



Kelburn Normal School

Junior Syndicate Newsletter Welcome back to Term Two

Thursday 4th May

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

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

All the Junior Syndicate teachers would like to say a very big **thank you** to all the parents who helped out in the classes with discovery time, and putting books away. We appreciate the time you give as it helps us to offer an exciting range of activities.



We were impressed with how hard all the children worked in term one and how engaged, involved, and curious they were.

We are confident that this will continue through this term as well.

Here are some action shots of our junior sports on the last day of term. We all had a lot of fun in the sack, egg and spoon, three legged, and running races!



Curriculum Topics

Our major topic for the term has an English and Arts focus. It will be based all around **Fairy Tales**. The children will listen to, read, and compare different stories, and look for themes as well as morals to these stories. We will be using drama and writing to explore and enrich their own interpretations of these classically-themed tales.

We will be share some of our drama, creative ideas, and children's writing with the parents in our classes in week ten of this term. Each class teacher will let you know the date.

In week four (22nd May to 29th May) is **science week**. Watch out for our variety of investigations that we will be exploring.

This term all the junior classes are joining together every Tuesday for a 45min session of kapa haka and waiata.

Mathematics and Statistics

For the first three weeks we will be investigating **Algebra, Patterns and Relationships**, focusing on sequential patterns, tessellations, and symmetry.

Our focus will then shift to five weeks of working on *addition and subtraction strategies and number knowledge*. **Number Knowledge** work will reinforce forward and backwards counting sequences of whole numbers; number identification and sequence; knowing and using groups with five, within ten and with ten. **Number Strategy** work will have the children using a range of counting, grouping, and equal sharing to solve addition and subtraction problems.

We will finish off the term with a two week focus on **Time**.

Don't forget to check out the activities and advice on www.nzmaths.co.nz, click on the 'Families' heading.



Literacy

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 value your supportive feedback and input.

Arts

In visual arts, we will be exploring collage, composition, texture, and shape to create artworks based around our topic of Fairy Tales.

The art works will complement drama and role play, and will enhance and expand the children's understanding of these stories and the themes that run through many of them. This will also stimulate the children's imaginative responses and creativity.

Through music the children will listen, respond to, and imitate the elements of beat, rhythm, and pitch as we create music to go with our Fairy Tales unit.

Physical Education

A big focus this term is to develop and improve our co-ordination skills. We are focussing on improving our skipping skills, as well as our running, as we get ready to be part of the whole school cross country event in week five. Room 1 and 2 will also be learning some folk dances. Watch out for the fancy foot work at home.

Assembly

Room 1 and 2 will be hosting our assembly this term, but all the junior children will be sharing some of their exciting learning. So book in Friday 2nd June at 11 o'clock now.

Parent help

We are also looking forward to once again having parent support for our ever popular discovery time, and 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.

Reminders

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. The older children are encouraged to say goodbye to their parents at the gate, and then walk into school by themselves.

Please make sure the children have a warm jacket and/or raincoat each day. If your child wears gumboots to school please pack their slippers in their bag to wear in the classrooms.

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.

Remember to choose a day with your child when you can come into the classroom in the morning or after school. Spend this time with your child so they can share and explain what learning they have been doing, including reading their story 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
susieb@kelburnnormal.school.nz
adelem@kelburnnormal.school.nz

ameliam@kelburnnormal.school.nz
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