

Team One Newsletter
Term One 2nd February 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Your child is a member of Team One this year. This consists of Room 15 with Ms Nicole Wilson, Room 16 with Ms Donna Hird and Room 17 Miss Jo Osborne. Ms Nicole Wilson is Team Leader. We would like to welcome all returning students and extend a warm welcome to new students in our classes. Come and meet your child's classroom teacher and hear about the 2010 programme at the 'Meet the Teacher Evening' on Tuesday the 9th of February at 6.00 pm.

We have a busy term ahead!

We are learning about each other and identifying the criteria for a successful year at school. Adapting to a new class can be difficult for students so we aim to make this transition as smooth as possible. If your child expresses concerns we should know about, please contact us through the school office or alternatively email your child's teacher (email addresses are included at the end of this letter).

In Mathematics we will be reinforcing basic facts recall and in numeracy cover number knowledge along with the four basic operations. We are also looking at statistics this term and students will be familiarising themselves with a variety of graphs and methods of data collection.

In English we will be focusing on personal writing with an emphasis on the features of good writing including punctuation, grammar, revising and paragraphing. We will be starting the reading programme for the term with a shared novel "The Silent One" by Joy Cowley before focusing on non fiction text in guided reading groups.

This term Health and Social Studies are the major focus area of the curriculum with an integrated theme 'Reach Out'. In Team One we will be specifically concentrating on reaching within ourselves for resources to develop a focus value and habit of mind and later in the term learning about reaching out to people who are different from us culturally.

P.E. will include fitness twice weekly and a build up of small ball skills for the interschool softball tournament on February 25th. This year Team 1 will be joining Team 2 (Year 5 and 6) at the base pool on March 9th for our senior school swimming sports day. Team sports are on Wednesday afternoons.

We continue our Technology classes at Te Atatu Intermediate on Friday mornings. **Students are required to be ready to board the bus at 8.45 sharp.** This means arriving at school in time to order lunch if needed, put away bag, and get Tech book and pencil case from desks. Covered footwear is necessary for classes in the workshops and students with long hair need to ensure that it is tied back. The cost for Tech is \$40 per year to cover the cost of consumables such as recipe ingredients, fabrics, wood and metal. An invoice from Te Atatu Intermediate will go out following the first Tech visit (Friday the 5th February) and payments can be sent along to our school office this year.

Week 5 (March 1st – 5th) has been set aside to conduct PAT testing. These are standardised tests requiring a lot of time and organisation. The results of this testing will be made available to students and their parents at the end of term on their first

school report. **It is therefore vital that all students are here at school in Week 5.**

The home learning programme begins this week, with new tasks started on a Friday and marked and collected the following Thursday. Please read the explanations and instructions printed at the beginning of the home learning booklet with your child. Home learning will include some general language exercises, reading, spelling and mathematics. Home learning should not become a teaching experience for you as a parent and caregiver, it is expected that our students will complete their home learning tasks independently. This year we've attempted to make the home learning system as simple and user friendly as possible by providing two terms worth of home learning in a single booklet. Please do not encourage your child to do more than the weekly tasks set – home learning is about forming good work habits, time management and meeting deadlines. It is therefore essential that our students begin to independently break down the tasks into small manageable chunks, attempted regularly and for reasonably short periods of time.

As part of our EOTC programme this year we will be taking part in an Outdoor Education week from March 29th – April 1st (the last week of term). Further information, permission slips and requests for help will be sent out over the next few weeks.

Important dates to remember:

February

25th – Northwest Zone Softball

March

9th – Swimming Sports

18th – Northwest Zone Swimming Sports

29th – Outdoor Education Week Starts

April

1st – Term 1 ends

Kind Regards,

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