

Oakura Year 3&4 Newsletter

Term Two 2017

Term: Two | Issue 2 | Date: May, 1, 2017

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to Term 2! We hope you've enjoyed the beautiful Autumn weather over the short break. At the end of the term we said farewell to Mr Laird and we welcome Mr Kiel De Buisson in Room 4.

New Staff at Oakura

Kia ora students and whanau. My name is Kiel De Buisson and I am fortunate to be taking over from Mr Laird in Room 4. I have 7 years teaching experience plus have also spent time relieving in Sydney. I love exploring the great outdoors and enjoy mountain biking. I also enjoy Ballroom Dancing and am a qualified dance teacher and adjudicator. I'm looking forward to working in such a supportive team and meeting you all throughout the year.

New Students at Oakura

Oakura welcomes Miley Blakers, Keziah Fakavamoeanga and their families. We hope that you enjoy your time with us at Oakura School.

THIS TERMS TOPICS

Inquiry - Big Idea **Serious Fun - How do we keep ourselves and others safe while having fun?**

This term is all about having fun and keeping ourselves safe. We will be participating in the Life Ed bus where children will learn how to be a digital citizen and keep themselves and others safe using devices. We will also be learning about how to cook food safely and ending the term with outdoor pursuits where children will create and plan their own games and activities in the outdoors.

Written language topics will include descriptive writing focused on setting and character descriptions. Children will also write persuasive pieces of writing linked to our inquiry topic.

Mathematics topics - At the beginning of the term we will focus on addition and subtraction and then move onto multiplication and division. Children will be using their basic facts to help consolidate their understanding of strategies taught. At the end of the term children will learn about geometry, e.g. 2D, 3D shapes, position and orientations.

KEY DATES

Week 1 and 2 :

Life Education Bus will be running sessions about being a digital citizen.

Thursday 11th May

Des Hunt Writing Workshop

Friday 26th May 2017

School Marae Day

Tuesday 30th May 2017

School Photo Day

Tuesday 30th May 2017

Learning Conferences

Wednesday 31st May 2017

Learning Conferences

Thursday 1st June

Learning Conferences

Friday 23rd June 2017

Whanau Lunch

READING FOCUS

Reading will be focused around our inquiry topic 'Serious Fun'. Children will be exposed to texts focused on safety and fun activities in our community, school and home. We will also teach reciprocal reading strategies with an emphasis on evaluation showing a developing understanding of ideas within, across, and beyond texts.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOCUS

It is an exciting term for health and physical education. We have a packed curriculum starting off with the Life Education Bus. The focus for Life Ed is around being a digital citizen in the 21st century and how our actions can effect ourselves and others in our community.

We also have a focus on small ball skills with Sports Taranaki coming in to help children develop their skills in this area as well as an opportunity to have a taster in hockey skills.

Our syndicate is also focusing on Maori games in preparation for our Marae Day visit.

HOMEWORK

Homework will continue in Term 2 with a weekly homework sheet sent home on a Monday which needs to be returned to school on Friday. Just a reminder that we are trying to encourage children to self manage their homework and take responsibility for completing their homework tasks to a high standard. Please encourage children to bring their homework book to school on Friday so that they can work independently on their learning goals.

BYOD/BLOGS

Our syndicate has noticed a significant increase in children bringing their own devices to school. Children have shown they can be responsible with their own devices and the schools. With Life Ed focusing on being digital citizens, we are creating a healthy learning environment that uses technology as a tool to create, share and connect home and school.

Here are some great ipad or tablet apps to download:

Google Chrome, Google Docs, Puffin Academy, Explain Everything, Aurasma and Movie Maker. These apps will be used frequently in class and will help your child manage their devices better.

We will be updating our blogs regularly as part of our learning and see them as a great way of opening up more communication between home and school. Blogs can be accessed through our school home page at www.oakura.school.nz

We are looking forward to a great term and welcome and appreciate your support. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any queries or concerns.

Kind regards

Janine Williamson, Thais Farrant & Kiel De Buisson

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Monday 5th May 2017

Queens Birthday