

Upper Middle Syndicate Newsletter
Rooms 5, 6 and 7



Friday 5 May 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Here we are off and well into the second term with some exciting and challenging programmes of work planned!

Topics for Term Two

English

It is a very busy term for writing and for creating meaning in other media as well. We start the term looking at short documentary films unit as a springboard for critical thinking, for expressing opinions, and writing from a variety of perspectives. On Friday 12 May we attend Supergirl, a documentary festival film about a young weightlifter. The film is free but the cost of the bus (\$6.50) will be invoiced to you.

In topic work the children will be writing to summarise and share ideas and information around environmental issues. They will also use persuasive writing to put forward their points of view. The children will also speak, improvise, and write creatively to develop a class play. This unit will stimulate them to use writing to reflect on their work; it will also involve the use of digital tools to improve communication and reflection.

Drama

Later in the term, as is the tradition at Kelburn with its performing arts dimension, we will adapt existing stories to explore our own questions and put on class plays. This drama work will be highly interactive, and help our classes develop their social culture. Drama is also a great way to include and engage more children in literacy. Our performances are scheduled at the moment to be at the beginning of term 3; we will confirm the date later.

Science/Social Science

We will move on from our work on rivers and landscapes to look at local environmental issues related to water. In the later part of the term the children will develop a personal inquiry by looking at a problem that interests them and consider solutions.



PARENTAL HELP WANTED

If any parents have knowledge, experience, business connection or

interest in an environmental issue could you please let your child's teacher know.

We would particularly like the children to seek information outside the classroom. The teachers would like to hear from anglers, Fish and Game, Forest and Bird, Greenpeace, Zealandia, waterway restoration, regional council, scientists, water consent holders etc.

Some help with looking at the Karori Stream's health through invertebrate diversity would be appreciated. Any practical ideas about water purification or generating alternative energy would be appreciated.

Key Competency and Values Focus

This term we are focusing on the Key Competency of Relating to Others. This ties into a school-wide focus of looking at our collective values such as respect and manaakitanga. Across the school for teachers action research (professional development), we want to look at what we can do to lift the children's performance and achievement, and also develop their agency, voice and their relationships. To gain an insight, from such a broad cluster of concepts, we have each selected a few target students to observe.

Across the school the guideline/framing question is: How do students respond to the dialogue and feedback that teachers give them about their learning? To put it simply, we want to know what teacher actions really make difference to children's academic performance and Key Competency development.

Maths

In maths we will cover the theme of measurement and initially we will recap time, angles and length. This will allow us to reinforce and practice our addition, subtraction and decimals. Later in the term we look at multiplication and division and apply this to the measurement strand of area and volume.

Art

This term, in art we will focus on the skills that will enable the children to powerfully create produce persuasive posters on environmental themes. Watercolour work from term 1.



Room 6
Tiger Art



Physical Education

We will have regular cross country training and it is important your child wears, or has access to, trainers at school. The goal is for all children to be able to jog 2km without stopping. This term our sport and P.E. programme focuses on the skills of the winter sports of netball, touch rugby and hockey. Lunchtime rugby will start on Tuesday 9 March and your child must have a mouthguard to participate.

Term 1 activity - Kayaking at El Rancho



The syndicate is lucky to have the input of two student teachers Anna Revington and David Malcolm who are working in rooms 6 and 5 for five weeks this term. In three weeks we will farewell Gareth Rouch who is leaving the school. He will be replaced by Tom Simmons who will take the class for the rest of the term until the permanent appointment, Kayleigh Peach arrives next term.

Thank you for your on-going support and input into your child's education. We look forward to catching up with you in person.

Regards Rob, Gareth, Jen

Rob Kerr	robk@kelburnnormal.school.nz ,
Gareth Rouch	garethr@kelburnnormal.school.nz ,
Jen Wilkinson	jenniferw@kelburnnormal.school.nz