



Newsletter

4 May 2017

Newsletter No. 7/2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

WELCOME BACK: Welcome back to all of our students and parents for Term 2. We hope you have had an opportunity to have some quality family time and that your children had a chance to rest and recharge ready for another term of learning.

WELCOME MISS GRACE FARRANT: Miss Farrant has begun teaching in Room 21 this week and has immediately started where Miss Gagen left off. Students were straight into learning routines without skipping a beat. Well done Miss Farrant, it is great to have you on board this term. On Friday we will have a special Mihi Whakatau (welcome) for Miss Farrant.

ANZAC DAY: Unfortunately ANZAC Day often falls in the school holidays and we don't often get a chance to acknowledge at school this special remembrance day. This week you may have noticed that each day, we have had the 'ANZAC Field of Remembrance' on the lawn in front of Room 10. Classes have also been involved in a range of ANZAC activities. This helps us remember the men and women of New Zealand who have served our country and protected our right to live in freedom. Many families would have visited or been involved in the ANZAC Services in the holidays. ANZAC Day can be sorrow filled and be a reflective time. In school, we focus on themes of service, peace, freedom and goodwill during ANZAC Day.

I wear a little poppy
As red as red can be
To show I respect and remember
The brave men who fought
To keep New Zealand free

(ANZAC Poem activity, Room 9)

Anzac Biscuits

Yesterday Room 16 went to the tech room to make biscuits. The ingredients were coconut, flour, sugar, rolled oats, golden syrup, baking soda, butter, and boiling water. We had to make biscuits for Anzac Day to remember the soldiers who died.

by Zia Zahid Room 16

Anzac Cookies

The cookies were really soft and they smelled like coconut and it tasted crunchy. Mrs Waimotu cooked the cookies and all of them were hot and it was yum and we had fun!

by Shepherd Mea Room 16

SCHOOL UNIFORM: With the winter months coming it is time to think about ensuring your child has the right school uniform. Please consider purchasing the polar fleece to keep your child warm. If your child walks to and from home you may wish to consider getting a shower proof jacket as well. Another option for winter is the long sleeve polo shirt. We want to ensure we maintain our sense of pride in our school and wearing the correct uniform is a part of what we do. Uniforms can be purchased from our supplier, Angels Fashions, 98 St George Street, Papatoetoe. We also have

some second hand uniforms available at school, please call in at the office, if you would like to purchase any. Non-uniform clothing items such as long sleeved shirts that are not school uniform should not be worn under the school uniform. Girls tights have to be green or black.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: As a staff we have recently met to discuss school attendance. Generally speaking we have very good rates of attendance at school. Last term we had a 93% attendance rate. Although we have concerns about a small number of students, on the whole we have good attendance rates. Having said that, in Term 2 last year our attendance rate dropped, particularly in the middle of the term. What is also interesting is that Mondays and Fridays tend to be the days of the week that students will be absent. Our aim for Term 2 is to promote the importance of being at school every day. Please keep in mind every day at school, learning is happening, every day a child is not at school, they miss the learning.

Lateness in the winter months is also an area of focus for us. We strongly recommend trying to keep a consistent routine in the morning. Please allow your child enough time to eat breakfast and complete all the beginning of the day tasks in time for school. We ask that children are at school with enough time to settle in, say hi to friends, put their bag away and prepare themselves for a day of quality learning. When students arrive late is can be very unsettling for them and not a good way to start the day.

TERM OVERVIEW: Parents please take note of special dates and activities on the Term 2 overview, accompanying this newsletter. Please take particular note of our parent conferences and end of term reporting.

TOPIC STUDIES FOR TERM 2: This term our Junior Team are investigating dinosaurs from weeks 1-5 and then 6-10 they are looking at the concept of cold, through a science lens. The two New Entrant classes are studying the zoo in weeks 1-6, and in weeks 7-10 will focus on insects. The junior teachers are especially focused around developing vocabulary and communicating ideas in interesting contexts. They are mindful of relating learning to the life experiences of the students.

Our Middle School are looking at incorporating transport and moving machines into the learning areas. They have a main focus around technology this term. Students will construct a vehicle to be raced on our 'drag race' day.

Our Senior School have a major focus in technology. They will be using natural disaster scenarios that students will explore. They will work towards designing, solving problems and constructing items to help them survive a natural disaster. Science will also be evident throughout the term.

KIWI GAMES FUN SPORTS PROGRAMME: For children aged 5 – 11 years. Saturdays in Term 2: Starts 14th May; then 21st May , 11th June, 18th June, 25th June, and 2nd July. 9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Papatoetoe East School, 138 Tui Road. Gold coin donation. Contact Mr Glenn at PACT Office 279-8340 or 0274 381646.

LUCKY LUNCH WINNER: Well done to Rachel Scott from Room 6 who was the lucky lunch winner from the last newsletter. On Mondays or Fridays, the lucky lunch winner is able to order their free lunch from the auditorium.

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Please sign and return this slip to school tomorrow so your child's name can be entered in a draw for a free school lunch.

Parent's Signature _____ Child's Name _____ Room _____