



Kelburn Normal School

Junior Syndicate Term Two Newsletter

Thursday 3rd May

Kia ora families,

Welcome back to school. What an action-packed term we are all going to have as we both prepare to move into our new space and continue on building on the learning from last term.

All the Junior Syndicate teachers would like to say a very big **thank you** to all the parents who helped out in the classes with Discovery Time, and putting books away. We appreciate the time you give as it helps us to offer an exciting range of activities.

The highlight for the children and ourselves last term was investigating the science behind floating and sinking, making our boats, and then the launching. It was great to have so many families with us on the day. Here are a few photos.



We were impressed with how hard all the children worked in term one and how engaged, involved, and curious they were. We know that this will continue through this term as well especially as we watch our new space taking shape for us to all move in.

We wanted to share with you what we have planned for this term. If there is anything that you feel you can contribute to our programme, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Curriculum Topic

Our major topic for the term has an English and arts focus. It will be based all around *nursery rhymes*. The children will be involved listening to, reading, and comparing different nursery rhymes, and looking for themes. We will be using drama and writing to explore their own interpretation of these classically-themed rhymes, and extend their comprehension skills.

We would like to be able to share with you later in the term some of the things that we have been doing in drama and writing in the form of a class sharing; this will depend on how the transition into our new space is going. We will keep you posted on this.

We will finish the term with a Nursery Rhyme Festival in the last week with a dress-up day. We will also be celebrating *Science Week* in week 4, (Monday 21st May to Friday 25th May). Watch out for the variety of investigations that we will be exploring.

We are fortunate to have Fei Liu working with us this year and supporting us with developing our early Mandarin skills each Monday. Last term she worked with room 1 and 2 children and this term Fei will be working with room 3 and 4.



Mathematics and Statistics

For the first three weeks we will be investigating *Algebra, Patterns and Relationships*, focusing on sequential patterns, tessellations, and symmetry.

Our focus will then shift to five weeks of working on *addition and subtraction strategies and number knowledge*. *Number knowledge* work will reinforce forward and backwards counting sequences of whole numbers; number identification and sequence; knowing and using groups with five, within ten and with ten. *Number strategy* work will have the children using a range of counting, grouping, and equal sharing to solve addition and subtraction problems.

We will finish off the term with a two week focus on *Time*.

Don't forget to check out the activities and advice on www.nzmaths.co.nz, click on the 'Families' heading.

Literacy

Our literacy programs are back into full swing. Your child should be bringing a reading book home every night, Monday to Thursday. On a Friday, your child should be bringing home their poetry book to share the week's poem, the actions that may go along with it, and to re-read through at least three to four favourite poems.

Sometimes your child will bring home books they have already read; in this case they are expected to re-read the book. This is because the focus could be for your child to improve their fluency and/or expression. The process of re-reading known texts is a very important one. The children are engaged in re-reading known texts in the classroom programme for many reasons. Re-reading increases your child's understanding of the text and allows them to gain deeper meaning; it also provides an opportunity to practise fluency, expression, and get up that reading mileage.

We know every effort is made in your busy lives to make time to fit in this important reading; the more children read the better they get. Please remember to fill in the children's yellow home reading book, as the teachers really value your feedback and input.

For writing this term, we are working on personal and expressive recounts, and descriptive writing too. This writing ties in with our integrated units of work.

Children will also have regular handwriting sessions that will focus on correct pencil grip, forming lower-case, capital letters, and numbers correctly and legibly.

Home Learning

In the junior school we relate our home learning directly to the work that is covered in the class and we use it to support the learning that is currently taking place in the class. The children will bring their book home and are expected to return it by Friday so their hard work can be shared with the teacher and class. The children will take home their poetry book on a Friday and then return it to school on Monday.

Arts

In visual arts we will be using collage, composition, texture, and shape to create artworks based around our topic Nursery Rhymes.

The artworks will complement drama and role play, and will enhance and expand the children's understanding of nursery rhymes and the themes that run through many of them. This will stimulate the children's imaginative responses and creativity.

The children will be exploring space, movement, and keeping in time to the music through various dances. We will be trying out a number of folk dances. Through music the children will listen, respond to, and imitate the elements of beat, rhythm, and pitch.

