



WAIHI EAST SCHOOL
TE KURA RAWHITI O WAIHI

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Dear Whanau,

Thankyou for your quick responses yesterday. Shutting the school is a huge step, and certainly drastic action. However I have confidence that this is the right thing to do, to keep our babies safe, and also our vulnerable folk, who are precious to us.

The Ministry of Education has wisely flipped our holiday / term time:

Holidays start on Monday the 30th of March (next Monday), and go until Tuesday 14th of April.

This will give us all time as whanau, to settle in our new routines, and find a rhythm that works for you. It will give us all 2 weeks to comfort our kids, to learn to play together, and to extend all the grace and compassion needed, to allay anxiety and find a new *temporary* norm.

I appreciate that many of us will be working from home, and this causes another layer of learning.

Over the coming weeks, you might see an increase of behaviour with your kids (and maybe adults :-). Whether it's anxiety or anger or a huge protest against what our current situation is - this is normal, please expect it, it will pass.

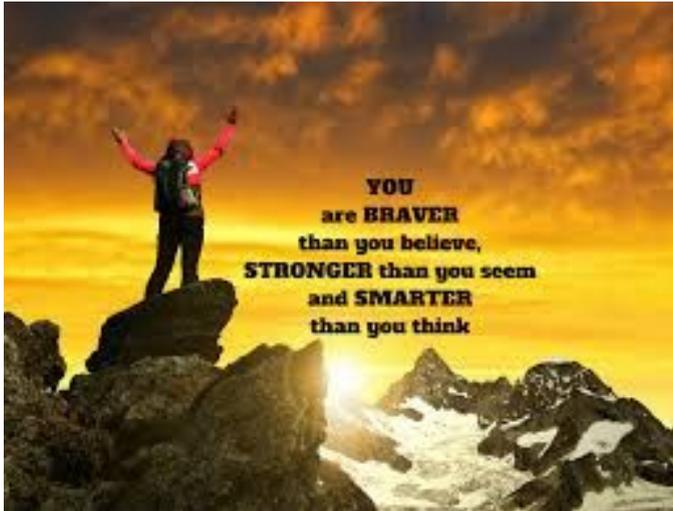
Spend time talking about how you feel, go for walks, go to the beach, bake and paint, have theme days (dinosaur romps are such fun).

School will start its distance learning program on Wednesday the 15th of April. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you around how this looks.

A physical pack of books and ideas for activities at home is available at school for pick up this Wednesday from 10-1pm (tomorrow). If you are able to pop in and pick this up, it will be ready for you in the office. We also are able to give our store of kai away. We have limited packs available and also UHT milk.

I will be in touch regularly via Facebook, email and txt. I would love to hear of your stories, and what is working for your whanau, or to be an ear. If you need anything at all, please, please get in contact with me, if we as a school whanau can help, we will do so gladly.

I will leave you with this, your child's mental wellbeing is the important thing. How they feel during this time will line their memory baskets, not necessarily what they did. Please remember this, every single day. Be kind to you, you are important and precious, and your kids need you to show them how to 'be' in this time.



Nga mihi and warmest regards,

Briar and our awesome East Team.