

April 20th, 2023

Kia Ora Koutou, Kia Orana, and Warmest Greetings to you all,

We hope this update finds you and your families all well rested and enjoying the holiday break. We would like to warmly welcome any student who would like to join us to represent our school at the ANZAC ceremonies this year. We will be represented at the Dawn Service and the Civic Service later in the day. We ask students to wear their school uniforms if they are keen to be part of our school group on ANZAC day, 25th of April. If you are attending the Dawn Service, you will meet at Triangle Timber at 5.50 am, and then march to the Tokoroa Club. The Civic Parade will form up at the Tokoroa Indoor Swimming Pools at 8.45 am, marching to the front of SWDC building. Lest We Forget - Kei Wareware Tātou.

A reminder that Term 2 will begin on Wednesday 26th of April, 2023. We are going to make this day a Tuesday timetable. Students will need to bring the equipment they require for their Tuesday classes. Thursday and Friday will be classes as usual.

Important dates this term:

- NCEA Ma le aiga evening 27th of April 6pm to 7:30pm in the staffroom all welcome
- Filipino Language Week May 1 to May 5
- NZ Sign Language Week May 8 to May 12
- Tokoroa Whakawhanaungatanga Hui 1 May all welcome
- Whakamaru and Mangakino Whakawhanaungatanga Hui 8 May all welcome
- School Cross Country and Colour Run 10 May
- Proposed Strike day 11 May
- Staff only day 16 May
- Student / Teacher / Whanau Learning conferences: 22 and 23 May (3:15pm to 4:30) and 24 May from 8:30 to 4:30pm.
- Dress in Red Mufti Day Thursday 25 May Gold Coin Donation for the Westpac Helicopter Trust
- Waikato University Open Day 26 May
- Samoan Language Week 29 May to 2 June
- NCEA Staff only day (combined with Putaruru College and the RTLB service) 2 June
- Gateway 1st Aid Course 8 and 9 June
- Attitude Presentations 15 June
- Careers Expo 19 June
- Assessment Catch up session 28 June

Please remember that our school calendar is accessible through our website or through the Kamar app. If you require a log on or help logging in to the App please contact your child's Kaitiaki. We aim to limit changes to the school calendar as much as possible but these are often inevitable - please keep an eye on this for our most up to date list of all events.

Uniform:

A reminder that all students need to be in their correct uniform each school day. We have worked hard over the last term to ensure that students follow our school uniform rules. Any items of clothing - hats, jackets, hoodies, etc that students arrive at school wearing are confiscated for the day or week and locked up in a secure area of our admin block. These are all named. Students are to come and collect these at the end of the day.

We appreciate that there will be times that uniforms are wet, lost or damaged - please write a note to support this and we will see how we can make some arrangements to help students. Students must wear plain black shoes or sandals. Jandals, gumboots, random hoodies, caps are all not part of our school uniform and cannot be worn to school.

Our uniform shop is open each morning at 8:45am. We have a full range of items in our shop. If your child is in need of a second hand uniform or you have issues purchasing items please let our staff know and we will do our best to help you.

If you have any spare uniform items you no longer need or your child cannot fit - we would encourage you to donate these to our school. We reuse these items for students in need of uniforms.

Student Behaviour:

Last term we experienced the worst student behaviour we have had for many years. There were 14 suspensions and 8 stand downs. Our Senior Team were saddened by this behaviour which wasted lots of time and also created a feeling of unrest in our school. Suspensions were for the following behaviours which we cannot and will not tolerate at our school:

- Fighting
- Being under the influence of drugs
- Bringing drugs to school
- Continual disobedience
- Threatening behaviour to other students

Suspensions are for behaviours which our school will not accept which are dangerous to the student, other students or a dangerous example to others. Every case for suspension is based on its own merits and circumstances.

Students can be stood down from school for 5 days in one term and 10 days in a year. Further days will result in an automatic suspension. A stand down means students will remain home for a period of time from 1 day to 5 days. The school Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the length and reasons for Stand downs. Suspensions are the most serious consequence we are able to hand out as a school. A suspension means that the student and their support people will meet with three Board of Trustees members. The Board members are responsible for the decision about whether students can return to school and what conditions (if any) will be part of this return. Last term two of the students who were suspended were excluded from our school. We also had to trespass two adults from our school for inappropriate behaviour and access to our school.

