

Jireh Christian School Newsletter



3 June 2020



Dear Parents

Thank you to everyone who completed the online learning form and the form sent last term to do with parent involvement at school. Your voice, as a parent, is very important to us, as together we endeavour to do the best for your children.

Lockdown came upon us rather suddenly. The teachers and I want to thank you for the fantastic job you did at home supporting your children with their learning. I know that in a number of houses parents were having to work from home and support more than one child with online learning. It was stressful and demanding for some, at times. Under the circumstances students have been well served.

The feedback given by parents has been helpful. There were lots of positive comments and gratitude to the teachers, who worked so hard to keep learning going. The variety of learning activities and the mix of online and unplugged activities was appreciated. The weekly and daily timetables were very helpful for parents who could then organise their time accordingly. Prompt and regular communication via email and Class Dojo allowed students and parents the opportunity to ask questions and get help. Some wanted more academic tasks and some found the workload rather heavy. Constructive comments were given around things that did not work so well. Having too many online platforms was difficult, and not always helpful for finding, completing and posting tasks. More explicit expectations around tasks was asked for with constructive feedback. Zoom was used a lot by most teachers to keep connectivity with their students and the students with one another. Some teachers used Zoom to teach small groups

or even individual students. Daily visual check ins were done by many teachers but not all. This was useful and helped students have a greater sense of being in a class, learning with others, albeit in different locations. More actual teaching videos have been requested. Not all online platforms are user friendly on all devices.

In Term Three we will be holding an evening of workshops for parents to help in some of the areas you have requested. Topics covered in workshops will include; how to navigate online platforms, how to motivate and engage your child when learning, mathematics strategies and curriculum levels along with the next steps in the learning journey to help your child progress in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics.

The students too have given feedback of what they found helpful and not helpful when learning at home. So many wrote how much they enjoyed spending time with family and having their parents help them with their learning. It was also heartening to hear how much they missed their friends and teachers. All our students are now happily learning back at school which is a joy to see. Feedback from teachers will be used to determine common online, age appropriate platforms. Professional learning will be given so that the full functionality of the chosen learning platforms will be used. We have all been on a steep learning curve which will bear good fruit for the future.

Those who offered to help the school community in various ways such as coaching, managing a sports team, the arts, joining the PA, helping families with school related costs and in other specific ways will be contacted by the school. Once again thank you for your willingness to be involved at school.

Yours in His service
Sandra Bosman

Drop off and Pick up of Children

Just a reminder, as per Page 11 of the Parent Handbook:

- Parents dropping off students must ensure that they see their child enter the school gate no earlier than **8.15am**.
- Children may not enter the classroom unless the teacher is there, and it is at the teacher's discretion as to whether children can stay in the classroom.
- The teachers are not responsible for looking after children after **3.15pm**. If a child cannot be collected on time, alternative arrangements must be made.

Also, there is no parking in the church car park unless you have a Parking Permit.



ICAS Entries now due

It is time to receive entries for the ICAS exams for 2020. The format and cost of these exams is the same as last year.

If you would like your child to enter one or all of the following exams, please email Vicki Morris on vicki.morris@jireh.school.nz with your child's name, class and the name of the exam/s you would like them to sit. They may choose from Digital Technologies, English, Maths, Science and Spelling Bee.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Writing exam is not being offered this year. Each of the ICAS exams will be sat **on-line** and will cost **\$18 each**. nce Rolene has received your payment, she will advise me and your child's entry will be submitted. Please note that it is necessary to have a minimum of 3 students entering any one exam. The deadline for entries is **Friday 3rd July**.



Psalm 145:5 "On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate."

Children's Community Dental Clinic

The Dental Service is not able to offer routine appointments during Level 2. If your child is in pain, or you have an immediate concern, phone 0800 TEETH to speak to a therapist. Some clinics are able to offer appointments to children with urgent dental care needs.

Should you have any questions or require further information, search for 'ARDS' on the Waitemata DHB website.



Scholastic Books

The latest catalogue from the Scholastic Book Club has been given out to the students. Please check it out for some great deals on good books.

Please note NO CASH ORDERS. Order via <https://mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz/Parent/Login.aspx>

Orders for free delivery to the school close on Monday, 29 June.



Weekly Attendance Collection

We will be sending student attendance data to the Ministry of Education weekly, from 29 May.

The purpose is to:

- report to the National Crisis Monitoring Centre and Government on levels of attendance during the COVID-19 period,
- inform and support Ministry planning for students and schools returning to normal operation, and,
- evaluate and report on the effectiveness of initiatives implemented by the Ministry to respond and manage its response to COVID-19.

Receptionist at Jireh Christian School

We are looking for a friendly, professional, full time receptionist to join our team in the school office.

The working hours will be 8:30-3:30, Monday to Friday, term time only.

The role will require excellent organisational and people skills, with a knowledge of basic first aid. Currently this is a fixed term position for Term 3 and 4 but has the potential to become permanent.

A more detailed job description and application pack can be found on our website www.jireh.school.nz or from the school office administration@jireh.school.nz

Applications will be accepted until **4pm, 19 June 2020.**

Adherence to and support of our Special Character is preferable.

PHOTOLIFE

Please note the change of date due to the lock down. PhotoLife will be visiting our school on **TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER.**

Welcome to our new T2 New Entrant students



PRAYER

Wednesday mornings in the school library from 8.30am.

DEAR GOD

*It would be awesome to have more prayer warriors
join our team of two wonderful, faithful prayers!*

Playing chess develops self-confidence, concentration and problem-solving skills. We are really pleased to start a Chess Coaching Programme at Jireh and look forward to bringing the excitement, competition and educational benefits of chess to our children.

Why Chess?

- * Improve concentration and focus
- * Develop important life skills – fair play and decision making
- * Tactical & Strategic thinking
- * Prepare for Chess Tournaments against other schools
- * Develop a love of chess, of learning and of thinking

What happens in a Chess Power Coaching Programme?

Each session starts with a formal lesson; all players will learn a new strategy, idea or skill each week. Then they put those skills into practice with activities and games. All games are monitored and supervised by the coach who provides individual feedback along the way.

Throughout the programme, we reward children that do well and encourage and support children that are struggling. At the completion of the programme we recognise each child with a certificate based on their performance.

Q Where can I learn more?

A Visit our website, www.chesspower.co.nz and click Parents Centre

CLASS DETAILS

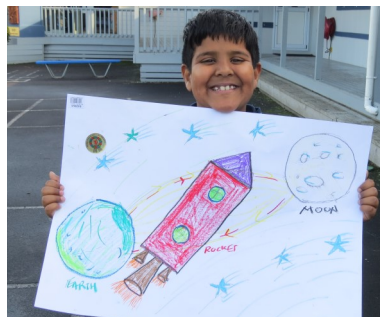
This is a 4 week chess coaching program running on **Tuesdays** from 9 till 30 June 2020 from 12:30 - 1:15 pm. The fee will be \$50/student for the term. The sessions will be held in Tui Room. If the program is successful a new full 10 week programme will be made available for Term 3.

REGISTRATION

If your child would like to be part of this please visit our website. Both registration and payment can be done online. www.chesspower.co.nz/register

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Some of the awesome work our students have created ...



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*From God, For God
I Atua, Hoki Atua*



'We are a Christ centred community where learners are nurtured to glorify God'