

Ngā Manu o te Ako (Year 4/5 Hub)

Term 1 Newsletter
Thursday 1st February - 13th April

Kia Ora Koutou whanau,

Wow, another year is now upon us and as a teaching team we are very excited to welcome your tamariki into our classes. Our hub this year has been given the name **Ngā Manu o te Ako**, as chosen by our team, which translates to mean birds of learning. The whakatauki selected to represent our team is therefore the following:

Whakatauki - Maa te huruhuru, ka rere te manu

... It is the feathers that enable the bird to fly.

When discussing this with our tamariki, we will be sharing with them that learning is their journey. We want them to navigate, while pushing them to explore and enabling them to discover. We want to encourage their questions and allow them to struggle within safe environments to support their thinking. We want to let them fly!

We look forward to working with, and alongside, you to support your children in their 2018 learning journey.

OUR HUB

Candis Wood - Room 12 - Team Leader - candis.wood@titahibay.school.nz

Kia ora, my name is Candis Wood and this is my ninth year teaching at Titahi Bay School. I have spent five years teaching years 5 and 6 so I am really excited to drop down and teach years 4 and 5 in 2018. I have a strong passion for working with children and supporting them on their learning journey. This year I particularly look forward to working closely with Matt Tan in a cooperative teaching space.

Matt Tan - Room 13 matt.tan@titahibay.school.nz

Welcome to Ngā Manu, Titahi Bay School is a great community to be a part of and I'm looking forward to my 5th year here. When working with children, I love how every day is different and that they constantly teach me new things. I live in the Bay, and my oldest daughter Olivia also attends this school as a Year 2. This year I will be teaching a Year 4/5 class and can't wait for my new classroom to be completed, allowing Room 12 and 13 to work collaboratively.

Phil Edgcombe - Room 16 - phil.edgcombe@titahibay.school.nz

It's always great returning to school with a new bunch of children to get to know, especially at the end of such an amazing summer. This year in Room 16 we are all Year 4s. Being in the classroom with kids I've always found invigorating, their energy always rubs off on each other

and me. This is my 7th year at Titahi Bay School, a fantastic place to teach. I can't wait to get to know your child and provide them with a meaningful and fun learning environment.

Gillian Tumoana - Room 18 - gillian.tumoana@titahibay.school.nz

This is my second year teaching Year 4's, last year I enjoyed every minute. I find Year 4's enthusiastic and motivated to learn new things. Lots of experiences and opportunities await your tamariki and this is the time that they learn to step up and become role models and leaders. Celebrating their achievements is one of my highlights. I look forward to working with you and your whanau this year.

COMMUNICATION

Communication with whanau is important to us. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have anything you would like to discuss. Email is an effective way of communicating with your child's teacher and we will always endeavour to reply as soon as possible. If there is something you would like to discuss about your child please see the classroom teacher first otherwise contact Candis Wood as hub leader.

ICT DEVICES in Classrooms

All tamariki within our hub will be using Chromebook devices and Google Drive to support their learning. The children always find these motivating tools. We will be introducing Chromebooks after Week 5 and working alongside children to:

- Establish KURA for Chromebook expectations for our students to understand how they are used and cared for.
- Explore how to sign in and out using their individual login and emails.
- Explore features of Google - creating and saving documents, labelling documents and support classroom learning for children.
- Initially we will use Chromebooks for Maths Whizz and for some writing. We will eventually use Chromebooks for other curriculum areas as the year progresses.

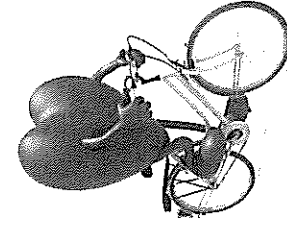
We understand this will be a new way of learning for both children and parents of Year 4 children; we are excited about the positive impact this learning will have on our students' achievement. It makes your child's learning easier to follow at home, you can discuss what they are doing in the classroom and see their work. We will hold a **Digital Citizenship parent meeting February 20th at 6pm** in our hall to discuss with you more specifics about device use within the classroom, ways to ensure digital safety at home and ideas of how you can support your child at home with their learning using their google accounts. We expect all Year 4 and 5 parents to try and attend this evening.