Tui Choir- He waka eke noa- A canoe that we are all on together

Ali Laing is looking forward to welcoming all the children in Year 3 and Rooms 3 and 4 back to Tui Choir for another term of joyful singing. The children have really risen to the challenge of participating in our big sings every Wednesday between 9:00 and 9:30.

Physical Education

In the junior school we value sports, games, and skill development. This term we are focusing on gymnastics. We are hoping that the hall is ready for action from week four as the Movemprove gym team will be here to do eight sessions. Each session will be 45 mins per class. The dates are 24th of May, 30th of May, 31st of May, 7th of June, 14th of June, 21st of June, 4th July, and 5th of July. On these dates it would be best if your child has appropriate clothing, no skirts or dresses please, as well as shoes that they can get on and off by themselves. Room 1 and 2 are also launching into a few folk dances throughout the term.



Year Ones

To continue with maintaining the friendships between the year one children, and before we all move into the new space, the year ones in Rooms 3 and 4 will be coming over to play at Ngaio on Tuesday and Thursday lunch times.

Discovery time and books

We are looking forward to once again having parent support for our ever popular Discovery Time and also book putting away. This term we have moved Discovery Time back to Fridays from 9 to 10:30. There will be school assemblies every second week, weather dependent, until we can get back into the hall in this time slot. Keep an eye out for class information about this and the time slots that will work.

If you would like to help out in other areas please don't hesitate to let your class teacher know.

Mahi Ngatahi

Every Monday we are having an investigation time from 9 am to 10:30 am. This session is called Mahi Ngatahi which means collaboration. In these sessions the children explore and investigate different mathematical concepts and scientific ideas, conduct experiments, as well as diving deeper into wonderings that they have. This is a great opportunity to work collaboratively; the advantage of this is children are able to learn from each other as they investigate their own questions and interests.



Helpful Reminders

All the teachers encourage the children to work towards independence and we would appreciate your help here too. The children are encouraged to take responsibility for carrying their own school bag to and from school, and to put their reading folders and contents in the right place in the mornings. We also would like to see the children being encouraged to say goodbye to their parents at the gate and walking into school by themselves. We don't want this to stop you coming in and sharing what has been happening in the class or touching base with the teachers. Instead we would like to see a balance between being independent and sharing with their families. So you might like to choose a day with your child when you can come into the classroom in the morning or after school. Spend this time with your child so they can share and explain what learning they have been doing, including reading their story writing book to you.

Please make sure that your child has a warm jacket and/or a raincoat each day. If your child wears gumboots to school please pack their slippers in their bag to wear in the rooms.

We use many different materials in arts/crafts and discovery time so if you have things such as ice cream containers, old birthday cards, cardboard rolls etc. that you can kindly donate we would appreciate it. But please can you wait till we have moved into our new space. Just ask your class teacher what they might need.

If you have any questions, or there is something you would like to talk to the teachers about, please feel free to email or pop in and see us.

The junior school team

Susie Brown – Syndicate Leader, Adele Murray, Sally Coddington, Amelia Mazur, and Ali Laing.

Email Addresses

sallyc@kelburnnormal.school.nz

susieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz

adelem@kelburnnormal.school.nz

ameliam@kelburnnormal.school.nz

alisonl@kelburnnormal.school.nz



Greetings from the Moon Room: Mission Possible

What is Reading Recovery?

Reading Recovery is an early literacy intervention that supplements good classroom teaching. Children's reading and writing are assessed close to their sixth birthday and the lowest scoring children come in to Reading Recovery as soon as a space is available.

Why does a child need Reading Recovery?

There are many reasons why a child may find reading and writing difficult at first. The children taken into Reading Recovery are those who have made least progress relative to their classmates. With one-to-one teaching children make faster progress because the teacher can design the lessons to suit a particular child's strengths.

How does it work?

Each day's lesson lasts 30 minutes and follows the same structure, namely reading familiar and new texts, assessment on a text introduced the previous day to inform my teaching, and check progress and writing a short story. Instruction is provided until the child is reading at or above the average of his or her class, and has acquired independent reading and writing strategies.

The Moon Room: Mission Possible is also used by Ali for all six year net assessment.

Ali Laing Reading Recovery Teacher