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Koru Newsletter, Term 1, 2017

Kia Ora, and welcome to Titahi Bay School and the Koru Syndicate,

Sharon, Sarah and I are looking forward to meeting all of you, and working together to give your child a happy positive start to their time at school.

We will be sending out a regular “Heads Up” email letting you know what is coming up for the week ahead. The following is to give you an overview of what will be happening this term, and some useful information.

Important Dates

- Tues 7/2 and Mon 20/3, 9am – Powhiri to welcome new children and their families.
- Week 3 (13/2 – 17/2) - Beach Day (exact time/day to be confirmed).
- Week 4 (20/2 – 24/2) – Mon/Tues/Wed, 10 min parent meetings after school.
- Week 4 (20/2-24/2) – House Event to raise money for Down Syndrome Association.
- Sat 4/3 – School Triathlon (postponement date Sat 18/3).
- Term 1 ends Thursday 13/4, Term 2 starts Monday 1/5.

Curriculum Focus

During the first few weeks of school we will be establishing our class programmes and routines, as the children settle and transition into their new classes.

Literacy programmes (Spelling, Oral Language, Writing, Reading and Printing), and Maths programmes are taught daily. The afternoon programme is largely developmental, integrating Inquiry (topic), with Art and other experiences.

Our Inquiry topics for term one are: “All About Me!”, “Life Cycle – Monarch Butterfly”, “ANZAC”.

Each class also has two timetabled sessions in Te Manawa (our Developmental Learning Space) per week.

We do Physical Education twice a week for 20 -30 minutes. To start the term we will be training daily for our school Triathlon. Later in the term we will focus on Co-operative Games.

We will have a Koru “Hui” on a Friday afternoon, 2:30pm in Room 2. You are welcome to join us.

Please ensure your child’s stationery is sent to school as soon as possible. If you need a new stationery list, the office have copies they can give you.

We will attach a copy of our class timetable to this letter.

KURA

For those of you new to our school, we talk a lot with our children about being KURA. This stands for Kindness, Unity, Respect and Achieve. It is the foundation for social lessons that we work on with the children throughout the year, and is big part of who we are at Titahi Bay School.

Each day the teacher will choose a KURA kid, someone who has demonstrated the KURA values during the day. On a Friday one of the KURA kids from the week will get to bring home their class “mascot” for the weekend, and contribute to the story book for their mascot.

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

We are happy to explain this further in person if you have any questions.

Homework

Readers will start coming home by week 3. Please check your child’s book bag each day and fill out their reading log. In general a book should come home Monday through to Thursday and a Poem book will come home on a Friday.

It is important that your child learn their alphabet as quickly as possible to help them in their reading and writing. Please help your child to practise any letters they need to learn.

High frequency words will be sent home for your child to learn. Being able to recognise these quickly will make a huge difference in your child’s reading development. Your child can also practise spelling a few of these.

Some resources to help with counting practise may also be sent home.

Meet the Teacher

Monday through to Wednesday after school in week 4, you will have the opportunity to book a 10 min meeting with your child’s teacher. We would love to see all of you at these meetings. You will get the chance to tell us a little bit about your child, and we will feedback on how your child is settling in, and give you some resources to support your child’s learning at home.

Triathlon

Our school Triathlon is an annual event to raise money for big projects around our school, eg: cooking room. This year any money raised will go towards buying some tiered seating for the hall. We really want to see all children involved in this. We will be training every day at school, and would like for your child to bring their bike/scooter to school while we are training – don't forget their helmets! Apart from the money raised, the children have a lot of fun participating in this event, and get a real sense of achievement from having completed a Triathlon.

Sarah Taylor

On Fridays Sarah Taylor will be working in Room 4. Sarah has many years' experience teaching New Entrants at Titahi Bay School, and we are looking forward to working with her again.

Hats

We are a Sun Smart school. As such we have a "no hat, no play" policy in terms 1 and 4, and encourage children to still use hats in terms 2 and 3. If possible, it is a good idea to get a hat that can be left at school.

Milk in Schools

Every day after lunch your child will be offered a small carton of milk. They do not have to drink this if they don't wish to. If your child is allergic to milk, or you do not wish them to have milk, please let us know as soon as possible.

Recycling and "Rubbish Free" Lunches

We actively promote the concepts of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle with the children. As such we would appreciate it if you could try and use reusable options when packing your child's lunch, e.g. plastic containers.

Pak 'N Save Receipts

For every Pak 'N Save receipt the school is given, we can claim a percentage back as a fundraiser. The money we get from this funds equipment for our developmental play area Te Manawa. So if you, or any of your family members shop at Pak 'N Save, could you please send the receipts to the school office.

Spare Clothes

Just a reminder that it is a good idea to pack a change of spare clothes for your child. If you want you are welcome to leave a plastic bag with spare clothes hanging on your child's bag hook at school.

Communication

Please feel free to visit your child's classroom regularly. Parent involvement in a child's education is essential. Talk to your child and their teacher about the things that they have

been doing at school, and ask your child's teacher about ways that you can support our classroom programmes.

Communication is very important, and email is often the most effective way for us to contact parents as individuals and as a group. Please make sure that your child's teacher has your current email address.

Our school website <http://www.titahibay.school.nz/> , has information about our school and what's happening. We also have a Facebook page – if you have a Facebook account you can like us and then you will see posts, including updates/reminders about school events.

We look forward to teaching your child, and working with you to help them be a happy and successful learner. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We can be emailed at:

fiona.fitzgerald@titahibay.school.nz, sharon.thompson@titahibay.school.nz ,
sarah.taylor@titahibay.school.nz , or try and catch us before and after school.

Kind Regards,

Koru Team

Fiona Fitzgerald, Sharon Thompson and Sarah Taylor