

Kia ora mai tatou, ata marie - Good morning!

I'll keep it quick this morning if that's okay. I wanted to say hello and wish you well for the day ahead, but I don't have any particular news for you. I've just realised, as I sit here, waiting for my brain to kick into gear properly, that I'm just a little bit less excited about the morning to come than I was yesterday. And that's simply because I'm teaching a different text to my Year 13 class this morning. Yesterday: Jane Austen, romanticism and classicism, the land and the sea, love, passion, beautifully-balanced with; today: Tennessee Williams, failure, entrapment, despair. You can see the difference! I think most teachers are like this: when they look ahead to their day, and play their lessons-to-come in their heads, they look for what's going to excite them. Williams is a great writer, and we'll of course try to have fun, but he's not Jane Austen.

This applies to students as well, of course. One of the questions I ask prospective students when I meet them is "what is it that excites you about the day ahead when you get up in the morning?" It's worth asking your children that question as well. Finding time for the exciting, fun part of the day is something we all need. We live in the past, present and future simultaneously, I often think, and the promise of excitement has to be part of all of our days, anticipated pleasure as we do the things we perhaps don't enjoy quite so much. For me it will be tasty food today, meeting my class (and my colleagues, of course!) online, and finding time to read something different.

Which is a way of saying "thank you" once again to our staff for the ways they continue to find that balance, looking for the excitement in the students' days. It's what we do all the time when we are at school - it's an inbuilt part of our planning as we want our children and young people to love their learning and feel engaged. And it's what we're doing when we're online too. Ngā mihi nui to all of our staff.

Very quickly on alert level changes. We are of course still at Level 4 until midnight on Tuesday 14th September. We will discover next week if we are able to move to Level 3 on Wednesday 15th or whether we have to stay at Level 4 a little longer. School will not be open on the 15th as this is a teacher-only day, but we will be preparing to go to Level 3 on Thursday 16th. If we do go to Level 3, we will be running Primary and College bubbles for the children of essential workers as we did last time. The plans are in place!

We are continuing to hope and plan for Level 2 on either September 22nd, or September 29th, even though we cannot know for sure what will happen. The rules around Level 2 outside Auckland are tighter than before, and we will of course be ensuring that the school is as safe a place as it can possibly be, following every mandate and ensuring that recommendations are followed within the school. More on this to come, but I'm feeling positive about it, seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. I can't wait to see our tamariki back in school.

Have a great day, enjoy the learning and make sure there's some excitement in all of our days.

Kia kaha

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