This behaviour last term was very tiring and goes against our values of being Courageous, Connected and a Community. We calculated that the students we had to deal with for this kind of anti-social behaviour were only 5% of our school population. This is less than 30 students.

We are sticking to our rules and ensuring that we follow our processes to deal with behaviour. We have also reached out to the Ministry of Education for further support and advice. There was an acknowledgement from our Advisors that student behaviour has been of an unacceptable standard across the country. We have decided that we need to focus on the positive behaviours of our students, which is for the remaining 430 students in our school, and focus more on what we would like to see in our school. Information regarding this follows below.

One of the things we will be doing is to not immediately waste all of the time of our Senior Leaders in our school who all have large important portfolios as part of their jobs. Students will instead be sent home according to the correct and relevant Sections of the Education Act until we can schedule in meetings. Their attendance will be marked appropriately and they will have access to google classrooms for learning.

The most disappointing thing with many of these incidents is they have nothing to do with school but are brought into school by students insisting on making trouble. The root cause so often is Social Media and the inappropriate use of group chats and posts which inflame situations. We would ask that you speak to your child about appropriate social media use. At any time they are able to block people they do not want to be friends with and they are also able to change settings on their accounts so they are private, they can also change the way they use social media and they need to remember that once things are posted (even in private chats) they are always able to be copied and shared.

You may want to view Netsafe or encourage your child to view netsafe. There is practical advice for all situations and age groups on this site. https://netsafe.org.nz/social-media-parents/

PPTA interruptions:

We have been given preliminary notice that the PPTA (Post Primary Teachers Association) the union which most of our teachers belong to is still in negotiations to settle their collective agreement. This already affected our school last term with the two strike days that happened. Please note that this is a collective action that is being taken by the union so our school cannot open for teaching on the strike days. We have no control over these days - there seemed to be some lack of understanding amongst some members of our community last term that we could control these days and were choosing to strike. Please be assured that our intention is to always have our students at school learning onsite.

The early notification we have received (which is yet to be confirmed - as we are all hopeful that a settlement may be reached before this is necessary is as follows):

- Continuing the relief ban from day one of term 2. (This could mean we have to roster students home or combine classes if we do not have enough staff to cover classes this is however our last resort)
- Starting a ban on meetings outside school hours (8:30-4:30 or equivalent for the individual school) from day one of term 2.
- A rolling one-day national strike in week three of term 2, with each region striking for a day as follows:

Thursday 11 May - Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Western Bay of Plenty, Central Plateau, Hauraki Coromandel, East Coast, Counties-Manukau, Auckland, Northland.

The following rostering home plan:

•	Week 2		Thursday - Year 11
•	Week 3	Tuesday - Year 12	Thursday - Year 13
•	Week 4	Tuesday - Year 9	Wednesday - Year 10
•	Week 5		Thursday - Year 11
•	Week 6	Tuesday - Year 13	Thursday - Year 12
•	Week 7	Tuesday - Year 10	Thursday - Year 9

We have scheduled these events into our school calendar but will confirm with you as soon as we are officially notified of them going ahead.

We apologise for the inconvenience this will possibly cause you and your family.

The change to the working hours for our staff will mean that we will need to alter some of the staff in attendance at our consultation meetings and also alter the time of our Student / Teacher / Whanau meetings.

Attendance:

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education (Te Mahau) has launched a major attendance strategy to improve attendance rates across the country. We can all help with this by ensuring we send our children to school every day school is open. If there are issues with finances, bullying, friendships, learning - come in and see us or make contact with us (Deputy Principals initially - Kathy McGovern kmcgovern@fvhs.school.nz or Chris Teague cteague@fvhs.school.nz) who will be able to help you.

We aim to always make our school a welcoming and fun place for students. We have lots of activities going on all the time and we always encourage students to get involved. The more involved they are the more they enjoy school and make the most of their time with us. We encourage all students to connect to their culture and language and to teach others about their language(s), cultures and values.

