juniors	Juniors	Juniors
1:40pm-2:20pm	Middles		Middles	Middles	Middles

### Links to sessions:

SENIORS: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82386597046>

JUNIORS: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81594583239>

MIDDLES: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84482860325>