

22 July 2019

Kia ora Team Waka whanau

Welcome to a new term. We hope you had a wonderful holiday and we look forward to hearing what the children have been up to. We have a fantastic term ahead of us with some great activities planned. Below are a few notes about what's coming up.

Staffing

Mrs Annette Ward is now well underway with her new entrant class in Room 14 and it is fabulous to have her back in the team. This class will continue to grow as the year progresses. Over the past term, teachers Mrs Nadia Gunther (Mon-Thurs) and Mrs Anna Randall (Fridays) have settled into their new co-teaching routines in Room 18.

We congratulate former Room 15 teacher Mrs Andrea Robertson and her family on the safe arrival of a healthy baby daughter during the holidays.

Mrs Sophie McDermott is excited to be getting started in Room 15 this term, as well as taking over the role of Waka Team Leader. She has had a chance to visit and start to get to know the staff and students and is looking forward to working with you all. Sophie particularly enjoys music and digital technology and will be keen to share these interests with the children. Please say hello and introduce yourself!

Winter gear

As the cold weather continues, we remind students to remove muddy shoes and gumboots before entering classrooms. We encourage them to bring slippers to wear inside. Please also make sure children are wearing adequate warm layers and that all items are clearly named.

GetWise

In week 3 Team Waka is fortunate to be receiving a visit from the ASB GetWise financial literacy team who will deliver a programme designed specifically for juniors to help support students' understanding of money and how to manage it.

Swimming

In weeks 7 and 8 Team Waka will participate in a two-week swim programme at Kings Swim School. You should have received an assessment sheet asking about your child's swimming ability - please return this to your class teacher if you haven't already done so. We will be swimming in class groups and travelling by buses to Kings every weekday. Swimming skills are so important in New Zealand and this is always a highly successful block of lessons. Please bear in mind children will need to be able to dress quickly and independently so this may be a good time to practise - especially putting on shoes! Every child is required to wear a swim cap. Please pay \$66 to the office before swimming commences on 2 September.



Art Attack

We are looking forward to our Art Attack celebration this term. Classes will be using various visual arts techniques to create a masterpiece to display in Week 10. Keep September 24th in your diaries - we can't wait to share our creations!



Dress ups and play equipment

The dress-up area is a hugely popular part of our developmental programme, however our supplies are getting worn out! We would appreciate donations of clothes, costumes and shoes that our children could use for dramatic play. We are also always keen to receive play equipment or games that families may no longer need. Thank you!

Term Three Programme

As well as ongoing literacy and numeracy programmes, this term includes:

- **Strand Maths: Statistics and Probability**
Students will learn about chance and discuss the likelihood of simple events occurring
- **Physical Education - Skipping**
This term we are focusing on skipping skills and will be learning to jump in both individual and large ropes. We will work towards having a 'Skip Off' later in the term.
- **Inquiry**
Students will continue to investigate animals and dinosaurs, in conjunction with developing their understanding of different visual art techniques as we prepare for Art Attack.
- **Team Assemblies/Singing**
These will continue being held on alternate fortnights and include certificates and celebrations of learning, and singing favourite waiata and songs.
- **Developmental**
These sessions continue on Friday mornings. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to participate in a wide variety of activities that support curriculum learning and assist to develop their understanding of the Russley dispositions. The sessions are student-directed and cater to our huge variety of needs and interests. Teachers may also take small groups for extra opportunities at this time.



Our doors are always open so don't hesitate to come and see us with any questions or concerns. We are also available by email. We are all looking forward to the fun and busy term ahead.

Kind regards

Team Waka Teachers

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