



Kelburn Normal School

# Junior Syndicate Term One Newsletter

February 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to an exciting new school year. All the junior school classes (Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4) have had a great start to the term. It is lovely to see the children reconnecting with their friends after the long holiday, as well as establishing themselves in their new class and school environment.



Our teaching team in our junior school is: Amelia Mazur in Room 4; Sally Coddington in Room 3; Adele Murray in Room 2, and Susie Brown in Room 1. It is also great to have our Reading Recovery programme continuing this year with Ali Laing.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of some syndicate-wide activities in term one.

## Curriculum Topics

This term we are starting with ***Celebrating Me, my Family and School Community***. Students will investigate each other and how belonging to a group is important. We will be focusing on what makes us special in different ways. This unit incorporates learning in the curriculum areas of PE and health, social science, English and the arts (especially drama). We are talking about our responsibilities in the class, at home, and how to work together and share. Throughout this unit we will reinforce our classroom routines and behaviour expectations for the year.

Our next topic has a science, arts, and English focus. It focuses on the science strand The Living World and is called ***Critters that Creep, Crawl, and Fly in the Garden***. The children will be exploring how living things change and interact with their environment, through investigations and discussions.

We will be celebrating ***Easter*** later on in the term. Some teachers will be asking for parent help in the class to support fun activities closer to the time.

## Mathematics

In Rooms 1, 2, 3, and 4 we have started with a three week introduction to **statistics**, focusing on data collection and graphs.

Next we will be working on numeracy with a focus on **addition and subtraction strategies and number knowledge**.

To complete this term will be a **measurement** unit focusing on weight and capacity.

Please check with your child's classroom teacher that your child returned their **mathematical passport** from last year. If not, please have a look at home and return it to school. If you are unable to find it, please purchase one from the office. The mathematical passports are used to support your child and encourage interest and progress in mathematics, as well as informing the parents of where their child is at in **number knowledge** and what they need to learn next. The passports will be sent home later on. We will also be using them in our three-way learning conversations interviews. Don't forget to check out the activities and advice on [www.nzmaths.co.nz](http://www.nzmaths.co.nz).-click on the 'Families' heading.

## Literacy

Our literacy programs are just beginning in the classes but will be up and running by week two. Your child should be bringing a reading book home **every night, Monday to Thursday**. On a **Friday** your child should be bringing home their poetry book to share the week's poem, the actions that may go along with it, and to re-read through at least 3-4 favourite poems.

Sometimes your child will bring home books they have already read; in this case they are expected to re-read the book. This is because the focus could be for your child to improve their fluency and/or expression. The process of re-reading known texts is a very important one. The children are engaged in re-reading known texts in the classroom programme for many reasons. Re-reading increases your child's understanding of the text and allows them to gain deeper meaning; it provides an opportunity to practise fluency, expression, and increases reading mileage.

We know every effort is made in your busy lives to make time to fit in this important reading; the more children read the better they get. Please remember to fill in the children's yellow home reading book, as the teachers really value your feedback and input. We have attached a useful sheet that can help with this important task and some questions to help develop the children's comprehension of the text.

During this term, we are working on personal and expressive recounts as well as descriptive writing. These closely tie in with our integrated units of work.

Children will have regular **handwriting** sessions that will focus on correct pencil grip, forming lower-case, capital letters, and numbers correctly and legibly.

## Home Learning

In the junior school we relate our home learning directly to the work that is covered in the class and we use it to support the learning that is currently taking place in the class. The children will bring their book home and are expected to return it by **Friday** so their hard work can be shared with the teacher and class. The children will take home their poetry book on a Friday and then return it to school on **Monday**.

## Arts

In Visual arts we will be exploring the use of colour, detail, form, and composition in the children's art works related to our topic studies.

Drama and role playing will be used to enhance and expand the children's understanding of literacy through play, and to extend their imaginative scope.

Through music, the children will listen, and learn to respond to changes in tempo, tone, and dynamics. We will also be encouraging them to join in with singing.

## Physical Education

In the junior school we value sports, games, and skill development. A big focus this term is to develop and improve our running, jumping, and throwing abilities. Not only does every class have regular fitness programmes and P.E skills sessions weekly, but we are also coming together as a syndicate for a range of physical activities. We are planning to have a junior sports event later on in the term which we hope that you can attend. Keep an eye out for the date.



## Reminders

### Assembly

A junior-led assembly will be held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Room 3 will be hosting this but all the junior children will be sharing something, so put this date in your diary now!

**Please return your child's learning anthology from last year** so we can continue to add to it to build up an interesting collection of work, which shows the wonderful progress your child is making over their first two years at school.

All the teachers encourage the children to work towards independence and we would appreciate your help too. The children are encouraged to **take responsibility** for carrying their own school bag to and from school, and to put their reading folders and contents in the right place in the mornings.

Children need to wear **sun smart** clothing during this term, including hats with a wide brim. No caps thanks. Children are responsible for putting their own sun block on. The roll-on kind seems to be the most manageable!

We use many different materials in arts/crafts and Discovery Time so if you have things such as ice cream containers, old birthday cards, cardboard rolls etc that you can kindly donate, we would appreciate it. No toilet rolls please. Just ask your class teacher what they might need. Thank you.

## Parent Help

We are looking forward to once again having parent support for our ever popular Discovery Time and also book putting away. Keep an eye out for class information about this. If you would like to help out in other areas please don't hesitate to let your class teacher know.

Please remember to come into the classrooms during the week, either in the morning, or after school, to admire your child's work on the walls, or hear your child read their writing book to you.

If you have any questions, or there is something you would like to talk to the teachers about, please feel free to email or pop in and see us.

Kind regards,

The junior school team

Susie Brown – Syndicate Leader, Adele Murray, Sally Coddington, Amelia Mazur, and Ali Laing.

### Email Addresses

[sallyc@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:sallyc@kelburnnormal.school.nz)  
[susieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:susieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz)  
[adelem@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:adelem@kelburnnormal.school.nz)

[ameliam@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:ameliam@kelburnnormal.school.nz)  
[alisonl@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:alisonl@kelburnnormal.school.nz)



## Greetings from the Moon Room: Mission Possible .....

### What is Reading Recovery?

Reading Recovery is an early literacy intervention that supplements good classroom teaching. Children's reading and writing are assessed close to their sixth birthday and the lowest scoring children come in to Reading Recovery as soon as a space is available.

### Why does a child need Reading Recovery?

There are many reasons why a child may find reading and writing difficult at first. The children taken into Reading Recovery are those who have made least progress relative to their classmates. With one-to-one teaching children make faster progress because the teacher can design the lessons to suit a particular child's strengths.

### How does it work?

Each day's lesson lasts 30 minutes and follows the same structure, namely reading familiar and new texts, assessment on a text introduced the previous day to inform my teaching, and check progress and writing a short story. Instruction is provided until the child is reading at or above the average of his or her class, and has acquired independent reading and writing strategies.

**The Moon Room: Mission Possible is also used by Ali for all six year net assessment.**

Ali Laing Reading Recovery Teacher