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2nd May 2016

Kia ora whanau, we hope you all have had a restful two week break and feel refreshed to commence Term 2. The next 10 weeks is jam packed with a lot of exciting educational opportunities for our Ngahere tamariki.

Firstly, we want to acknowledge our Term 1 success had by all children within their learning programmes in classes, as well as during our annual school triathlon and noho experience. We thank all whanau for your support in working with your children to prepare them and encourage them to challenge themselves positively in different ways. The new learning and memories taken from our noho in particular will be something that your children will remember forever.

Just a few friendly reminders that we expect all children to be on time to school at 9am so we can support them in starting off their learning day successfully and to be at school till finishing time at 3pm. This is important, as in the afternoons children reflect on their day's learning so we would appreciate as few disruptions as possible at this time of day.

The study group is continuing this term for those children whom have been involved in these after school sessions with Ang Strand. We value these sessions as do the children and have seen a real impact in the children's attitudes towards their learning from being involved in these sessions, which we hope will continue during Term 2. Just a reminder these sessions are held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays from 3pm till 4:30pm.

### **Whole School Inquiry - Time Machine**

Following the success of our two whole school inquiries last year (ANZAC and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) we have decided it is time for a blast from the past. During Term 2, your child will travel back in time with their teacher to discover how the past has shaped the present.

Our big questions will be:

**How was life different and why? And How did we get to where we are now?**

Each syndicate level will step out of their machine at a different period in New Zealand history. Our Ngahere focus will be the Pre 1900s looking specifically at the First Settlers, New Zealand and the way the land looked. We will also look at common themes within our selected era that our children can relate to:  
for example school life and the use of tools/technology.

### **'Way Back Wednesday' 11th May Whole School Dress up**

Week 2, we will celebrate the launch of our time machine inquiry by dressing up as someone from the past - your choice of era! 60s, 70s, 80s or a famous person in NZ history, anything goes!

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

#### **CROSS COUNTRY**

We have our whole school House Cross Country event in Week 2 on Monday 9th May. Postponement Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Children will be doing training for this in week 1. The event will be held at Onepoto Park with times to be advised. Please ensure that you send your child to school with appropriate footwear during week 1 as they will be running lots.

#### **THROWING and CATCHING**

During weeks 4-6, your child will also be exploring fundamental movement skills to support their skills with throwing and catching. This is to ensure that all children can correctly throw and catch a range of sports balls, as well as to set all children up for success during their winter sporting codes such as netball and rugby.

#### **SWIMMING**

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June our syndicate will be taking part in swimming lessons at Cannons Creek Pool. Children will be grouped according to their level of confidence in the water, and are taught by experienced instructors, provided by Dash Swim School. We will travel to and from the pools by bus. Your child will need a swim bag with togs, towel, and goggles if they have them and a little extra in their lunch boxes on these days, as swimming uses a lot of energy.

To help cover the cost of these very important lessons we need each child to contribute \$10. Please send this money into your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

The buses will leave at the following times:

(Please note that ALL children from Room 12 and Room 11 will need to arrive at school earlier than normal on these days to ensure they arrive at the pool on time. Also note Room 11 is split in half as Janelle Reid will be instructing in the water during this time to decrease group numbers.

Room 12 and half of Room 11 leave school at 8.50

Room 13 and half of Room 11 leave school at 9.30

Room 18 leave school at 10.00

Room 19 leave school at 10.30

Room 10 leave school at 11.00

### **ART**

This term your children will be focusing on the technique of painting with each class focusing on a specific artist.

### **ELECTIVES**

Electives will be happening this term. These will be on Fridays between 11.00 and 12.30. They will begin in week 3, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May and run until week 8, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Children have already

made their choices and will find out which groups they are in early in the term. There is a good range of opportunities again this year. Please ask your child about their electives once they start.

### **REPORTS and INTERVIEWS**

Reports are coming out in week 10. They will be given out at Interviews. Parent Interviews are 4<sup>th</sup> July 2.30-7.30pm, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2.30-7.30pm and 6<sup>th</sup> July 3pm-5.30pm.

To book your interview log on to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz), select Titahi Bay School, code is **a9kub**.

We look forward to spending time with you and your child discussing their progress and next steps.

There will also be work displayed in the hall from our Time Machine inquiry. Please make the time to have a look when you come to discuss your child's progress.

### **CHROMEBOOKS**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 6:30pm our Ngahere team will run a parent workshop on the fundamentals of Chromebooks giving you an insight into how they are being used in classes as a learning tool, we will go over our digital citizenship KURA expectations, as well as ways for you to monitor account use at home. We would expect to see a parent for all children at this evening session. A new contract to be signed will be sent home again after this session for your child and yourself to sign.

### **HOMEWORK**

The expectations of homework remain the same. These are listed below:

**Maths Whizz** - we recommend children use this tool at least three 20 minute sessions a week on top of what your children do in class. If this isn't possible at home we can accommodate by making Chromebooks available before school.

**Reading daily** - The importance of this can't be emphasised enough. Regular reading is what makes great readers and children should be reading for at least 20 minutes with a book of their choice.

**Reading Eggs** - for those children who have been signed up. These children should be using this tool at least three 20 minute sessions a week.

**Essential Spelling lists** sent home during Term 1 should also be worked on at home to ensure children know how to spell these words correctly, as this improves their writing.

As always, we look forward to working with and alongside you for another great term. Remember to email your child's teacher shall you have any queries or concerns.

Nga mihi nui

The Ngahere team  
Candis, Nicky, Janelle, Matt, Gillian and Del