

Team One Newsletter

Term Two 19th April 2010

Welcome back to another full on term! Our pupils continue to be busy around the school taking leading roles and being offered numerous activities to challenge themselves. Below is a list of important dates:

April

22 HPV Injections (Year 8 girls)

26/27 Hearing & Vision Testing

May

5 Parent/Teacher Discussions (Team 1 & 2)

6 Young Leaders Day

10/11 Room 15 ICT intensive

17/18 Room 16 ICT intensive

19 Mufti Day

24/25 Room 17 ICT intensive

25 UNSW Computers Test

24/28 Book Fair

27 Team 1 City Trip

June

7 Queens Birthday Weekend (school closed)

9 UNSW Science Test

10 Injections (Year 7 students)

Cake Stall (Room 16 providing baking)

22 UNSW Spelling Testing

25 Disco

28 Literacy Reports Sent Home

July

2 Term Ends

A huge thank you to all who supported our EOTC week at the end of Term 1. Education Outside the Classroom is a compulsory component of our curriculum but planning and organising such events is always a massive undertaking and a stressful time for staff. Parents and caregivers who show their support by promptly returning forms, making payment before the trip dates and offering to accompany our students to different venues make these types of essential learning experiences possible and your help is greatly appreciated!

We kick off this term with our two week integrated unit 'The ANZACs'. This will include writing poetry, reading real life diary entries from WW1, honing our mapping skills, photo interpretation and exploring a webquest about Gallipoli. For the rest of the term we will be exploring the theme 'Brrrrr!'. This includes looking at the planets polar regions and the growing environmental issues surrounding Antarctica and the Arctic. We will be conducting scientific experiments investigating the properties of H₂O and as winter approaches we will also be learning more about how we can keep ourselves cold and flu free. We are hoping to take a trip into the city to visit the Auckland War Memorial Museum and the Antarctic Encounter exhibition at Kelly Tarltons. If you are interested in coming along as a parent helper please keep May 27th free in your diary!

In maths we will be consolidating knowledge of basic facts, moving onto fractions, ratios and decimals, and covering the measurement of length, area, volume and angles.

In literacy we will be writing information reports that will be marked for assessment. Reading will focus on developing inferential and evaluative skills as well as extending our vocabulary knowledge. All students will be assessed for their reading level and comprehension (understanding) this term. A literacy report will be sent home on the 28th of June sharing your child's strengths and next areas for development in this area. Don't forget parent/teacher discussions will take place on Wednesday of Week 3 (May 5th). A letter explaining the organisation of this night in more detail will be sent home in the next few days.

French continues with Martine Strachan taking each class for a weekly lesson on French language and culture during our team rotation on Wednesday mornings. Ms Corsan continues teaching information and computer technology lessons during our ICT 2 day intensives. The ICT levy of \$40 helps cover costs associated with consumable materials and the maintenance of our technological equipment over the course of the year. **If you still have not paid these please send payment urgently to our office at Whenuapai School.**

PE and sports are based on large ball skills this term - throwing, catching, dodging, dribbling, and defending. Children will have a chance to practice the skills they've learned at team sports on Wednesday afternoon. Regular fitness activities and sessions will continue along with weekly health sessions which focus on how to keep ourselves safe from germs and viruses during the colder months. Gymnastics will also be taught on a Wednesday morning as part of our team rotation programme.

Technology lessons continue at Te Atatu Intermediate. Remember for safety reasons closed in shoes are required to work in the workshops and long hair must be tied back. The Intermediate will invoice each student \$40 for costs associated with materials used in their programmes over the course of the year. **If you still have not paid these fees please send payment urgently to our office at Whenuapai School.**

HPV and tetanus vaccination forms were sent home last term. We have had a very poor return rate. **It is essential that these come back to school regardless of whether your child is having injections or not.** If you've organised for these to be administered through your family doctor or if you're not interested in having your child taking part in the immunisation/vaccination programme simply write this on the form and send it back.

Homework consisting of spelling, maths, language and a readers log continue this term (starting this week). New homework should be started on a Friday and is due the following Thursday. Marking takes place on the Thursday, homework that does not meet this deadline will not be marked. Please communicate with your child's teacher if there is a reason why homework is incomplete (a note written in the homework booklet is fine). Time management is an essential skill for students to have mastered before they leave us and enter secondary education.

We're looking forward to another happy and productive term!

Regards,

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