

Title 2020 Senior Syndicate Newsletter Term 1

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Wednesday, 5 February 2020

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## Waterloo School Senior Syndicate Newsletter Term 1 2020

Welcome to the first Senior Syndicate newsletter for 2020. We hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas, New Year and a relaxing break with your whanau. We warmly welcome Anna Boyce to our team this year and look forward to working with her. Anna comes with a number of years teaching experience in Early Childhood and recently completed her training in Primary teaching.

### **The Classroom**

#### **Topic/Inquiry: – “Our Changing Landscape”**

The Term 1 inquiry will develop the students’ understanding of the concepts of belonging and identity through becoming part of a new learning community (their new classroom) and learning about Waterloo and Lower Hutt local history.

The Term one contexts will include:

- Setting up our new classroom (getting to know each other and the things that connect us or make us unique, the school and class systems etc.)
- The Treaty of Waitangi and its importance and relevance to us as New Zealanders.
- To learn about how our local landscape and community has changed over time. This may include changes in People, landforms, animals, infrastructure, industry and the built environment.

### **Literacy**

Literacy learning will continue to focus on establishing balanced reading and writing programmes. During the first few weeks, we will be conferencing with students to help them set goals. Wherever it is possible, we will be linking language studies to our inquiries and provide opportunities for the students to express themselves authentically.

In writing, our focus will be on purposeful writing tasks linked directly to our topics (Treaty of Waitangi, developing our class culture, and Local History). Each classroom will work on different tasks according to the needs presented by their inquiry process. These writing tasks may take a variety of forms, for example: personal experience, poetry, letters, reports, etc. Through these tasks we will be learning about the writing process and skills such as the selection and elaboration of ideas, the structure of a text, the type of language and vocabulary needed, correct punctuation, proof-reading and editing etc. A great way for you to help at home is by reading with your child and discussing the features that make up the texts you are sharing. For example, how is the layout of a newspaper report different from that in a novel? What rich descriptive vocabulary or devices such as similes are included in a descriptive text? Notice the subheadings, captions, diagrams etc. in an explanation or report.

You could also spend time guiding your child to be observant about their everyday experiences, such as, a walk along the beach, a sport game, a game with siblings, or a cooking experience. Help your child to discuss the events, the sights, sounds, physical sensations and emotions of their experiences and explore language through discussion. It has been said that, “Writing floats on a sea of talk”. (“Dancing with the Pen”)

### **Numeracy**

We will be encouraging the students to develop personal mathematics goals as they work on their developing number knowledge and application of this to real world problems. Rich mathematical tasks, problem solving activities, and being able to talk about math, will all be foci in workshops to help our students develop the ability to apply number knowledge and mental strategies in context. Wherever it is possible, we will endeavour to integrate their math learning with our inquiry topics, for example learning about mapping and direction.

## **Physical Education**

The weather is perfect this term to be outside for PE – as long as we have lots of water, sunscreen and sun hats with us! Our focus this term is on small ball skills – striking and fielding, and cooperative games. The students will also be taking part in a short series of tennis workshops in weeks 3-6.

## **Home Learning**

Your classroom teacher will communicate with you and your child about the home learning opportunities available in the upcoming weeks. This will be communicated either through email or on Seesaw.

## **Camp (Year 6)**

This year our camp will run from Tuesday 17th March to Friday 20th March at El Rancho in Waikanae.

Please keep being positive and encouraging with your child about this highly anticipated event. Please keep a look out for important signmee notices coming up and also a parent meeting where you can find out further camp information. Contact your child's classroom teacher should you wish to discuss any particular questions.

## **(Year 5)**

While the Year 6 students are at camp the Year 5 students will be participating in a series of special activities to build co-operative skills and explore a range of new experiences. Further information will follow closer to this time.

## **Classroom Space / Absorption Zone**

Due to ongoing school renovation work there will be a Year 2 class (Room 17, Toni Meadows) running in the absorption zone space outside Rooms 5, 6, 7 and 8 this term.

To help support this class we will not be using the cloakroom door entrances into Rooms 5, 6 and 7 during term 1. Students have been asked to enter and exit their classrooms using the fire exit doors into the quad area between North and South Blocks. The cloakroom door entrance will be only used for entering the bathrooms.

This does not affect classes in North Block.

## **Kapa Tuakana**

This will be run by Papa Murray again this year with support from Whaea Lee and Whaea Aimee. Sessions will begin in the second week of school and students will be given the opportunity to attend for one session before making a commitment to the group.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Waitangi Day:** Thursday 6th February (**school closed**).

**Meet the teacher event:** Wednesday 12th February

**Primary science workshop** (Victoria University Science Department): Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th February (one workshop per class).

**Camp and Year 5 event week:** Monday 16th / Tuesday 17th March - Friday 20th March.

**Learning Conversation Meetings:** Date to be confirmed.

**Celebration Hui:** Friday 3rd April 1pm

**Term 1 Ends:** Thursday 9th April 3pm

## **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 (Lee Austin and Glynnis Bell) or the Deputy Principal Esmee Elias-Tito). 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.

## **Sunsmart**

Please remember that all students **MUST** be wearing a hat when playing outside this term. We have a "no hat, no play" policy and anyone without a sun hat is required to stay in a significantly shaded area during play times (e.g. archgola, shade of the hall etc.)

It is also a good idea for students to have sunblock in their bags (the school does not supply this).

## **Bell Times**

The bell goes at 8:55am for the school day to begin. Students 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 students are not able to enter classrooms until 8:30am\*.**

We look forward to a fantastic year at Waterloo with your child.

Warmest regards

***The Senior Team***

***Glynnis Bell, Lee Austin, Charlotte Conlon, Anna Boyce, Janice Karl, Aimee Cunningham and Katie Everett.***