

Dear Parents /Kia ora te whanau/Malo e lelei/Talofa lava/Bula Vinaka/Konnichi wa/Kia orana/  
Namaste/Welkom/Ni hao

## **Bull-Rush and Climbing Trees**

I was pleased to notice the other day that one of our pohutukawa trees had grown big enough so that 3 young children had been able to shimmy their way up the lower branches. They happily called out to me as I passed.

Judging by last week, bull-rush seems to have made a comeback and up to 40 active young lads (and one young lady) are salivating with the prospect of wrestling each other in this game at break times. Just to confirm: I've never banned bulrush or climbing trees in our school and don't intend to – I actually believe these things are important and I'd like to explain why.

Some schools do ban these things, and this is due to concern over safety considerations (or more to the point: the fear of prosecution under the new Health and Safety legislation). Without doubt, these are higher risk endeavours and require close supervision and monitoring to minimise risk of harm, however they are also the types of experiences that young children absolutely need as they are growing up.

Towards the end of winter, many of our young people, and particularly some of our young Y5-9 boys, have "cabin fever". They are growing rapidly, due to their bodies entering puberty and they desperately need to stretch, push and flex these rapidly growing limbs and muscles. Testosterone, the male hormone, which gives rise to aggression, is also starting to flow freely in their bloodstreams at this stage. It can be a time when there are plenty of discipline issues in classes, not because the kids are getting naughty, but just simply because they need to move and be aggressive and stretch as a natural response to their body growing and changing. Games such as bull-rush become very popular for the kids at this stage because it allows them to get all of this out at break times. It has the happy consequence that they then can re-enter the classroom and be ready to learn, rather than pushing each other around in class inappropriately, thereby getting into trouble.

Yes, there are the occasional tears as someone gets hurt, but the hurt person is, almost always, desperate to join the game as soon as they have recovered, and Chris Mitchell and I have been personally monitoring this game closely for safety reasons. I do also find it's a wonderful opportunity to teach more appropriate social interactions and our value of kindness to the older boys as they learn how to look after the younger ones better. Sometimes, they do take a while to learn this though.

And it's not just bull-rush and climbing trees of course. **Kids need to play.** They do a significant amount of their learning when in free or semi-guided play activities. Our politically correct and risk-averse world seems to have lost this realisation and a generation of children are growing up with over-excessive amount of constraints. It's no wonder they turn to their i-pads for some fun – and then get hooked. There has been some medical conjecture coming from the US recently to suggest that the reasons for the increase in anxiety disorders in children is the removal of risk-prone play activities from their lives.

I've been reading a book recently called "Let the Children Play" and it gives a very thorough research base for the things I'm suggesting. Definitely worth a read if you're interested.

Many blessings,

Peter Ferrar



**Mission:** "To provide, with parents, a balanced Christian education to help children develop to their full potential in God."

**Vision:** "To be confident followers of Jesus Christ, equipped and inspired to creatively impact our world."

Contact us: Ph: 356 7326 Fax: 356 8391 E-mail: [office@cornerstone.ac.nz](mailto:office@cornerstone.ac.nz) Website: [www.cornerstone.ac.nz](http://www.cornerstone.ac.nz)

## Calendar

Fri 13 Sep	Tumanako Assembly
9-13 Sep	AIMS Games
9-13 Sep	Maori Language Week
Sat 14 Sep	Senior School Ball
Sat 14 Sep	EPIC Music Concert
Mon 16 Sep	Secondary Assembly
Mon 16 Sep	Tumanako Assembly
Tue 17 Sep	NCEA Music Performance
Tue 17 Sep	Y7-8 Elite sports Basketball

## Class Awards

### Week 7

A3	Eli van der Werff & Yohaana Gaur
A4	Rozlyn Wucherpennig
A5	Cody Measey & Sian Sanal
C1	Madeleine Burn & Jacob Papenfus
F1	Tapaita Matakaiongo & Tukia Toa

## School Notices

### Newsletter 2020

Next year we are moving to having our newsletter supplied in digital format (i.e. by email). This will start in Term 1 2020. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy, please email the office. We will also have some paper copies available at reception.

