

West End School

Puawaitanga Team Newsletter

Term 1 2012

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 1 and a big welcome to those who are new to West End School. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable and restful holiday and are ready for an exciting term!

We would like to welcome all new children and families as well as extended a big welcome to Mr Arnold and Mrs Parker who are new to West End School. We are looking forward to all the wonderful experiences and knowledge they can add to our teaching team.

We have had an excellent start to the year and the students have settled in quickly.

We are using a Maori Proverb this year that will embrace all that we do and we are all practicing to say

Kaua e rangiruatia te hā o te hoe; e kore tō tātou waka e ū ki uta.

'Do not lift the paddle out of unison or our canoe will never reach the shore.'

If you have any concerns, questions, or comments regarding your child's learning, please feel free to make a time to speak with your child's classroom teacher.

Room 10 Amanda Zambazos Room 11 James Arnold

Room 15 Heidi Parker Room 6 Paul Davis

A reminder our Parent Evening is on Tuesday 14th February at 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher in their classroom and find out more about the learning that will be occurring this year.

Our Inquiry Topic is . . . Kaua e rangiruatia te hā o te hoe (Do not lift the paddle out of unison)

Learning Intentions

Overall Learning Intention

We are learning to explain in a variety of ways, what makes sense to me of some personal and social issues including customs and traditions specific to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Learning Intentions

The children will be able to...

- > Explain what successful working together looks/sounds/feels like
- > Create a class learning and working together plan
- > Create, follow and reflect upon personal and group goal
- > Contribute and follow an agreed upon class 'contract
- > Understand and apply this to everyday life at school, home and the wider community

We want our children to...

- .. working together to learn.
- .. strive, attain, and reflect upon personal and group goals.
- .. set goals both personal and within a group.

- learning and practicing interdependence.
- understanding the importance of rules in a society (creating them, following them, and consequences if you don't)

Over the term we will also be having visits by Constable Emily McMellon who will come into our classes and do some work with us about respect and responsibility.

Portfolios

This year Puawaitanga Team have 20 page portfolios as we are putting the P.E, Inquiry Learning and Highlight sections of our portfolios on the Ultranet, which you will be able to access electronically through out the year. The content of both our paper and electronic portfolios will remain the same, but will be arranged under the Key Competencies.

Up Coming Events:

Tuesday February 14th -Parent Evening Puawaitanga Meeting at 7.00pm in your children's classrooms.

Keep an eye on the Ultranet for any other events that may occur during the term.

Swimming As swimming is part of our PE curriculum, children are expected to swim during the weekly time their classroom goes. Please send a note from the Doctor if your child is medically unable to swim that day—if unwell we expect they will be at home.

Swimming Times

Room 10 Thursdays 1:20pm

Room 11 Mondays 1:50pm

Room 15 Mondays 2:20pm

Room 6 Mondays 1.20pm

Just a reminder - the pool has asked that

- All children with long hair have it tied up or in a swimming cap
- Children are not to wear boxers under their togs.
- Tog legs are to be above the knee and arms above the elbow.
- Body suits are to be tight fitting not baggy.

Hats: Children are required to have a sunhat with a brim around to protect faces, ears, and necks. We will ensure your child's safety from the sun, with the school hours being peak burning time, by expecting hats to be worn during PE and breaks. Hats will be worn all of Term 1 and Term 4.

Homework: Yes! Your child needs to read every night and by asking your child "what is happening" in the story it is a great opportunity to develop comprehension and recall skills. Other homework may consist of tasks relevant to our integrated curriculum topic and at times some maths and spelling.

General: Te Puawaitanga Team have a very exciting and busy term organised with a focus on working together as a team and making right choices, so please talk to your child about the learning they are doing at school and share with them ways to make the right choice.

Thank you

Puawaitanga Team: Paul Davis, Amanda Zambazos, Heidi Parker, James Arnold.