



**PORT AHURIRI  
SCHOOL**

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## No 21: 19 October 2021

Dear Parents & Caregivers

**Tēnā koutou te hunga pānui o tō tātou hāpori.**

**Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa**

Welcome back everyone to Term Four. This is a rocket ship of a term with plenty happening and very little time to do it in.

However, there is one thing at this stage that cannot continue under Alert Level Two. It is with absolute disappointment that I have to let you know that we need to postpone our production once again and will be unable to do it this year. There are a number of reasons but the main one is that by sticking to the Alert Level Two restrictions at the Municipal Theatre we would only be able to have an audience of approximately 380 people over the two nights (we usually have over 1,200). This means that we would not come anywhere close to covering the \$14,000 costs involved and also it would be a very lackluster performance with such an empty audience. The Municipal Theatre staff have been outstanding, and we would like to publicly acknowledge them, in trying to help us make this happen this year but they are restricted by the numbers they can have under the current alert level.

We have talked over a range of different possibilities and decided that we will try to rebook the Municipal Theatre for Term Three 2022. As you can understand, the year 6 leads will be absolutely gutted along with the key staff of Emma and Colleen who have put so much work into the show so far. If your child has paid for a t-shirt, we will reissue their shirt to them next year. If you would like a refund, please let the office know.

Further, we will be unable to hold a final assembly this year, for the same reasons as Production being cancelled. My understanding is that Aoraki Hub are in the planning stages of an event for the year 6 students only, which depending on numbers, should be able to go ahead.

Sorry everyone, I know this is not the outcome we were all hoping for, and I just want to thank all the staff and parents for the time and work you have put in so far - this is a crazy old world we are living in at the moment and I appreciate the way you all ride the roller coaster with positivity.

Last week an education mandate was announced by the Ministry of Education. It requires that all staff and workers who may have contact with children in schools throughout the country (regardless of COVID-19 Alert Level) will be required to have a **first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by 15 November** and be fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022. This is mandatory and proof of vaccine status will be required. However, this doesn't just apply to teachers. It also applies to volunteers and parents who are spending time in forward facing positions with children. From 1 January 2022, education

services can only allow those that are fully vaccinated to provide onsite services during opening hours. Vaccinations will be mandatory for all those working onsite including teachers, relief teachers, casual staff, administration staff, caretakers, cleaners, OSCAR providers and hostel staff – whether direct employees or employees of a contractor. It also applies to unpaid workers, such as volunteers (including parent volunteers) and any members of the community who are on site at the school, as they are likely to come into contact with students. This involves; parents on school camp, backstage parents at production, parents on trips and outings such as Optimist Yachting, sports coaching and parents at Ocean Spa, should all/some of these events occur this year.

The vaccination requirement does not apply to parents or whānau undertaking student pick-ups and drop-offs, but the requirement is that these should be conducted in an outdoor environment where face coverings must be worn, and physical distancing measures retained. We are waiting on the Public Health Order around this mandate, but it may be that parents wanting to come into classes will need to provide proof of vaccination status. There is more information yet to come.

### Important Dates / School Events

22-26 Nov	School Camp Week
29 – 3 Dec	Optimist Yachting
14 December	Last school day of the year

### Koina ngā kōrero mo tēnei wā

**Kia pai ō koutou wiki**

**Nāku nā**

*Glenn*

### New Enrolments

A warm welcome to: Max MacPhail, Pippa Jensen, Ivy Mio and Skye O'Keefe who have started school with us. We hope you enjoy your school days at Port Ahuriri.



### School Photos

This year photographs will be available for you to view and order OnLine with PhotoLife Studios.

Your son or daughter will shortly bring home an OnLine slip with their unique Access Key detailed on it. This Access Key will display all the photographs of your child. It is then an easy process for you to shop on-line and purchase the photographs you want.

If you place your order within two weeks of receiving your Access Key you will receive free delivery for your photo orders. PhotoLife has agreed to despatch all the orders back to the school and your child will bring their photographs home.

Any orders placed after this two-week period will be sent directly to your specified delivery address and will incur a \$6.00 Postage & Packing charge. You will see this message when you go Online to view and order your photographs.