

TITAHI BAY SCHOOL

Koru Newsletter, Term 3, 2017

Kia Ora,

We hope those children and families that were with us last term have had a happy fun filled break, and welcome to the new children and families joining us this term.

We will be sending out “Heads Up” emails letting you know what is coming up for the weeks ahead. The following letter is to give you an overview of what will be happening this term, and some useful information for new families.

Powhiri If you and your child are new to the school we invite you to attend the Powhiri to welcome you and your whanau. The dates for these this term are Monday 31 July and Monday 28 August at 9.00 a.m.

Curriculum Focus

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.

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 with a short fitness session each day. This term we will focus on motor skills and large ball skills.

We will join Rakau for “Hui” on a Friday afternoon, 2:30pm in the hall and Kapa Haka on a Monday afternoon at 2.30. You are welcome to join us.

Topics and Events

During the first 2 weeks of the term we have a whole school Matariki Inquiry culminating in an assembly and shared kai. This will include a performance by our Kapa Haka/Pasifika group. At the same time we will also be running the “Keeping Ourselves Safe” Programme. This was created by the New Zealand Police. It is a series of lessons to help children and young people learn and apply a range of safety skills that they can use when interacting with others. This will include 2 lessons from the Police Education Officer who will visit the classes. We will be encouraging the children to know their names and address, who can help them, and why they are special. We will look at identifying parts of the body and using the correct names for these. If you want to look at the lessons feel free to come and see us.

Our other topic later in the term is “The Ancients”. We will choose between : The Egyptians, Greeks or Romans. The big questions we will be investigating are: *How do we learn about the*

past? What evidence is there today that tells us this civilization existed? What did they leave behind? What did they teach us?.

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 a 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.

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

Please check your child's book bag each day and fill out/sign their reading log. In general a book should come home Monday through to Thursday and a Poem book will come home on Friday. Please be aware that they may bring the same book home twice.

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.

Hats and spare clothing

It is not compulsory for children to wear a sunhat in terms 2&3. However, as a Sun Smart school, we still encourage children to do so. If possible, it is a good idea to get a hat that can be left at school. We are heading into another wet term so it is a good idea that you put a spare change of clothes in their bag just in case.

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, eg: 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.

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