

Rakau Newsletter Term 4 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Term 4. We have an exciting term of learning planned out. Term 4 always seems to fly by. We have outlined the areas of learning below.

Things to be aware of:

Absences

You can now use the absences feature on the school app to let us know of any absences.

Civil Defence Kits

Please update and send in your child's civil defence kit if you haven't already this year. Labels for these are available from the office.

Show

Performances 18th and 19th of October at 1pm and 6pm in the Titahi Bay school hall. We will be practising regularly in week 1. If you haven't already please make sure your child has their costume at school **As Soon As Possible**. We look forward to sharing what we have been learning in dance with you.

Toys and other special belongings

We prefer that students don't bring in precious items from home as they are often misplaced or go missing. Teachers will not take responsibility for these items unless they are part of the class programme and it has been agreed that they can be brought to school the day before.

Hats

Our school follows a 'Sun Smart' policy which aims to keep students safe from harmful UV rays. It is a school requirement that children wear a hat when outside during Term 4. We encourage children to keep their own hats at school as sharing can cause transfer of nits. Please make sure hats are named as they are very easy to put down and forget. The school policy is "no hat, no play" and children who aren't wearing them will need to sit in shaded areas during lunch and playtimes from Week 2 onwards.

P.E.

Children will need to have clothes and footwear that they can run in everyday at school. It is important that children are not wearing heeled shoes, jandals, sandals and gumboots for P.E. If wearing these types of footwear they will also need to bring extra footwear to run in.

Times

School starts at 9.00am. We usually start by discussing what is coming up and set ourselves up for the day. The school day finishes at 3.00pm. We often finish by reflecting on our learning and reminders for the next day. Children who miss these times often feel unsettled and miss out on opportunities. Please help your child by getting them to school by 8.55am and collecting them after the bell.

Homework

Reading daily. On a Monday to Friday either teacher selected books or, if agreed on, self selected books are read and the details are entered into a reading log. Though, of course, children can read more than this - this is the minimum we expect them to be reading. We recommend 10-20 minutes of reading time every day.



Maths-Whizz 2-3 times a week at home for 15-20 minutes on top of what we do at school is what children need to do to make the expected progress. If your child doesn't have access at home we will make sure they get time before school or at morning tea to do this.

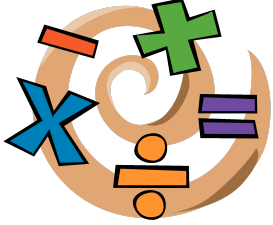


Beach Education

Late in the term we have an opportunity for some children from the Rakau team to participate in the Beach Education Programme run by NZ Surf Life Saving. We will prioritise children who aren't involved with the surf club as they are the ones who need it the most. There is a subsidised cost of \$5 per student for this half day programme.

Reminders

- **Production Performances:** 18th and 19th of October at 1pm and 6pm In the Titahi Bay school hall
- **The Fairest of Them show** (School covering cost): 31st of October
- **Rakau Island Bay Marine Centre Trips:** 28th and 29th November
- **Powhiri Dates:** 10th of October, 7th of November, 12th of December
- **Athletics day:** 24th November
- **Beach Education Day:** 12th and 13th of December
- **Last day of school:** 16th of December school closes at 12.30
- **Reports coming home:** 7th of December

OUR LEARNING IN TERM 4	
<p>Inquiry</p> 	<p>We will be going on some trips to the local rock pools to observe and explore rocky shore creatures in their natural environment. In class we will be doing research and hands on lessons to gain a better understanding of how the tides influence life in the rock pools. This inquiry ties in really well with our art focus this term.</p> <p>Later in the term we will be going to the Island Bay Marine Centre, where we will have lots of fun getting a closer look at the all the creatures and exploring different rock pools. The touch tank is sure to be a favourite place to play.</p> <p>More information will come out about this early in the term. This will cost \$12.50 per student.</p>
<p>Literacy</p> 	<p>Reading - We are focussing on looking at the author's purpose and what the message is for the particular text we are reading. We are also focusing on characters, looking at their personalities, their actions and motivations for these actions, their relationships with other characters and the interactions and forming opinions about them and justifying these with evidence from the text.</p> <p>Writing - This term we are focusing on three things. First we will spend time going through the Writing Process. This is where the students, with support, will work through all five stages of the writing process. 1 Plan a piece of writing. 2 Craft a piece of writing. 3 Rework a piece of writing. 4 Proofread a piece of writing. 5 Present a piece of writing. Second we will focus on using writing to share our</p>

	<p>understanding of what we learn in inquiry. Third, we will work on turning known stories into play scripts to perform.</p>
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Early in term 4 classes will be studying algebra, with an emphasis on pattern. This will include spotting patterns, continuing them, making generalisations about them, and describing them. Children will create their own patterns and explain the rule for how it works. Later in the term we'll do a probability unit, with lots of hands on games and activities for children to experience different outcomes. Some games will be fair, and others will be unequal. Children will get to explore different scenarios and adjust games to make them fair.</p>
<p>Health and PE</p> 	<p>Children will have opportunities to learn and practise fundamental movement skills within athletics. In doing so, children will be practising their throwing, running and jumping techniques before our whole school athletics day later this term. We will also be looking at some team building activities and games within classes and across the whole team.</p>
<p>The Arts</p> 	<p>This term we will be focusing on painting! We will be mixing colours and using different techniques to produce different effects over a variety of topics. Our painting unit will incorporate our Rocky Shore unit by painting different ocean scenes. Towards the end of the term we will be looking at different celebrations around the world and this will be a great opportunity to use paint in a variety of ways. During our lead up to christmas there will be the option to create some really creative and inspiring seasonal paintings.</p>
<p>Maori</p> <p>Te Reo</p>	<p>Our Te Reo focus for Term 4 is all around children researching, practicing and knowing their pepeha and mihi. We are really looking forward to spending time building on students Te Reo knowledge while finding out more about our kids! We will be using a generic template that has been adapted from our Ngahere kids so that as our tamariki are moving up the school they are continuing to expand on their mihi and will be confident in sharing their mihi. .</p>

Thank you

The Rakau Team