

Senior Syndicate Newsletter: Term 3 2015

Dear Parents, Whanau and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 3, 2015. Our classes are looking great with our new modern furniture. Students have been trialling different areas and working out where they are the most comfortable and focused for learning. We look forward to seeing you during Student Led Conferences, where you will be able to check out our great new learning environments. Please feel free to pop in to your classes prior to that if you wish.

Please find outlined below a general idea of what your children will be learning in their classes this term.

Literacy: In oral language we have a focus on building and gaining confidence to speak to an audience.

In writing students will be learning to write independently for sustained periods of time. They will learn to be selective and record thoughts, feelings and ideas clearly to write on a variety of subjects. We will continue to focus on planning, drafting and re-crafting in their writing. We will also be looking at the structures of sentences in more depth and how they impact our writing. Students at this level will be responding to feedback and thinking about where to next in their own learning.

In reading our students will continue to examine and think about the messages, themes and atmosphere authors create in a story. They will also be learning to skim read for key words and phrases to find meaning.

Our spelling focus will continue for those on List 1 – 7 to learn through their homework programme the words at their level.

(Year 5, List 1 - 5, Year 6 List 1 – 6).

Maths: After looking at data gathered from term 2 the focus may be different in each class due to differentiated needs of the students. The focus will be on students learning and understanding the quickest strategy to use when solving word problems in the areas of addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, or fractions and decimals. We will also focus on the area of need in knowledge. It is important your child knows their basic addition and subtraction facts, times tables and division with quick recall. Our strand focus will be in Measurement around Time.

Inquiry: This term we are focussing on The Arts with a Literacy base around Advertising. We are lucky enough to be hooked into an online programme called Rad Rhythm. We have already had our first lesson and students are keen and enjoying this programme. This will become the basis for our part in the Schools Variety show at the end of the term. The programme has a theory and practical part to it. Your child will need to pay **\$6.50** for their own set of drum sticks. Please pay this to the school office with your child's name and labelled Rad Rhythm. As part of our Inquiry we will look at the different aspects of advertising and how it influences people. They will be able to identify the elements that make a successful advertisement. Students will also be planning and producing their own radio or T.V. advertisement for the Variety Show.

PE/ Fitness/ and Health: Our focus will be around Running Activities in preparation for our school Cross Country and Skipping Skills also in preparation for our M.B.S. Skipping day.

It is a requirement that the students participate in fitness and P.E. as it is part of the curriculum. Students will also need to bring a change of clothes, shorts and a basic T-shirt for fitness, Monday s, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our P.E. time is (Wednesday 11.30am – 12.30am.). I suggest a change of clothes in their bags on a daily basis would be a good idea.

Home Learning: It is expected your child is reading every night for at least 20 – 30 minutes. This may include library books, newspaper, magazines and Reading Eggs. Students will also be required to learn their spelling words, practise and learn their times tables and replay in Maths whizz. Notebooks will go home on a Monday and returned to school with your signature on the Friday.

Camp dates 2015: The venue for the Senior Syndicate Camp will be Marsden Bay Youth Camp. It will be held in term 4 from the 18th – 20th November. The cost of the camp is \$140.00 and payments can be made to the office. Automatic payments can also be set up through the office. I will be sending out a separate letter to request parent help soon. As I have calculated the costs of the school camp on the basis that every child attends it is important you let me know if your child for any reason is not going to attend camp. I can be reached on sbutler@mangawhaibeach.school.nz.

It is important to talk to your child about their learning, as they should be able to tell you what they are learning at school. If they are unsure feel free to touch base with your child's teacher.

Kind Regards

Senior Syndicate Team

Ms Susan Butler (Syndicate Leader), Miss Kirsten Burr, Mr Lance Coker.

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