Sport is a great way to connect with others in the school and to keep fit and healthy. Kapa Haka and Porinetia Fa'atasi are also both ways to get involved in a cultural group. We have a choir festival this year and we also have a variety of Akoranga options to cater all needs and interests.

We are working hard on ensuring that our data in Kamar is accurate for all students' attendance. So we ask that you

All in for learning I Kia kotahi te ū ki te ako

Being engaged in learning really matters, right from a child's first days in early learning, throughout primary schooling and secondary schooling. Aotearoa New Zealand's children need every opportunity to learn, participate, and flourish by regularly attending school or kura.



please let us know if your child is absent from school and the reason why. We are working closely with the attendance service to refer students once there has been a pattern of three days of non attendance to school.

Our attendance is run through our Student Services - Acacia Jessop is likely to call you or message regarding attendance. She is working on the data in our system - please be polite if you need to contact her as she is working on the information on our system.

Information regarding the overall attendance strategy can be found here: <u>https://temahau.govt.nz/all-in-for-learning</u> The graphic below shows some interesting information about how attendance is viewed for the purposes of this project.

How we think about attendance - four categories



Welcome to new Staff members since our last update:

FVHS has been a busy place over the last term. We have employed further staff and now have a team of 15 staff directly linked to the Food in Schools team. We have increased our Teacher Aide team and employed further teachers. This all takes time and our final teacher will start at the beginning of Term 2. We are now fully staffed. We would like to officially announce the arrival of the following staff to our school whanau:

Food Team:

- Lisa Norris joins us in the Canteen team
- Kylie Taylor joins us a relief Food team member working between all three teams *Teacher Aide:*
 - Alana Tahere
 - Michelle Paterson
 - Kelly Clerke

Teachers:

- Chantel Tavai
- Karla van Eck

Admin Team:

• Francisca Martinez

Our intention is always to surround our students with people they can aspire to be, who care for them and have high expectations of them and who are role models for them. We have a really varied staff with only two staff members living outside of the South Waikato.

Some other staff changes we have happening this term:

- Norman Treasurer will be again on leave this term
- Aaron Mutua is working in a part time capacity for us for the remainder of the year. He will be in and out of the school as his portfolio requires.

Congratulations to the following staff:

• Elise Tilsley will be the Acting Head of Faculty for the Science and Technology Faculty for the remainder of the year as Chris Teague acts as Deputy Principal for the remainder of the year

- Whaea Kaia Church will be the Acting Head of Faculty of Arts and Languages for the remainder of the year as Aaron Mutua has a reduced workload for the remainder of the year.
- Jason Jowett has been appointed to an Across School Leader (ASL) position as part of our involvement in the Kahui Ako. He will be working directly with our school in his ASL position. Jason remains an Assistant Principal for our school with this important mahi added to his portfolio.

Timetable changes:

During the holidays we have had to make some substantial timetable changes for our Junior School (Year 9 and 10 students). We have kept the Senior timetable the same. The changes are a reflection of our need to employ extra staff during term 1 and also on the unexpected increased numbers of students we now have in our Junior school.

This has already resulted in us having to create extra Arataki classes across the school and to merge others. We have also had to make some changes to our Senior Team and the teaching loads given the new responsibilities some members of this team are now taking on.

The overall aim of these changes is for the following reasons:

- 1. To put more specialist teachers in front of students e.g. PE teachers teaching PE
- 2. To adequately staff an entire new class for Year 9's
- 3. To free up more teachers so we can provide a greater range of topics for Akoranga
- 4. To schedule two PE classes at the same time so we can split students into boys and girls to improve participation, particularly for our girls
- 5. To cater for our newest arriving teacher

If there has been a change of teacher for a class the teacher who taught them last term will write their reports, so they will know your child.

Please know that it is not ideal for us or for your children to alter a timetable mid year due to the difficulties in doing this. We however were left with little choice given the larger than expected numbers. We assure you that while this is a change of teachers for some students, the high standards we have for learning will remain the same with the new teachers.

If you have any concerns about the timetable changes and how these may affect your child please make contact with your child's Arataki teacher or Kaitiaki in the first instance.