### Absences

If your child is absent from school, please phone 06 356 7326 Ext: 6101 or txt 027 315 7764 or email [absent@cornerstone.ac.nz](mailto:absent@cornerstone.ac.nz)

### New Entrant Enrolments

We are experiencing significant pressure on our roll and have waiting lists at most year levels. Enrolling your pre-schooler **before they turn 2** will help to ensure there is a space for them when they are ready to start school and will avoid the sad situation some parents have experienced whereby their child is not able to be enrolled due to the year level being full.

Enrolment forms may be picked up at reception or downloaded from the school website:

<http://www.cornerstone.ac.nz/enrolment/forms>.

If you do not have a letter from the school offering your pre-schooler a place, please enquire whether they are pre-enrolled by contacting Sarndra either by Phone: 06 356 7326 Ext: 6102 or Email: [sarndra@cornerstone.ac.nz](mailto:sarndra@cornerstone.ac.nz).

## School Notices

### School Newsletter via Email

If you would like to receive the school newsletter via email, please email Jean at the school office [office@cornerstone.ac.nz](mailto:office@cornerstone.ac.nz) to request your email address be added to our newsletter emailing distribution list.

### Garden to Table

The Tumanako Team are keen to get a supply of wooden pallets or other handy sized bits of wood that could be used in the construction of things for the school vegetable garden. We are also looking for any useful kitchen utensils and woodworking tools that you may have and are not using e.g. hammers/saws. If you can help, please contact David Henderson [david@cornerstone.ac.nz](mailto:david@cornerstone.ac.nz)

### NZACS Secretary – Situations Vacant

The NZ Association for Christian Schools valued secretary Sarndra Rauzi, has recently resigned so they are looking for a replacement part-time Secretary to complete the required administration duties for the NZACS Executive. This position requires someone who is self-motivated, organised and efficient. The hours are 290 per annum. For an Application Pack or a Job Description please email [shaun.brooker@hamiltonchristian.school.nz](mailto:shaun.brooker@hamiltonchristian.school.nz) or send your cover letter and CV to: Shaun Brooker, NZACS Chairperson, 4 North City Road, Rototuna, Hamilton 3210. Applications Close: 20<sup>th</sup> September. Position Starts: January 2020.

### EPIC Music Concert

We have our Student Concert coming up. This is a chance to showcase some of the awesome students who learn with us! We would like to invite all parents and staff members to come and check it out!

**When:** Saturday 14th September. 1pm-2pm

**Where:** Grace City Church, 12 Morris Street

**Who:** Anyone who wants to come to watch!

**Cost:** \$5 per head excluding performing students. Profits to go to charity.





## School Notices

### CrossFit Games Fundraising

We're three weeks out from our School Fun-Run Cross Fit Games! We hope students are working hard towards their fundraising goals!

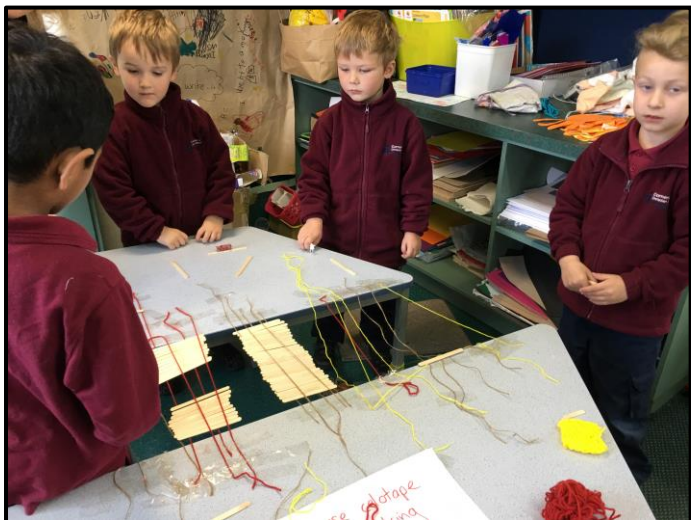
Currently we have raised **\$1500** of our **\$3000 target**, so there is a way to go and I hope you'll keep supporting us! Remember, the money raised will be going towards **School Sport**.

