

# TITAHI BAY SCHOOL

## Koru Newsletter Term 4 2017

Kia Ora,

We are happy and excited to welcome Miranda McMahon to our Koru team. Miranda will be teaching in room 5 with our new students. We hope those children and families that were with us last term have had a happy, restful break, and we extend a warm 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 date for this term is Monday 13 November 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.

Physical Education for the first 4 weeks of this term is Athletics. Our whole School Athletics day is on Thursday 19 October from 9-12.30. Please ensure that your child wears sensible shoes each day.

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.

A copy of our Long Term Plan is available to view on our school website.

### **Topics and Events**

In the first half of the term our topic will be Personal Safety and Emergency Services. We will have sessions with Firewise, and our community/school police officer will take sessions around Road Safety.

There will be a School Picnic in week 8 (Thursday 7 December.) The students will be experiencing activities based around this and there will be a Christmas theme towards the end of the year.

**KURA**

For those of you who are new to our school, we talk a lot with our children about our school values, 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 previous days.

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. This stands alongside our Behaviour Management system which is consistent throughout the whole school.

We are happy to explain this further in person if you have any questions. Alternatively there is more detailed information on our school website.

### **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**

In term 4 we require students to wear hats **at all times** when outside. If possible, it is a good idea to get a hat that can be left at school. It is also very useful to have a change of clothes in the bottom of 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, 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 school with your child.

### **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](mailto:fiona.fitzgerald@titahibay.school.nz), [sharon.thompson@titahibay.school.nz](mailto:sharon.thompson@titahibay.school.nz) ,  
[sarah.taylor@titahibay.school.nz](mailto:sarah.taylor@titahibay.school.nz) [miranda.mcmahon@titahibay.school.nz](mailto:miranda.mcmahon@titahibay.school.nz) , or try  
and catch us before and after school.

Kind Regards,

Koru Team

Fiona Fitzgerald, Sharon Thompson, Miranda McMahon and Sarah Taylor