

**Friday 3rd May 2019**

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Whanui has kicked off energetically this term, with the added spark of three young student teachers, Ms Ushani, Ms Julie, and Mr Stark. They will be fully involved with our programme, especially our preparation for our plays and the extra help and one-to-one contact they can provide for the children. Already the teachers and children are feeding off their youthful energy and enthusiasm. We are really impressed with the children's attitudes and the way in which they have re-engaged with the programme. They have come back happy, relaxed and ready to learn.

This term the big focus to our programmes is working together to create, and then perform, our class plays. Drama is a key component of the Kelburn Curriculum and it is a highly effective way to engage children in all aspects of literacy. When we blend literacy with the creative arts dimension, we create many opportunities for children to develop confidence in the social dimension of learning. As drama strategies bring together reading, writing, speaking, and the arts, our reluctant writers become more engaged and enjoy greater success. As they work on their plays, the children develop their critical thinking ; they question, problem solve, and work together purposefully.

### **Topics for Term Two**

#### **English**

This term the main focus to our programmes is working together to create, and then perform, our class plays. We have been really lucky to have Juliet Cottrell, a drama and literacy expert, working alongside us to help us to develop our teaching practice and start our scripts. This professional development is part of a national research pilot across eight schools to boost engagement and achievement in writing; it has been designed by Charles Bisley and his colleague Judy Norton from Drama New Zealand. We will also have regular, writing sessions on how to reflect on personal events, explore ideas for stories (including plays), and produce scientific reports.

#### **Science**

This term we will finish our unit 'The Land Tells a Story' The students have been working in groups to complete their models of their make-believe lands and are now putting together a website to show their scientific learning. A good chance to see the children's learning and the process they went through will be the Celebration of Learning later on this term. We hope to see you there! Once this unit is completed we will begin the Waste Heroes programme. This is an exciting, engaging education programme offered by the Wellington City Council. It is linked to the New Zealand curriculum and allows students to experience and take action around three key waste issues- food waste, single use plastic and recycling.



## Maths

This term we will conclude our work on addition and subtraction, and then head straight into multiplication and division. Students will be working on numerous strategies to solve rich problem solving tasks. The mastery of the times tables is a key factor in moving ahead in maths. Students will be encouraged to show their learning and strategies on Seesaw so those at home can see what is being covered at school. Towards the end of the term we will cover probability. For this, the children will work in mixed groups across the syndicate.

## Home learning

Regular reading for enjoyment at home really supports children's language development; please help your children get that reading mileage up and talk to them about their reading. As well as regular reading, learning the times tables a few facts at a time is a key task this year.

## MathsBuddy

MathsBuddy is a new math programme we are trialling this year. This programme differs to that of Mathletics as it offers tutorials and presents the concepts of the maths lesson step-by-step. For children who have mastered the times tables, it is important to keep up the MathsBuddy to build and practise key skills .

## Visual Art

As mentioned, the performing arts will be our arts focus for this term; however the plays and work in class lend themselves to visual art as well, including creating digital art. We will also be using paint and papier mache in our model making.

## Te Reo

It is pleasing to see a good level of syndicate involvement in kapa haka. We are gradually building Maori words and phrases into our classroom dialogue. We will continue to learn waiata and our personal pepeha. This term we will cover some of the vocabulary relating to weather. This hooks in to our science topic 'The Land Tells a Story'

## Physical Education

This term there are two main aspects to our sport and P.E. programme. Firstly, we focus on the skills of the winter sports of netball, touch rugby, and hockey. Secondly, we are going to be covering gymnastics and dance. Then there will be ongoing fitness activities.

## Mindful mornings

Towards the end of last term and continuing on this term are our Mindful mornings. This takes place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The classroom is set up and ready by 8.30 on these mornings for children to come in and interact with some of the set activities. The purpose of these mornings is to increase and strengthen the dialogue between different groupings of children and encourage the students to come into the classroom at 8.30. We have noticed that the students seem more ready to learn at 9.30 and that many of them are now mixing with others they normally wouldn't have. It is particularly beneficial for our new students.



Thank you for your ongoing support and input. We look forward to seeing you at the Matariki celebration and the Celebration of Learning later on this term. If you would like to come and talk to us about your child's progress or well being, please contact us by email.

Nga mihi nui,

Jen, Rob, Kayleigh, Charles

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