Year 9 - Frank Tasi - <u>ftasi@fvhs.school.nz</u> Year 10 - Tauira Patterson-Te Maro - <u>tpatterson@fvhs.school.nz</u>

New school vans:

We have been busy this year purchasing school vans. We are now the proud owners of a new 14 seater van and a new 12 seater van. We are in the process of having these signwritten. We are grateful for the support from the Lion Foundation and Helen at Funding connection for her help with our recent funding applications.

With a growing roll and the difficulty and cost of hiring vans and buses we want to continue to ensure we have appropriate means of transport for our students to still engage in activities away from school.

Mountain bikes and custom built trailer:

We are grateful to Elise Tilsley for applying to the Tu Manawa fund for the purchase of a set of mountain bikes for the school. We were also fortunate to be able to purchase one that has been especially designed for our students in wheelchairs.

To ensure we are able to transport these bikes around we have been very fortunate to have D'Arcy Belfield build us our own custom built trailer for our bikes.

Ball:

Thanks to Kathy McGovern and our team of Year 13 ball committee students who planned and ran a very successful ball on the 1st of April. We had great weather, amazing effort from students to look amazing and a fabulous day setting up the Auditorium with our Year 13 students.

We finally had the ability to run our ball much earlier in the year which allowed us to do this when the weather was warmer. This also means our senior students can now take their focus onto their academic studies for the year.

Reports / Student / Whanau / Teacher conferences:

Reports are in the process of being written by teachers and we will be holding our Student / Teacher / Whanau Learning conferences on the following dates:

- 22nd May 3:15pm to 4:30pm
- 23 May 3:15pm to 4:30pm
- 24 May 8:30am to 4:30pm (school will be closed to students for usual classes this day)
 - Last appointment times begin at 4:15pm
 - Appointments will be necessary and will be booked online through our booking system.
 - Information about booking will be sent to you by Aaron Mutua in the next week.
 - If you require help with bookings or cannot do online bookings yourself then our admin staff will be able to make these for you.
 - If you cannot make it to see us during these times please let Aaron know. We will endeavour to make other times to meet you but cannot guarantee this with the current PPTA industrial action.

Year 12 Camp:

"Sir, where are we?" was a phrase often used during Year 12 camp as the Auckland Scavenger Hunt was back and did not disappoint as it provided many interesting learnings for our young people. The importance of knowing how to use a cellphone to guide yourself to important locations was an element of city life that our students had not experienced before. Although our students are experts at posting on social media, the simple art of asking a local for directions has not been worked on so tirelessly in recent years.

Blue skies, light winds and balmy temperatures created the forecast for the week which provided a stunning experience out at Rangitoto Island. The ferry ride was instagram worthy, however, it was met with a bit of verbal pollution by the Science teachers present as big black puffs of smoke whisked out of the ferries exhaust. Geocaching, swimming and an old fashioned walk was on offer as our students clambered over the volcanic landscape of Rangitoto. Question; do we have to go to the top? Yes, is always the answer to that question.

We thank 'Vector Wero - white water park' for having us again this year. 82% of our students had never experienced white water conditions before, and it turned out that the true wero for the day was for the teacher's. Listening to the screams of a boat full of tough teenagers going down a rapid for the first time is a challenge for the ear drums of any teacher. Rafting skills, white water swimming/floating techniques, and how to not get the teachers wet, were all lessons our students learnt during an action packed 3 hours at Vector Wero.

We usually say that our students experienced the YMCA Hostel in Auckland's CBD. But this year I think it is safe to say that the YMCA experienced us. The foreign situation of having to share accommodation facilities with travelling tourists and the general public is always a learning curve for our young people. However, our students adapted to the living conditions with interest and curiosity. The unofficial world cup of pool and table tennis were held during our stay, and also the world cup of going to sleep before 10pm. Let's just say we did better at the pool and table tennis than we did at sleeping before 10pm.

As we look forward towards the second half of 2023, we are excited for the Year 11 Ski trip that will be held at the beginning of term 3. We also have our year 10 camp occurring in September.

Changes to NCEA:

As a school we are working through the changes that have been made to NCEA. These changes are due to take effect from next year- (Level 1 now only). We have a staff only day planned for the 2nd of June where we will collaborate with Putaruru College staff as we work through what these changes will mean in practice. These staff only days are mandated by the Ministry of Education.