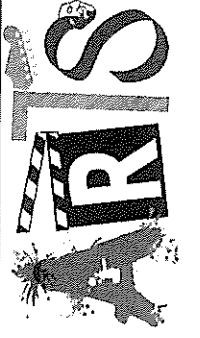
Inquiry



OUR LEARNING IN TERM 1

Our inquiries for this term are the following: establishing 'The Learning Community' within all classrooms. To encourage this, teachers will be exploring what makes effective learning environments with children and establishing class culture and expectations as well as supporting children to set goals for learning. Children will also explore what it means to be a digital citizen when using Chromebooks and Seesaw.

<p>Numeracy Literacy (Reading & Writing)</p>	<p>Numeracy and Literacy (Reading, Writing and Spelling) programmes will be taught daily and teachers will be in touch during Term 1 to discuss support programmes that will be in place for any children who are identified as target children in specific learning areas.</p>
<p>KURA</p>	<p>To start the year we will work on building and setting up our classroom culture; class treaty, classroom routines and expectations of how children will work together. Children will be encouraged to set personal goals which they will begin to work on. To support our children with the above, we will also be exploring Growth Mindsets with them to build self-esteem and confidence.</p>
<p>Values</p> <p>HEALTH and PE</p> 	<p>Our P.E. programmes this term will focus on preparing for our whole school Triathlon coming up on Saturday 24th March. Students will work on their fitness and also concentrated training on each discipline (running and biking). It is essential that your child brings suitable footwear to school daily, as they will be practising each day for this event. We ask that you encourage your child to bike to school daily, so they can make use of their bike for practice and during recess in the sunshine.</p> <p>Swimming Children will also be part of structured swimming lessons at Te Rauparaha Arena during Weeks 4/5. A notice will be sent home with more information regarding this.</p> <p>Little Sticks Hockey During Weeks 5 – 10, all children will be part of the Little Sticks Hockey programme where they will learn skills of how to manoeuvre and strike using an implement (hockey stick).</p> <p>Pedal Ready will also be back in school to work with our Year 5 children to practise and refine their biking skills. Year 5s - Review of Grade 1 and specific activities to prepare them for the triathlon. All children will need to bring their bikes and helmets to school every day in order for them to practise during school time. If your child does not have a bike, they may use one of our school bikes for practices.</p> <p>Classes will not have classroom sports bins, as all gear is staying in the school P.E. shed so there is more equipment available for whole class skill sessions. We encourage children to bring their own sports gear to school to use at recess times, this can be kept inside the classroom's red bin. Please ensure your child's sports gear is clearly named. If you would like to donate any sports gear to your child's class this would be appreciated.</p>

	<p>Our visual focus for the start of the term will be drawing. During this unit, children will have opportunities to practise their drawing by being exposed to different drawing techniques through different drawing artworks. Our music and dance focus will be participating in senior kapa haka and Pasifika to revise known waiata, as well as to learn new waiata which we will perform during our school powhiri and future performances. Children will have opportunities to put their drama skills into action when performing plays from school journals or their own they create.</p>
<p>Te Reo</p>	<p>Our Te Reo Maori focus this term will be learning whole school karakia (prayer) and waiata (songs). Tamariki will also learn and recite their mihimihipepeha. Along with learning classroom objects, tamariki will also learn simple classroom commands.</p>

HOMEWORK

Reading - It is expected that all children will be reading for at least 20 minutes at home with a book of their choice or a specified book that has been sent home.

Maths Whizz – Children need to ensure that they are working on achieving progressions at home regularly throughout the week on this programme. 3x progressions each week will ensure that your child achieves their green tick. (ALL children should achieve a **minimum of 90 minutes** on Maths Whizz each week - including 60 minutes in **Tutor mode** and 30 minutes in **Replay mode**).

UPCOMING DATES

- Waitangi Day Feb 6th – No School
- Assembly 12th Feb
- Parent Night Feb 15th 6pm – 7pm
- Y4/5 Swimming Lessons start – Feb 19th Monday – Thursday 1st March
- Digital Parent Meeting Feb 20th 6pm
- Powhiri Feb 26th
- Little Sticks Hockey starts (Weeks 5,6,7,8,9,10)
- Y5 Pedal Ready March 5th Monday – Thursday
- Assembly March 12th
- Triathlon Sat March 24th (Postponement – Sat April 7th)
- Easter Friday March 30th
- Easter Monday April 2nd
- Easter Tuesday April 3rd
- Powhiri April 4th
- Assembly April 13th

REMINDERS

- Please ensure your child has a hat at school daily this term
- Please ensure your child's updated civil defence kit has been returned to their teacher
- We ask that children have their stationery at school no later than the start of Week 3, so that we can get into the swing of our full programmes. (See attached stationery list for what is required.)