

NEWSLETTER

No. 02
Term 1, Week 3

Thursday 20th February 2020



Principal's Note

Kia ora koutou,

This week we welcome Fatima and her family to Sawyers Bay School. Fatima has started in Tāne Mahuta and we are thrilled to have you with us Fatima.

This week has been a big one for the teaching staff with Parent/Caregiver/Teacher discussions, Board of Trustees meetings and time out of the class to work with all of the children individually. A big thank you to all of the families that turned out for the PCT Discussions. It is such a valuable time for us to create shared goals and expectations as well as picking up new information about our children. We pride ourselves on knowing our learners well and one on one time with families is essential in developing this knowledge. We have already put into place strategies to help support our learners and families as well as we can.

One common thread that has come up, and that we have been acutely aware of over previous years, is the increase in Child Anxiety that we see. Children are growing up in a fast-paced and often stressful world. Anxiety in children is a common result of this and is becoming more and more common. Anxiety can sit on a spectrum from mild anxiety around starting something new, mild anxiety often around separation from caregivers in the mornings, right through to significant anxiety that stops a child from being able to participate or engage with others. Mild to moderate anxiety can grow if left unchecked and not supported in the right way. There are a few things that we do as parents that can accidentally exacerbate the situation through misunderstandings of how to support our child (my hand is up, I know that I have been guilty of this), and most often it comes from our deep desire to do the very best for our kids with the skills that we have.

Considering all of this, it often boils down to not having the understanding and tools to deal with anxiety as we are not all psychologists. We have therefore been able to engage the services of Mike Parkes, registered child psychologist from the Southern DHB. I have listened to Mike several times and find him fascinating and informative. Mike would be very willing to join us for a parent session around stress and anxiety in children as well as a Q/A session. My suggestion would be on a Friday straight after Assembly as there are many of us parents there. In order to go ahead with this, we need to know that there is interest in our community. If you think that this would be something that you would like to be part of, to add a few tools to your parenting toolbox, PLEASE let me know immediately either in person or via email. As soon as we know that there is interest, we will organise a time and date. It is a very exciting offer and I hope that we can get it done for our kids.

Nga mihi nui,

Gareth Swete
Principal.

Person of the Week



Congratulations to Chaya, Alex, Freddie, Isabella, James and Carter who were nominated for Person of the Week. The trophy for Week 2 went home with James

Important Dates

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 week in Papatūānuku, we have been learning a new finger rhyme to help us with our numeracy. We'll have a different one each week, so you could ask your tamariki to show you! We've continued to look at self portraits, and the features of our face. We've created a masterpiece that we will show off in assembly this week. Do come along and see! We are writing stories about the things we CAN do. We can do lots of things already, and it's lovely to see the children's self esteem so high. Occasionally we hear "I can't do that" so we are learning about growing our mind set to think "I can't do that – YET !!" and working towards how we can.



Report by Papatūānuku

Hine-Rau-Whārangī

Jayden's eagle eyes spotted a monarch butterfly fluttering around our swan plant this week and we were amazed to see it lay eggs! We were fascinated at how carefully the butterfly landed on the leaves and how it curled its body under the leaves to lay each egg. This links so well to our Term 1 Inquiry 'Tipuria - Growth'. We brainstormed our ideas about tipuria, and we're keen to learn about butterflies, bees, how we learn (our brains), and our growing bodies. If you have special interest in any of these topics, please be in touch as you are more than welcome to share with the class.

Report by Mrs Barr

Tāwhirimātea

There is a lot of tipuria (growth) happening in Tāwhirimātea this week. We are growing our knowledge and skills in Maths by finding many different ways to count collections. We found that by making piles of 10, 20, or 100, we were able to count our collections much more easily and accurately. We were extremely excited on Tuesday to see that our monarch caterpillar eggs have hatched into tiny little caterpillars - we have had a camera on them and we think they have grown a lot already! You may have also spotted a bag of mushrooms growing away in our class too. These are oyster mushrooms and we will be looking more into what they require to grow over the next few weeks. Tāwhirimātea children are also really keen to know how our bodies grow so we will be looking at different ways we can research our questions to find the answers we are looking for.

Report by Mrs Swete

Ranginui

Have you heard the words, "growth mindset"? We have been thinking about ways we can train our brain and use positive self talk. Find out from your child what kind of statements you would hear from a person with a growth mind-set. Ranginui is sharing for the first time at Assembly tomorrow, come and check out what we have been up to. Thank you to all of our families who came along to speak with us on Monday and Wednesday, we enjoyed finding out more about your child and celebrating the start of the year with you.

Report by Mrs Eathorne

Hinemoana

This week in Hinemoana we have completed letters to the Once-ler, a character in The Lorax by Dr Seuss. We wrote our letters from the perspective of the Truffula Trees, persuading the Once-ler to stop chopping us all down, causing deforestation and pollution. In our letters we had to include how the Once-ler made us feel and why trees are important. We have made our own greenhouses, and have made some noticings and wonderings about the seeds that we are growing. We are learning how to ask questions by using a

variety of question starters and our question starter dice. Feel free to pop into Hinemoana to have a look at your child's fantastic work!

Report by Hinemoana

Tāne Mahuta

Mrs Marshall found an extremely funny looking carrot in her garden and we are writing descriptive stories about the carrot. We all have very different names and stories for him. In Maths, we have been evaluating what maths means to us and thinking about where and when we use maths in our everyday lives. This week we have also been working on our self portraits, with a maths and art focus looking at symmetry, shape, size, shading different medium and how we can improve our portraits. We are all feeling pretty happy with what we have achieved.

Report by Mrs Brewer

School and Community News

Emmanuel Church Free Family-Friendly Activities

Afternoon Tea on Tuesdays will start on the 11th February. 2:00-3:30pm. A simple afternoon tea provided at the back of the church for members of the community, teachers, children, parents and caregivers. Come and have a cuppa!

Rumpus Room (2nd & 4th Friday of the month) will start on Friday 28th February. 6:30-9:00pm. A relaxed evening for ALL AGES in the hall at the back of the church. We have foosball, pool, table tennis, 1000+ piece puzzles, drawing/painting, cards - something for everyone. Supper is served around 8:00pm. Everyone welcome. Bring your family. Bring your neighbour.

Buddy Reading with Papatuanuku

