

Kia ora e te whanau

When you think about it; when the storm came through on Thursday, most schools being closed due to strike action



turned out to be something of a blessing. The fact that most kids were already at home and/or in family care arrangements: significantly reduced the potential of serious injury for everyone.

Hats off to this ex-Waverley kid - **Jacob Williamson-Hall** - now in Year 13 at Southland Boys' High and local organizer of

the Student Volunteer Army. Jacob and his [crew were out helping with the clean up in no time at all](#). Good work, team. (Photo courtesy of Southland Tribune).

“New” curricula...

Imagine a world in which a Minister of Health dictated to the medical professionals that they must deliver services using the same procedures and tools last used fifty years ago; despite a lack of research to back up that decision. A bit far-fetched, right? Yet, the “new curriculum” documents launched this week by the Minister of Education, pretty much do exactly that.

For years, right around the world; education systems have been constantly encouraged, beseeched, implored **“to prepare kids for their future, not our past because their current reality is already different from ours.”** Furthermore, good education practice requires schools to differentiate curriculum to better meet kids’ needs - adapt the learning to best match the individual. Why? Because that’s the logical thing to do. A classroom cannot be run like a factory assembly line where the same parts are fitted into identical units passing along a conveyor belt; because the “units” in a classroom are not identical - (and there is no conveyor belt).

Yet, this week, we get a set of ‘one size fits all’ curricula - set out by year group (*just as they were in the 1940’s, 50’s, 60’s, 70’s....* Included are lists of topics - set out for each year group. Here’s the year four list - provided by principal colleague Callan Goodall (St Pat’s); required in addition to an hour per day for each of mathematics, reading and writing):

Social Studies
Treaty of Waitangi Ancient Greece Rome Democracy
Population change NZ Landscape formation
Finance - Goods and Services

Science
Heat and states of matter Contact forces and movement Matariki
States of matter in the atmosphere Taxonomy Digestion

Technology
Design - new tech, global transport - study on Isambard Kingdom Brunel an English civil engineer and his bridge building
Materials - a study on Johannes Gutenberg and the printing press
Systems thinking

The Arts
Performing Arts - Performance, Choreography,
Music - structure/elements of music, composers study, waiata, playing instruments, creating and composing
Art - techniques, composition, materials

Health/PE
Growing bodies Nutrition Self care Relationship with self & others Consent Staying safe online Stereotypes
Balance, strength and flexibility Invasion games
Fielding and striking Swimming Outdoor Education

The year three kids in the same classrooms have a different (but equally extensive) list - so does everyone else. Essentially, given the amount of memorisation required (what tests?): what we’ve actually got is the equivalent of the *Ultimate English Pub Quizzer’s Almanac* (because England seems to be where the bulk of it appears to have originated from). In fact - if you managed to memorise everything through to the end of year 10 - you’d be a good bet for Bradley Walsh’s *“The Chase”*.

Unsurprisingly, the ACT leader approves: *“Wonderful news today that the highly politicised ‘Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum’ has been fixed. The Marxist ‘big ideas’ such as ‘Māori history is the foundational and continuous history of Aotearoa New Zealand.’ and ‘The course of Aotearoa New Zealand’s histories has been shaped by the use of power are GONE.”*

And you can’t help but wonder what’s the political long game here? Because whatever it is; it’s not actually about education. The kids’ appear to be pawns in a bigger game ...

School photo orders...
Photo copied class photos are displayed in our office - actual photos will have the usual high quality finish
ORDERS CLOSE TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

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The calendar...

November
21 Assembly - Kia Maia - 10.10am
25 Science Roadshow

December
05 Assembly - Kia Kaha- 10.10am
Hui Whakapūmau - Yr 6 Marae Graduation
10 Board of Trustees - 7.30pm
15 Year 6 Graduation (combined)
16 Last day 12 noon

Measles notification...

- Measles is circulating and is very contagious. There is now measles in Northland, Auckland, Manawatu, Nelson and Wellington, and we expect further cases across New Zealand.
- Watch out for symptoms – fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes, and a blotchy rash:
[Measles – Health New Zealand](#)
- Anyone with measles symptoms must stay at home and should seek urgent advice by ringing their doctor or Healthline on 0800 611 116.
- Anyone who is closely exposed to a measles case must stay at home. Heath New Zealand will provide individuals with advice on a case-by-case basis (including when they can leave quarantine at home).
- Health New Zealand is actively working with the schools that currently have measles cases.
- People are considered immune to measles after having two doses of a measles vaccine from 12 months or older, or if you have had measles before. For more information on measles immunity visit:
[Measles immunity – Health New Zealand](#)
- Encourage families and whānau to check their own and their child/childrens’ immunisation status through My Health Record:
[My Health Record – Health New Zealand](#)
- Anyone born between 1969 and 2004 may have only received one vaccine dose and might not be fully protected. It’s safe to get extra doses. A free vaccine can be booked online or via the Vaccination Helpline on 0800 28 29 26.
[Book my vaccine – Health New Zealand](#)

Logical enough...

The wee lass asked, "Mum, can I go outside and play with the boys?"
"No, Sweetie - you can't play with the boys, they're too rough."
She thought about it for a few moments and then:
"Well... if I can find a smooth one, can I play with him?"

Until next week, ka kite,
Kerry Hawkins & staff

Keeping in touch - too easy...

Phone 03 217 9332
Text 022 3179332
admin@waverleypark.school.nz
or use any Messenger, Skool Loop, Seesaw, or Edge app

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A/c name: Waverley Park School BOT
Payee: Your child’s name
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