

22nd July 2019

Team Moana – Term 3 Newsletter

Kia ora parents and caregivers

Welcome to students and whanau. We hope you have had a chance to relax, recharge and have some family time. Term Two was a busy term. Flips and Tumbles was a highlight, and we learnt a lot educating each other as to whether animals are “Surviving or Thriving” as our *inquiry* for the term.

Team Moana welcomes Mrs Tammy Reen who takes over from Miss Young in Room 3. Mrs Reen has taught in South Africa, Switzerland, England, New Zealand and recently the United Arab Emirates - a slight change in temperature!

Mondays

After a weekend, more often than not we find many of our students suffering from “Mondayitis” and exhibiting such behaviours as tiredness, lack of focus, fidgeting, and finding it difficult to stay on task. Mondays are noticeably different from the rest of the week when children are back in the groove and working well. Teachers understand that weekends are for relaxing and fun but wonder if students’ sleep patterns are more variable in the weekends, possibly due to the time they spend on devices over this period. Would parents, where possible, please ensure their children are getting adequate sleep and are not spending too much time on devices at weekends.

Learning Programme

The literacy programme for this term continues with explanation writing and reading. We will shortly move to persuasive reading and writing, which includes students presenting speeches. We look at the structure of successful persuasive texts and how we can use these within our own writing and when speaking in front of an audience, an important skill many of us use in our adult lives.

In mathematics we are investigating fractions, proportions and ratios, as well as geometry. Students will need to maintain number knowledge and work on personal maths goals, both at school and at home using Mathletics or Khan Academy. Quick and efficient access to number knowledge makes solving complicated maths problems easier.

Our *inquiry* this term is “Art Attack”. Team Moana is working towards a “Wearable Arts” performance in the last week of term. In small groups, students will design, create and present a wearable art design to be shown on the runway. The theme will be environmental awareness, with ideas coming from conclusions relating to the *inquiry* “Surviving and Thriving”. Students will need support from home with resources (recyclables, old things from behind the garage and second-hand stuff.) More information to follow.



Home Learning / Excellence Awards

Our Home Learning programme continues this term. In Team Moana the students are required to read for at least 20 minutes a night and record this in their diary. We ask that the diary is signed by a parent by Thursday evening. Parents are encouraged to have a conversation with their child regarding these goals. Students are also asked to

complete either a spelling or word study task in class and some choose to do this at home. They may also have some maths work set by their teacher to be completed at home. All students have personal maths goals for the term and are asked to learn these, either by using Mathletics or other programmes available online. Many students undertake the optional school home learning programme <https://www.russley.school.nz/homework.html> and already some students are in the process of completing this. This programme incorporates an Excellence Award badge. Home learning is designed to have students acknowledge and take ownership of their learning.

Second Languages

On Fridays the team will rotate through introductory Spanish, French and Te Reo. If you have expertise in these languages and would like to help out in any way please let us know. Kia ora, merci and gracias!



Winter Sport

Winter sport continues on Friday afternoons until 23 August. The NW Zone Winter Tournament will be held at Hagley Park on Wednesday 31 July. If teams are successful they will qualify for the Centrals Winter Tournament on 22 August. Students must turn up promptly for training and have a change of clothes – not their uniform! We require students to attend games on Friday with their gear, a water bottle and a jacket for warmth.

Supporting our Learners

Life seems to have become busy and more complicated so parents need to ensure they are providing children (and themselves!) with the basics:

1. Good nutrition and hydration - thank you for supporting student learning by providing them with full lunch boxes because, gee, these guys need to eat a lot! Pre and early teens are going through their second biggest growth spurt at this time and their brains are (usually!) busy as well. We see some lunchboxes filled with a lot of packaged food – which usually means highly processed food which can impact concentration in class.
2. Ensuring children have good sleep habits (no devices or screens in their rooms and regular bed-times).
3. Limit device time as much as possible (devices don't seem to be doing a great job of teaching social or conversation skills!). It is a balance between how much is too much. Completing work requirements for learning may also be necessary at home.
4. Ensuring children get enough exercise (studies suggest between 8 to 10 hours of exercise a week).

Uniform

We continue to set high expectations for Team Moana students to follow the uniform code for Russley School and set a good example to younger students. Please refer to the list of uniform requirements on the school website <https://www.russley.school.nz/uniform.html>.

Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions or require further information. Contact the office or email your child's teacher at the addresses below.

We look forward to working with you and your children this term.

Yours sincerely

Team Moana

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