We have decided to be part of a pilot programme where we will trial the new Literacy and Numeracy testing for our students this year. This will be in addition to the usual process we work through for Literacy and Numeracy. This trial will provide some real feedback to us about how our students find the testing process and the results will be useful for us to examine our practice and what needs to be changed as we move forward.

To get ahead of the game and to make things easier for our students, we will begin working with our Year 10 students on Literacy and Numeracy this year. This is to provide a buffer to them as they head into NCEA Level 1 next year. We will begin by selecting a group of students who will be in a specially designed programme during Akoranga. These students will all be Year 10 students. Since there has only just been an announcement about the

delay of the implementation we will need to spend some time processing this when we return. This delay is good news from our perspective so we can ensure we are as prepared as possible to ensure our students achieve the highest levels possible.

More information about the NCEA changes can be found here: <u>https://ncea.education.govt.nz/what-ncea-change-programme</u>

https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2023/04/education-government-makes-changes-to -new-ncea-curriculum-timeline-as-jan-tinetti-puts-focus-on-maths-literacy.html

Akoranga:

During term 1 we sadly only got to have a taster of our Akoranga programme. We have now made timetable changes to provide more staffing and a greater number of choices. Students will choose their Akoranga for this term during the first week of school. We have things already scheduled into our school calendar for the term on a couple of Akoranga time slots and there could be some students affected by the PPTA industrial action during Akoranga but we will move ahead anyway.

The choices on offer this term will now include Duke of Edinburgh which has been moved from mostly being offered outside of school hours to being offered during this time slot. Choices on offer this term will include:

- Bowls / Darts / Snooker
- Cooking
- Sports
- Walking
- Production / Drama
- Senior Study
- Te Kura (Choosing an extra subject we cannot offer)
- Kapa Haka
- Workshop Projects (Making a Bluetooth Speaker)
- Sewing
- EnviroSchools
- Art
- Bands
- Film Making
- Basketball
- Literacy and Numeracy (Year students only)
- Tukutuku panel creation for the Auditorium
- eSports
- Golf
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Gateway placements
- Trades Courses
- Science Crafts
- Toa Enterprises course run by the YMCA staff.

We are excited to be able to offer such a wide variety of opportunities for our students.

Property/IT renovations during the holidays:

During the holiday break we have used these to our full advantage to complete a range of property jobs throughout the school. These have included:

- Sliding doors fitted into four classrooms as part of us being able to have two entrances and exits in every classroom.
- We had two parts of our A block roofing worked on. This has required skylights in these areas to be removed, new roofing fitted and suspended ceilings fitted into the rooms. These happened in the rooms with the worst leaks.
- New external doors fitted into three offices in admin
- The Gas system in the gym changing rooms refitted with correct units and reflued correctly.
- A new shade sail fitted into the middle of the school
- New driveway fitted to the area by the auditorium
- We have had a new server installed in the school
- New Computers have been installed into our computer room and into all offices. We have had to increase the number of computers in the computer room due to our roll growth.

We have future plans in the pipeline with further roofing work in the planning stages with the Ministry of Education, a power upgrade to the school with a new Transformer required, a new lock system to be fitted across our entire school and weather tightness issues to be remedied with a recladding of D Block. Many of these projects are very costly and we are working with the Ministry of Education for the planning of these. We are hopeful that we will see progress in each of these projects by the end of the year.

Sports:

This term we will see more sports begin. We have already had Netball begin and other individual sports. We will see Rugby, Football and Basketball all begin this term. We are thankful to all of our coaches, managers and supporters.

Please remember that all sports teams will have a \$50 flat fee per student. We need these fees to be paid prior to sport starting. If you have an Automatic Payment this will be a good way to pay these off. If you have credit in your accounts this will be used to pay these fees. We decided on this simple structure of fees for ease of charging and calculating costs. The fee covers the uniforms, association fees and all travel costs.

Gateway / Trades / Future Pathways:

Whatever your child would like to do following school we can help them with this. We talk with students regularly in Arataki classes and when subjects are chosen to ensure students have the opportunity to head in the direction and pathway they are interested in.

We have students who have left and gone straight to work where we have ensured they have a Forklift Licence, Working at Heights certificate, First Aid certificate and the appropriate levels of NCEA.