Did you know that you can WIN a \$20,000 Ultimate Family Experience by setting up your student profile online and raising \$1 online? Just head over to [schoolfundraising.co.nz](http://schoolfundraising.co.nz). Once you've created your page there are some great things you can do. You can sign up for online fundraising, pick your target prize and event become a fundraising superstar! I hope you'll help us recognise the people that make our school what it is!

If you're having any trouble setting up your student profile or fundraising online, please get in touch with the Fun-Run team on 0800 377 170. Thanks for supporting us with your fundraising efforts, we look forward to celebrating with an amazing day!

### Desktop Computers for Sale

The school now has a surplus of good quality Desktop computers, as we move more towards laptops in classrooms. As a result, we are now in a position to sell these Desktops to families, for home use. The cost will be \$150, this will include everything you need (PC with monitor, keyboard & mouse). They are a good brand – 'HP' and will have a clean installation of Windows 10 for the new owner. Please email Paul Jorgensen – [paul@cornerstone.ac.nz](mailto:paul@cornerstone.ac.nz) for more details.



## School Notices

### Student Hosted Dinner – Wholegrain Organics

Our Senior Food Tech Students have decided to put on another student hosted dinner. It will be a 3-course health-focussed meal featuring things they have learnt over the course of the year. A great opportunity to serve and share what we have been learning.

**Date:** Monday 23rd September (Week 10)

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Wholegrain Organics

**Tickets:** \$27 for student's family members, \$27 for teachers, \$37 for public.

For further information please email:

[naomi@cornerstone.ac.nz](mailto:naomi@cornerstone.ac.nz)

### A Story by Emily Higgs - Room A2

Once upon a time there was a mother duck with her eggs. She really wanted them to hatch and one day they hatched. But one egg did not hatch so she kept sitting there until one day that egg hatched. What an ugly duckling said the other ducks. Go away they said, so he went away. I am so ugly said the ugly duckling.

One night the river froze, but the farmer helped him. You can stay with me he said. In the spring he went back to the pond and he looked into the water and saw a beautiful bird.



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# Cornerstone Christian School Ashhurst Bus Service

