

Kakano Team Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to 2016 from Titahi Bay School and the Kakano Team. It is a pleasure to be teaching your children and we look forward to working with you this year.

Our team is called Kakano which means Seeds. The teachers in the Kakano team are:

Chelsea Renshaw- Room 15 - Team Leader

chelsea.renshaw@titahibay.school.nz

Sarah Taylor- Room 14

sarah.taylor@titahibay.school.nz

Tanya Balfour- Thursdays in room 14

tanya.balfour@titahibay.school.nz

We encourage you to come in and introduce yourself as we value good communication with our parent community. Please visit your child's classroom regularly and chat with them about the things they have been doing. **If there is something you would like to discuss about your child please see the classroom teacher first.**

Communication is very important and email is often the most effective way for us to communicate to our parents as individuals and as a group. **Please send or give your email to your child's teacher.**

Please check out our school website <http://www.titahibay.school.nz/> for information about our school and what's happening. **We also have a school Facebook page** - if you have a Facebook account you can like us and then you will see posts including updates/reminders about events at school.

The Powhiri for Term 1 will be on Tuesday 9th of February, Monday 14th of March to welcome new families to our school.

During the first few weeks at school we will be establishing our class programmes and routines as the children settle and transition into their new classes. Children will be learning about the 'KURA' way. This acronym is used as a guideline for our values and expectations at school. It stands for Kindness, Unity, Respect, and Achieve.

In both of our rooms we have a class toy. Each day the teacher will choose a KURA kid.

Someone who has demonstrated the school values during the day. They will take home the class toy for the evening or for the weekend if it is a Friday.

We also have an individual/class reward system used in class to encourage and praise positive behaviours. Children may receive small prizes when they have reached a specific target or goal.

Literacy programmes (Spelling, Oral Language, Writing, Reading, printing) and Maths programmes are taught daily. The afternoon programme is largely developmental, integrating our inquiry with art and other experiences. Our Inquiry topics for Term 1 are: 'Being a KURA KID!', Native New Zealand Birds and Dinosaurs. Each class also has two timetabled sessions in Te Manawa (our Developmental Learning Space) per week.

We do Physical Education 2-3 times a week for 20-30 minutes. We are currently training for our school **triathlon coming up on Saturday 19th of March**. Our physical education programme will be a mix of triathlon training and PMP which is a developmental programme working on motor skill development.

During March (weather permitting) we will be walking to the Titahi Bay Beach Surf Club to familiarise our classes with the Triathlon event.

We also have a science show called 'The Magical World of Bubbles' which will be on Tuesday the 15th of March in the school hall.

Wheels such as scooters or skateboards can be brought to school and ridden on the back court only, any day. Bikes are only allowed to be ridden on the new bike track (around the field) every day. Bikes and scooters can be locked up in racks by rooms 14 and 15.

We have a Kakano and Koru team assembly on a Friday at 1:40pm in the school hall. School Assembly is held on Monday mornings every second week (even weeks) in the hall at 9.05pm. Please feel free to come along and celebrate with our school.

Readers will start coming home by the end of week 2. Please check your child's book bag each day and fill out their reading log. Spelling/high frequency words will be sent home to practice as well as some maths counting practice. Regular practice of recognising sight words will make a huge difference in your child's reading development.

We will begin to use our exercise books in week 2. We encourage parents to come in and have

a look at them throughout the year. Some stationery such as pencils, glue sticks etc, will be collected by the teacher and shared out amongst the class when needed. If your child wants to have their own special pencil case for special pens such as felts they can be kept in a specified area in the class.

It is very important that children come to school wearing sunblock and a hat during term 1 and 4. Protection from the sun is essential during these terms.

We would like to be a water only team so we encourage children to bring water bottles to school and these can be kept in class so the children can drink during the day without leaving their rooms.

We have fruit in schools. This means we receive fruit to provide for our students. There are fruit bowls/plates in each class. Children are allowed to help themselves to class fruit at appropriate times. **If you are free in the morning to chop fruit for our classes this would be a huge help.** We also provide the children with a small carton of **milk each day**. The milk is supplied by the Milk in Schools Programme through Fonterra. If you would prefer your child not to be given milk, please let us know.

Regards,

Kakano Team

Chelsea Renshaw, Sarah Taylor and Tanya Balfour