We also have students who are currently studying to become a Doctor, Lawyer, Accountant, Teacher, etc. Anything is possible. We need to ensure that students take the appropriate subjects to gain University Entrance in approved subjects and meet the Literacy

requirements. We know that students are not always sure of their career path so we work with them individually to ensure we keep their options open.

We are excited by the work Jason Jowett will undertake in his Across School Leader role to actively track where students are three years after they leave school. We are keen to know how many students begin University and complete this journey and which change their pathways and after how long. This data will be used to help us ensure our processes for preparing students for their futures are as strong and responsive as they can be.

Drivers Licence Scheme:

We are fortunate to be part of a scheme that operates in all South Waikato Schools which sees us all being able to provide funded drivers licencing. This includes all practices and the study towards Learners Licences. We also have the provision for students to take part in Defensive Driving Courses. This is part of the wider push to ensure that students leave school with the highest level of qualifications possible (including drivers licences).

Kathy McGovern runs this scheme for us and students need to see her about getting their names onto the lists and for any support they may need. We actively track the licence status of all students once they turn 16. The sooner students can get their learners licence once they turn 16 the more likelihood they will leave Year 13 with their full licence.

We are able to take students to sit their licences into town and there is also provision for students to have an extra adult read for them when sitting their licence. This is not always about difficulty with reading but for some students panicking and feeling anxiety when they sit their tests.

Consultation Meetings:

This term we begin our series of whanaungatanga meetings. At each of these hui we will provide dinner. You are welcome to bring your family with you to enjoy dinner and talk to us. We want to hear your voices as we plan the years ahead to ensure we know what you want for your children.

We aim to not overwhelm you with the number of staff at each of these meetings. We have deliberately broken these meetings up into groupings that will have similar cultural values and understandings. If you would like to join a group that suits your values you are more than welcome to choose any of these hui to attend.

For those who cannot make it to any of the meetings we will also seek online feedback later in the year.

diversity IS HAVING A SEAT AT THE TABLE. inclusion IS HAVING A VOICE, AND belonging

IS HAVING THAT VOICE BE HEARD.

-LIZ FOSSLIEN

Focusing on the Positives:

This term we will begin the following methods of ensuring we have the focus of our staff on positive behaviours and traits of our students. We will include the following and advertise these to our students for their input and tracking.

- Introduction of a badge system for • students who meet the criteria for reaching our values - Courageous, Connected, Community
 - Currently we award badges to students based solely on their Academic Achievements, Cultural or Sporting achievements.
 - 0 There are no badges to be gained for students who simply always do the right thing and demonstrate our values daily.
- Lake and whole school assemblies to recognise achievement, attendance and nominations for our Values awards
 - 0 Students will nominate each other or themselves for a category of these awards and explain why
- Specific Attendance awards will be issued for 100% attendance and for those with 95% and higher attendance there will be attendance draws and prizes.
- The criteria for our values awards will fall under the categories of Connected | Courageous | Community
 - These values are applicable to staff in all areas of our school as well as students
- We will run Principals reward trips at the end of each term (similar to the one we ran a year or so ago based on achievement) for students who meet

FOREST VIEW HIGH SCHOOL **OUR VALUES**



Being COURAGEOUS means:

- Following the school rules
- Accepting the seach have a purpose
 Meeting deadlines
 Asking for help when it is needed,
- for you or others
- Trying new things without the fear of failure
- Resisting peer pressure and avoiding behaviours which are hurtful or harmful to others



the criteria for that term. There will be different criteria for Juniors and Seniors for each term.

The values have been constructed based on staff and student feedback over many years.

<u>10 THINGS THAT REQUIRE</u> ZERO TALENT

Being On Time Making An Effort Being High Energy Having A Positive Attitude Being Passionate Using Good Body Language Being Coachable Doing A Little Extra Being Prepared Having A Strong Work Ethic

Have a great last days of the holiday break and we are looking forward to a great term

Nga mihi nui

FVHS Extended Leadership Team Joss Hale, Kathy McGovern, Chris Teague, Jason Jowett, Cherie Merrylees-Clark, Aaron Mutua and Kaia Church.