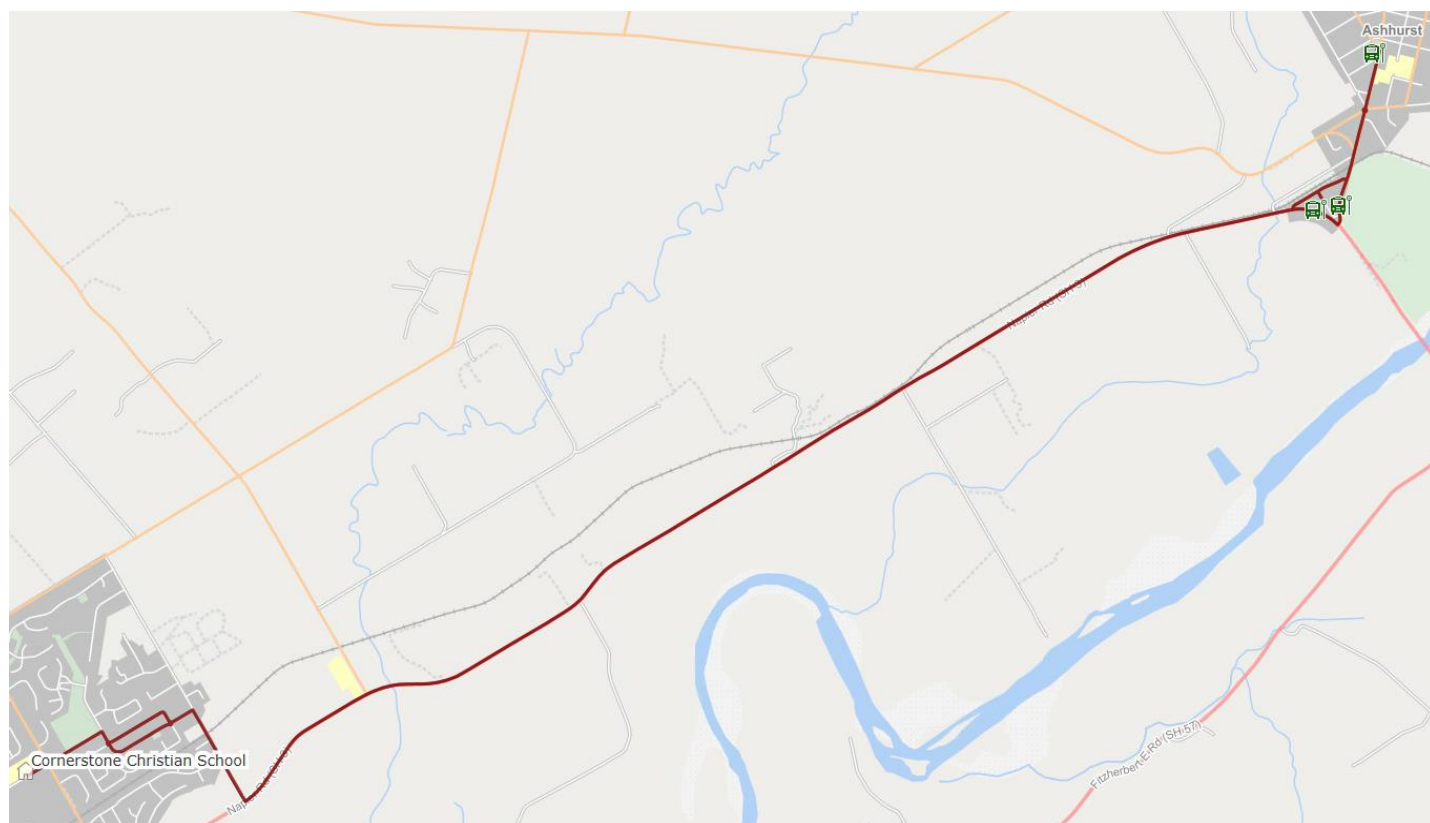
## Starting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Our 2017 bus survey indicated that the majority of Ashhurst and Feilding parents would prefer a school bus service over having to transport their children to and from Cornerstone Christian School by car. Based on these results, we have been working closely with the Ministry of Education to present a case for Cornerstone Christian School Bus services. We were successful in securing a Feilding bus service in 2018. Last Friday we received a notification that, the Ministry of Education had approved the second bus route to and from Ashhurst and were wanting to get underway with this service as soon as possible.

Given that there are many details to sort out, we have suggested that the bus service does not begin until the start of week 9 this term – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

According to our school records, there are potentially 48 Cornerstone Christian School students living adjacent to, or beyond the proposed bus route that could make use of this bus service. This high number of potential students has allowed us to secure a FREE 'Cornerstone students only' bus. One downside of having the Ministry of Education provide this bus service, is that all parents with an Ashhurst residential address who currently receive a School Transport (conveyance) allowance will lose this at the start of term 4.

The confirmed route for the Cornerstone Christian School Ashhurst Bus Service is as follows:



The dark line above indicates the new bus route – leaving the school bus pickup area in Guildford Street, Ashhurst at 8.20am, with an ETA at Cornerstone Christian School of 8.35am. Please note that at this time all the other secondary buses (e.g. to Freyberg, Girls or Boys High) will have left the Guildford Street area and the Ashhurst bus will be the only one waiting to pick up passengers. We suggest that students avoid the student congestion in the Guildford Street area around 8.00am.

In the afternoon, the bus will leave Cornerstone Christian School at 3.20pm with an ETA back at Ashhurst Guildford Street bus stop of 3.35pm.

All Ashhurst area parents should receive a letter in the mail this week with more information on this service.

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