

NEWSLETTER

No. 01
Term 1, Week 2

Thursday 13th February 2020



Principal's Note

Kia ora koutou,
Even though it seems a little silly being almost two weeks into the term, I would like to welcome you all back to school for 2020.

This year we have already had many new faces join our Whanau. Welcome to Maddison, Brodie, Jake, Tayah, Isaac, Daisy, Emily, Yuval, Sefirah, Chaya, Maddie, Dylan, Ida, Martha and Cameron. We are very pleased to have you all with us throughout the school.

Thank you everyone for all of your patience with notices so far this year as we re-establish routines and systems. The influx of information will slow down we promise as we all settle back into another year of learning. One of the most important notices to come home so far is the Parent/Child/Teacher discussion forms. We really do encourage all families to take the time to come along and help us set learning goals for your children for the start of the year. The most significant impact that we can have as a community for our children's learning is the strong connections between home and school and all being on the same page. Please do also remember that all families are very welcome to come in at any stage in the mornings or after school to chat with our teachers about your child.

As mentioned last year, we will be holding a Teacher Only Day on Friday 13th of March. The School will be closed for instruction that day. All of our teachers will be joined by other teachers from all over Dunedin here at the school to take part in a workshop around phonological awareness and decodable readers by Mrs. Liz Kane. This is a really exciting opportunity for our staff to have an expert in reading instruction with us for the day. We do understand that this can make parenting logistics a little tricky. Koputai Afterschool Care will be running a whole day programme for any families who may otherwise be stuck for care. If you are interested, please let us know and we will help connect you with the Koputai staff.

Lastly, we really do value the strong community connection that the school has with families. Today we will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher BBQ' from 4.30-5.30pm. Everyone is very welcome to join us for a free sausage or two and a chance to catch up with staff and other families in an informal setting. We look forward to seeing you then.

Nga mihi nui,

Gareth Swete
Principal.

Person of the Week



Congratulations to Phoenix, Rupert, Mordy, Callan, Eli and Hunter who were nominated for Person of the Week. The trophy for Week 8 went home with Rupert

Important Dates

- 13 Feb - Meet the Teacher BBQ
- 17 Feb – PCT Discussions 3-5.30pm
- 19 Feb – PCT Discussions 5-7.30pm
- 13 Mar – Teacher Only Day, School closed for instruction
- 16 Mar – Swimming programme starts
- 23 Mar – Otago Anniversary
- 9 Apr – Last Day of Term 1
- 10 Apr – Good Friday

Classroom Notes

Papatūānuku

This year in Papatūānuku we welcome 8 new tamariki. A warm welcome to Tayah, Yuval, Daisy, Emily, Martha, Isaac, Brodie and Jake. Welcome back to our returning students also who are proving to be fantastic role models to our newer students. We also welcome Miss George Atfield to our class, from the University of Otago, College of Education. George will be with our class every Tuesday throughout the year.

We've started talking about our theme for the term 'Tipuria, Growth', and the tamariki have shared a large list of things they know that grow. We've allowed their artistic painting skills to share this knowledge too! We have been enjoying our runs around the bike track and a fun game at Kelly Sports on Tuesday.

We're looking forward to a fantastic year together!

Report by Papatūānuku

Hine-Rau-Whārangī

We have had a brilliant beginning to our time in Hine-Rau-Whārangī and we have had lots of fun and laughs together. I was impressed when everyone shared some of their art at Assembly last week, especially when all the children spoke to the audience. If you missed seeing our art, feel free to pop into our class to see our amazing self-portraits. Please remember to bring your library books back to school tomorrow so you can borrow some more. Hopefully I'll see you at the BBQ this afternoon! Ka kite ano!



Report by Mrs Barr

Tāwhirimātea

Tāwhirimātea children are off to a flying start to the year! We have had lots of fun getting to know each other and setting up our classroom routines. Last week we really enjoyed reading the Dr Seuss book 'Oh the places you'll go'. This has been the basis for the beginning of this term's topic - Tipuria/Growth. We have all set a learning goal for the term and then had great fun getting mucky with paper mache to make hot air balloons to display our goals on. This week we have been learning about self-portraits - we have looked at where on our face our facial features are and worked out how to then place them on our artworks. It is our turn to share in assembly this week, so hopefully we will have these finished in time to show you all. Another highlight for the children this week was Kelly Sports on Tuesday. We loved getting out and learning some new games while developing our throwing skills.

Report by Mrs Swete

Ranginui

Ranginui have been growing radish seeds in their own handmade Greenhouse. You may have spotted these through our classroom window. We have been watching the changes over the past couple of weeks and most of our seeds have started to sprout. We have discussed the 'Plant Life Cycle' and we are looking deeper into what makes a plant grow, how do plants grow without anyone planting a seed, and parts of a plant that are important.

We have been problem solving in Maths, and looking at different ways to add large numbers together. We are starting to make the connection between skip counting and multiplication. We know that often our problem solving requires us to have a 'Growth Mindset' and we enjoy the 'Trial and Error' process. Ranginui are fantastic at being risk-takers!

Report by Mrs Eathorne

Hinemoana

It has been a busy but fun start to the year for Hinemoana. We have been learning lots about each other, our new classroom and are beginning to settle into routines. We are exploring what it means to have a Growth Mindset, with the idea that this will guide our thinking and learning for the year. We have completed self-portraits and are looking forward to showing these off in assembly tomorrow. You would have also seen that children are now bringing home reading and spelling for home learning. Please take the time to read the note that accompanied this and if you have any questions please feel free to come and have a chat or flick me an email. Thanks for the great start to the year Hinemoana - let's keep it up!

Report by Hinemoana

Tāne Mahuta

In Tāne Mahuta this week we have been learning about how Maths is not all about getting the right answer but more about how we go about solving it. We have been problem-solving with fractions and decimals to help practice these skills. In Written Language, we had a very odd writing prompt. Mrs Marshall brought in a carrot from her garden that looked like a human. We are planning all sorts of stories about 'Daniel' the carrot. On Tuesday we started Kelly Sport again for the year. It was fun and great to have them back with us. We particularly liked playing a game with beanbags and hoops.

Thank you to Ava and Kaiya for helping out in the School Office this morning with the sushi orders and notices.

Report by Madison B and Harry W

School and Community News



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