

Title 2019 Senior Syndicate Newsletter Term 2

Wednesday, 8 May 2019

Senior Syndicate Newsletter

Term 2 2019

Kia ora parents and caregivers

A warm welcome back to Term 2 from the Senior Team. We trust that you and your family have had a relaxing and restful break, made the most of the wonderful holiday weather and are looking forward to the new term.

The Senior Team	
Year 5	Year 6
Rm 3 Glynnis Bell (Team Leader)	Nga Rito Rima Lee Austin (Team Leader)
Rm 1 Janice Karl	Rm 6 Charlotte Conlon
Rm 2 Aimee Cunningham	Rm 7 Christopher Tait
Rm 4 Katie Everett	

The Term Ahead

Inquiry / Topic – Communities Continued...

In Term 1, we explored the theme, 'community'. Some of our key inquiry points included the following:

- That there are different types of community.
- That within communities, we help each other and try to problem-solve together.
- That a community is a place where one may feel they belong.
- That one can belong to several communities and can learn from other communities.
- That there is diversity in communities and that often our communities centre around schools, towns, or cities and so on.

This tied in well with the beginning of a new year and the establishment of 'learning' communities within our classrooms, year levels and syndicate.

In Term 2, we are shifting our focus to learning about animal communities and the environments within which they live. Although we will all be working under this new 'umbrella', each class will concentrate on their own areas of interest. As the term progresses we will be drawing particular attention to biodiversity. We want the students to explore the variety and diversity of all life on land, in fresh water and in the sea, including the places or ecosystems where they live. We want the students to understand that biodiversity provides the life supporting systems that

enable all organisms, including humans, to survive.

Literacy

Literacy learning will continue to focus on maintaining balanced reading and writing programmes. Wherever it is possible, we will link language studies to our inquiries. Each classroom will work on different tasks according to the needs presented by their inquiry process, such as, exploring the features of report writing, persuasive writing and descriptive writing. Reading will compliment and support our written work. Students will also be focusing on their personal literacy goals and making choices about how they can progress towards achieving these goals.

Numeracy

Year 6 students are working on personal learning goals in the areas of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division strategies. The focus on number knowledge will continue alongside this, and the students will delve into some measurement goals this term.

In Year 5, teachers will be allocating more time to developing student understanding and application of multiplication and division strategies. Teachers will also be covering measurement and geometry (length, area, volume, mass, time, angles, 2d and 3d shapes, translation and transformation). Students will continue to be encouraged to learn their basic facts. Wherever possible, teachers will provide opportunities to maintain student knowledge and application of addition and subtraction strategies particularly when problem solving. Year 5 students have also identified personal learning goals.

Homework

Year 6

Home Learning will continue with Home Learning opportunities (generally with digital access through student's school email accounts). Families are encouraged to decide with their child on the tasks and amount of time they will spend on Home Learning each week. There is an expectation that the students will read for 20-30 minutes each night.

Year 5

In Year 5, the students are encouraged to complete skills based homework. This includes basic facts practice, spelling practice and reading a text of the student's choice for at least 20-30 minutes each night.

Please note if necessary, targeted learning activities will be sent home to specific students at times. Year 5 students also have access to online sites where they can choose to practice skills in numeracy or literacy.

Occasionally, students may work on their personal inquiries or projects at home.

If you are new to the school and/or you have any questions about our homework approach, please ask your child's teacher.

Physical Education

As you will already know all Senior Syndicate classes have begun training for our school cross-country. We encourage every student to set their own goals for this training and to focus on putting in their best effort. This will be different for each child. We acknowledge the effort, perseverance and mental strength of everyone who works to achieve their goal, whether it be to walk the course in their best time, to complete the course jogging, or racing competitively to come in the top places. The school cross-country race is schedule for **Thursday 16 May**. We expect your child to bring appropriate footwear and clothing, as we will be running most days. The first ten boys and girls from Years 5 and 6 will go through to the Interschool competition, which will be held on **Tuesday 28 May**.

In Term 2, there is also a focus on winter sports such as basketball, netball, hockey and rugby. If your child is unable to participate in any of these sessions, please send a note to the class teacher.

Upcoming Events:

6-10 May	Sign Language Week
5 May-4 June	Ramadan*
8 May	Peer Mediation Training
16 May	School cross county
17 May	Pink Shirt Day More information will follow about this day later in the term.
27-31 May	Samoa Language week
28 May	Interschool cross-country
3 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
10-14 June	Matariki** More information will follow about this day later in the term.
23-24 June	School photos
28 June	Celebration Assembly

* "Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is a time in which Muslims dedicate to refocus on purifying their souls and conduct through self-reflection, self-sacrifice and prayer. For our Muslim students Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, prayer, reading the Qur'an, refraining from bad behavior, and doing acts of charity."

Resources to teach children

** Matariki is the Māori name for the star cluster known as the Pleiades. Traditionally for Māori when it appeared just before dawn in late May or early June, it signaled the start of the Māori New Year

Term ends Friday 5 July

Wintery Months

With winter fast approaching, we ask that students wear warm, appropriate clothing to school. A change of clothes in their bags is also helpful for those inevitable wet and muddy playground accidents. We have accumulated a vast amount of lost property in one term. To avoid this, please ensure that all clothing and personal belongings are clearly labeled with your child's name, so any misplaced clothing can be returned to its owner.

Reminders

School website.

www.waterloo.school.nz

Parent Queries/Concerns

We believe in working together to provide the best for your child. If you have any queries/concerns - big or small, please approach your child's teacher first- then the Team Leaders (Glynnis Bell and Lee Austin) or the Deputy Principal (Jen Roberts). If there is something that may be affecting your child's learning - big or small, it is always helpful to know. The partnership between home and school is crucial so please do not hesitate to talk to us and discuss any issues you may have.

Bell Times

The bell goes at 8:55am for the school day to begin. Children need to be at school at least 10 minutes before the bell so they can unpack their bags and get ready for their day.

****Please remember that the children are not able to enter classrooms until 8:30am*.***

We are looking forward to another busy and exciting term. Thank you for everything you continue to do to ensure that your child is ready for their learning at school each day.

Try to stay warm and remember – Winter also brings hot chocolate, comfort food, warm woolly socks, cuddly blankets, fires, snow covered mountains and for some lucky people warm weather holidays!!

Kindest regards

Glynnis Bell, Lee Austin, Janice Karl, Aimee Cunningham, Christopher Tait, Katie Everett and Charlotte Conlon

Mā te wheturangi o Matariki,
e tiaki mai,
e manaaki mai i a koe,
i a koutou rānei,
mo te tau e taka mai ana.

May the gentle light of Matariki guide and inspire you all this year

