



Kelburn Normal School

Lower Middle Syndicate Term One Newsletter

Friday 10 February 2017

*Tena Koutou katoa nga Matua me nga Kaitiaki,
Greetings to all Parents and Caregivers,*

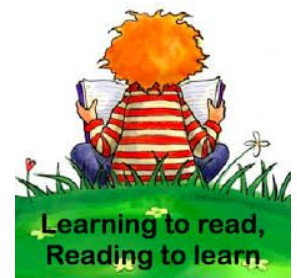
A big hello and a warm welcome to all the new and returning families to the Lower Middle area of the school! We would firstly like to introduce ourselves; Emma Murdoch in Room 10, Richard Dobson in Room 11, and Greta De Vries in Room 12. We are all very excited to be teaching at Kelburn Normal School, and have loved getting to know your child better this week. We are a very experienced team of teachers and have loved the warm welcome we have received this week. Thankyou!

In Week 6 the Year 3s will be attending a "Year 3 Sports Festival" which is going to take place on Tuesday 14 March at Samuel Marsden. The postponement date will be Thursday 16 March. For this to proceed we need about 8 parent helpers to accompany the children (and one lovely Year 3-4 teacher) to the sports festival. You would take responsibility for managing a group of children as they travel from event game to game. Morning tea is provided! The sports festival will finish around 1.00pm. If this is something you would like to do, please contact your Year 3 child's teacher via email.

That same week, we will be attending the Capital E National Arts Festival on Wednesday 15th March. Each class will need 3 adult helpers to help with the supervision of children as we move between 3 different venues across Wellington City. If you are interested in helping on the day, please let your child's teacher know via email.

Curriculum Topics

We are beginning the year with a focus on "All about me", exploring who we are, where we come from and what makes us good learners. Later in the term we will also explore some of the science behind the healthy eating and healthy exercise choices we make each day. This is a good time to focus on the Key Competency of how we manage ourselves, our belongings in the class and school and making good decisions about our learning. Our first literary topic will be focussed around writing about 'first hand experiences'. The children will be writing, planning, inventing, and drawing their interesting ideas. Children will be reading each day a wide variety of different texts, with teachers focussing on the two domains of reading- Learning to Read, and Reading to Learn.



With such changeable, unpredictable weather at the moment, we are taking every moment we can to get outside for fitness in the mornings, a P.E skill lesson each week, and later in the term, a syndicate sport session. The focus of the skills sessions will be on passing and throwing, striking and fielding.

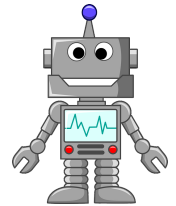


Mathematics

We begin the year with revisiting our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division basic facts, as well as place value knowledge. We are currently revisiting old favourite games, and establishing good class routines for maths learning. As the weeks progress, we will focus on revising and extending each child's number knowledge and the strategies they are using in solving addition and subtraction problems, as well as them sharing their thinking clearly with partners and group members. Later in the term we will be focusing on statistical investigations through the statistical enquiry cycle of: posing and answering a question; gathering, sorting and displaying data; comparing, questioning and evaluating their findings with a group.

Makerspace and the Key Competencies

As you maybe aware, in the Junior Syndicate a highlight of the week is Discovery Time. In the Lower Middle Syndicate we continue this with our own take on Discovery Time, which we call "Makerspace". The focus of this self-directed session on a Friday afternoon is for the children to practice the Key Competencies. At Kelburn Normal we have three main Key Competencies that promote our children to become independent, creative, lifelong learners. The KNS Key Competencies are derived from the New Zealand Curriculum with our Kelburn children in mind.



Multiple Literacies - Students use and enjoy the languages which enable them to think critically, reflectively, and creatively. Learning conversations and the development of learnacy (how to learn) are a key part of multiple literacies.

Interaction - Students develop reciprocity and learning relationships, and with these a range of interpersonal values. They share in the creation of powerful learning cultures, and act purposefully to make a difference to the various communities they belong to.

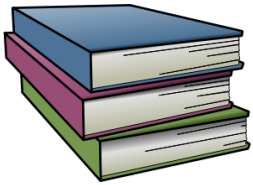
Self Efficacy - Students develop their specific learning dispositions, their resourcefulness, and their identities as learners. They make connections between themselves, their life worlds, and the learning areas.

The children are encouraged to work with others on a project of their choosing, to plan and complete this project. If you have time and would like to come and help, or contribute a skill to run a workshop, please email your classroom teacher.

Home Learning

Home learning will begin at the start of Week 3. It will consist of three main parts- home reading, spelling practice, Mathletics. Our children lead very busy out-of-school lives. For this reason, it is perfectly acceptable for out-of-school activities to count as home learning. All that is required is that the activity is recorded in the spaces where the ticks would normally go. For example, if your child has ballet on Monday after school, they can write 'ballet' in the Monday slot for reading, spelling and mathletics.

- Spelling home learning is supposed to be an opportunity to practice words- not a test time. Teachers will run the testing of words at the end of each week, in class.
- It is perfectly acceptable for children to write in their home reading themselves.
- Some weeks there may be an **optional** 'extra' piece of home learning to be completed, which may take additional time, spread out over the week. Feel free to email the teacher if anything about this needs clarifying. There are no consequences for children not completing this part.
- Home learning books should be returned to school every morning. This allows children to practise their spelling words during classroom time. If the book is left at home, then the child misses this opportunity. Teachers may also wish to check the home learning book for messages from home. Quick notes in the home learning book save the need to email!



Library Times

Each class has a timetabled slot in the library each week. This is an opportunity for the children to select their own reading material for daily own choice reading and for home reading too. At the start of the year, the teachers may support your child (where needed) to make their own choice of books. They may withdraw up to three

books at any one time. This is not the only time the children can go to the library; they can return and get out new books on certain lunch times too. You can help your child by talking to them about what books you read and why you choose them, as well as taking them to the public library to select a wider range of book. Remember the five finger rule: your child reads the first page of the book, every time they get a word wrong they put up a finger. When they get to the bottom of the page, if they have four or less fingers up they should be able to read the book, if they have five it may be too difficult. This is just a rough guide.

Sun Smart And "Summer" Weather

Children need to wear **sun smart** clothing including hats and have sunblock in their bags. Please help by checking they have a brimmed hat in their bag, or provide one they can leave at school. Please check that your child has a full water bottle each day as we are encouraging the children to drink water to keep their minds focused.



Tui Choir

Ms Laing is looking forward to Wednesday mornings when she can start the day by singing! Children in Year 3 are very welcome to join her and Room 3 and 4 for fun times. Just fly along to the room at the back of the hall at 9.00! She hopes to see all the Year 3's there!

Piccolo Choir will start shortly as well, Mr Bisley will provide further information to the children.

Other Reminders

- Please return your child's Learning Anthology to school if there is still space in it; then we will be able to add this term's work to it.

- As visual arts and Makerspace can be a messy time, please send along to school an old shirt that your child can use as a art shirt to protect their clothes.
- If you have boxes, fabric, or any bits and bobs that you think would be useful for Makerspace, please send them along to your child's classroom.
- Please provide suitable footwear at school; the children participate in fitness and run around a lot. Hair ties kept at school in the desk are often useful if a child has long hair.

If you have any questions, or there is something you would like to talk to the teachers about, please feel free to come into the class in the morning to make a time, or email the teachers.

Kind Regards,

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Emma Murdoch, Room 10, emmam@kelburnnormal.school.nz

Greta De Vries, Room 12, gretad@kelburnnormal.school.nz