

Term 2 2021 Te Ara Whānui (year 5&6) Newsletter



Kelburn Normal School

Friday 7th May 2021

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

Whānui has kicked off energetically this term, with the added spark of two young student teachers, Abby Young and Gene Haggie. They will be fully involved with our programme, especially with our learning conversations and providing tutoring to the children and for our plays. 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 relaxed and ready to get into the thick of learning. The conversations, goals and ways and means we discussed with you at the end of last term will help the children make satisfying progress. Being successful is central to children's wellbeing and belonging.

This term the big focus 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 and skills through the social dimensions of learning. With the drama strategies that bring together reading, writing, speaking, and the arts, all our writers will become more creatively engaged and enjoy greater success. As they work together on their plays, the children also develop their critical thinking ; they question, problem solve, and reflect 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. This program includes the close reading of short texts, making links between reading and writing, thinking about purposes and audience and combining different modes of language. There will be significant visual and digital literacy components to this work.

There will be also be writing sessions on how to reflect on personal events, explore ideas for stories (including plays), and produce scie

Social Science

This term we will be doing an inquiry unit looking at early encounters between Maori and Pakeha. Mainly the period between 1830 and 1860. In this we are anticipating the new New Zealand history curriculum and also continuing our work in helping children understand Te Ao Maori that we began last with Rawiri. For children of this age being able to consider different perspectives on an event is key to being engaged in history and understanding who we are as a society.

Maths

This term we wave a double bill. First up, we will head straight into multiplication and division. Secondly, children will be working on numerous strategies to solve authentic problems. The mastery of the times tables is a key factor in moving ahead in maths. Students will be encouraged to talk about their learning and strategies at home so parents 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, especially vocabulary acquisition at this stage. Please help your children get that reading mileage up and talk to them about what they are reading as this helps develop comprehension strategies, including them asking better questions. As well as regular reading, learning the times tables a few facts at a time is helpful.

Mathletics

Mathletics is a good platform for reinforcing math concepts first taught in class. The programme specifically follows New Zealand's national curriculum and are individually adapted to your child's needs. For children who have mastered the times tables, it is useful to keep up the Mathletics 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 viewing and creating digital art. We will also be exploring New Zealand contemporary artists such as Daryn George, Sara Hughes and Seraphine Pick. We will be doing short focussed artist studies and then apply our learning to produce our own art.

Te Reo and tikanga Maori

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. This term we will have sessions with Jeremy to strengthen our already known waitata and learn new waitata. We, the teachers, are beginning on online program to increase our confidence and build our skills in using everyday Te Reo Maori in the classroom. And our social science program will include whakatauki and texts in Maori which we will translate. In week nine we have our school Matariki celebration and this will give us a chance to celebrate and acknowledge the tangata whenua. Whanui will have several activities throughout the night.

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 will continue to enjoy a range of games on Friday for syndicate sport. There will be ongoing fitness activities throughout the week. This term is also our whole school swimming sports taking place in week 3. All children are able to participate at the level they enjoy; those children who are competitive swimmers will have a chance to shine.

Health

Last term starting with camp we worked a lot on building relationships and ako. A range of initiatives from regular class social problem solving hui to playground buddies have helped build positive relationships. All our programs have a built in health dimension. And all have a kaupapa of building a positive social environment in the ara in which children feel safe and valued. In particular our play projects and sports and performing arts activities contribute to this kaupapa. This term we have a focus on our core school value of manaakitanga. A new feature of our programme is the daily check-in. This allows us to give feedback, share success and address any problems that may have come up in a timely way.

We cannot stress highly enough of each child's wellbeing. If you have any concerns about how your child is managing at school then please do not hesitate to contact your child's home learning team teacher. We depend on you to inform us about anything else that is affecting or worrying your child outside of school.

Thank you for your ongoing support and input. We look forward to seeing you at the Matariki celebration and the plays if not before.

Nga mihi nui,

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