Waterloo SCHOOL

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Title 2021 Senior Syndicate Newsletter - Term 2

Date 4 May 2021

Waterloo School Senior Syndicate

Years 5 and 6

Newsletter Term 2 2021

Kia ora everyone

We hope the children had a good time relaxing and recharging over the break. The seasons have really turned now and the children will need your help to be prepared for school with the colder, wet weather that's on its way. Cross country running for the first three weeks means they'll need suitable shoes, layers and possibly a change of clothes. The teachers have been busy preparing for the new term and the main inquiry topic - Pause Breathe Smile. Your child will share on Seesaw what they learn about during this programme and how they can use this knowledge to further their learning and wellbeing. They will also be encouraged to share more about what they are learning in mathematics, reading and writing on Seesaw. It is really motivating for them to get your positive feedback to their posts on this forum.

Inquiry

Our inquiry studies will be focused around the Pause Breathe Smile programme, which is essentially a focus on mindfulness, breathing and wellbeing. Through the programme, students learn about how body responses are linked to emotional states (e.g. the fight or flight reflexes) and how to encourage a positive thought cycle.

Different classes may look at this topic through different lenses, including these following contexts:

physical responses: *how the body responds to different emotions and thoughts e.g. breathing, heart rate, sweat. How mindful breathing can affect other responses.*

brain development and mind growth: *how brain neurons and synapses form connections to adapt to new circumstances. How we can develop a growth mindset to help our learning and attitude towards events.*

links to literacy: *what decisions do we need to make about our choice of vocabulary, tone, style and the type of information we select to share digitally e.g. on Seesaw.*

Literacy

Literacy learning will be integrated with our inquiry topic. In writing, our focus will be on purposeful writing tasks linked directly to our inquiry - based around the Pause Breathe and Smile programme. 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, blog post, poetry, letters, reports and so on. Through these tasks, we will be learning about things such as how key ideas are selected, how different texts have different structures, the importance of selecting specific words, correct punctuation, proof-reading and editing.

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 piece of text? Why do reports or explanations have headings or subheadings and so on.

You could also spend time guiding your child to be observant about their everyday experiences: a walk along the beach, a sport game, a game with siblings, or a cooking experience. All these experiences are rich fodder for writing. Help your child to discuss the events, the sights, sounds, physical sensations and emotions of their experiences and explore the rich language through discussion.

Alongside our writing focus we will be establishing reading routines that will support the work the children are doing in other areas of the class programme. The class novel is Ghost - which is about a young runner who faces challenges and develops a positive mindset.

The Stepsweb online program supports explicit literacy lessons from teachers. Stepsweb can be used as an extension as well as for remedial literacy learning activities - spelling, reading and comprehension. A Signmee will be sent out this term for those parents who want to sign up for this option. It can be used at school and at home.

Numeracy

Students will explore addition, subtraction, multiplication and division concepts. We will continue to consolidate their number knowledge and their strategic thinking when problem solving. We will have a particular focus on multiplication, division and measurement sense - particularly area and volume. The children are encouraged to develop their own personal learning goals which they can revisit and modify throughout the year. It is helpful if you can support your child to learn their times tables, telling the time and with hands-on measurement activities at home.

Physical Education

The weather will be very up and down this term, but the children should expect to do PE every day. We'll need to grab the opportunities to get outside as they come some days. The PE programme will begin with cross country running. The Moving March and Marathon Mondays will have prepared many for the cross country training and school ***Cross Country event - Tuesday 18 May in Week 3****. Please come and give positive support if you're able. (The postponement day is Thursday 20 May). After that, students will build skills in kicking, throwing and catching large balls and related games.*

Home learning

We cannot over-emphasise the value of developing a love of reading in your children. This may also take the form of you reading to them and modelling the joy of reading. Individual classes will have their own additional homework expectations. These are based on class and individual student needs and can look different from class to class. Teachers will encourage students to complete any classwork that they are behind in, and to read, read, read every day.

Please speak to your classroom teacher if you need further clarification or require any more information.

Active Learning

All classes have been working on 'Active Learning' and the 'Active Learner Traits' ("Connecting me", "Thinking me", "Managing me", "Collaborating me", and "Communicating me"). Active learning happens when a student actively participates in, or interacts with the learning process, rather than being a passive consumer of information. This approach to learning is becoming part of our everyday discussions and increasingly part of the culture of our classrooms. The children will continue to learn about and apply the 'active learner' traits.

Up-Coming Events

We have the Cross Country day in Week 3, as mentioned. At the end of the term, we have a whole day event for senior classes at the Kilbirnie sports centre. The emphasis is on fun and trying out four new sports. We will need some parent helpers for the day to meet safety requirements and will send out a Signmee closer to the time. Rooms 1 - 4 will go on 5 July and Rooms 5 - 7 on 7 July (possibly with some tweaks to make the numbers fit the sessions).

10th - 14th May (Week 2)	*Sign Language Week*
Tuesday 18th May	*School Cross Country*
Thursday 20th May	*PP School Cross Country*
Friday 21st May	*Pink Shirt Day*
24th - 28th May (Week 4)	*Samoan Language Week*
Monday 7th June	*Queen's Birthday*
28th June - 2nd July (Week 9)	*Celebrating Matariki*
Friday 2nd July	*Whole school celebration assembly*
Monday 5th July	*Kilbirnie Sports Centre Rms 5-7*
Wednesday 7th July	*Kilbirnie Sports Centre Rms 1-4*

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 Janice Karl) or the Deputy Principal (Esmee Elias-Tito). The partnership between home and school is crucial so please don't 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*.**

Covid 19

We're very lucky that we are able to go about school life as usual in New Zealand. However, we still need to stay vigilant about health requirements - to combat a range of viruses and stomach bugs that can make people unwell, not only Covid 19. Teachers will remind children about the health and safety procedures that help keep us well at any time, but which are especially important during this time of Covid 19. Children will be reminded that they need to wash their hands before they come into the classroom, before they eat, after they use the toilet, after they blow their nose and after they use play equipment. There is hand sanitiser available in each classroom.

Please keep your child home if they have a cough, cold or runny nose. If they have a tummy upset, your child needs to stay home for 48 hours after the last episode. This time helps them to get better and stops those bugs from affecting their classmates and teachers.

There is a scan sheet for the Covid location app in each block of classrooms and each teacher has a sign-in sheet for parents and any other adult visitors.

We are looking forward to another great term at Waterloo School with your children.

Regards

The Senior Team

Glynnis Bell, Janice Karl, Charlotte Kelly, Katie Everett, Rachel More, Anna Boyce, and Ruby Leonard.