



Houghton Valley School

110 Houghton Bay Road, Houghton Bay, Wellington.

Confident, collaborative, inspired children; learning for life.

SENIOR SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - Term 1 2016

Dear Parents and families,

Kia Ora and welcome to term one. We have a busy term ahead and lots of exciting activities planned. Term One is off to a great start and everyone is waiting in anticipation for the Beach Trip which is fast approaching. This term is going to be a BUSY one with a wide range of learning experiences inside and outside the classroom. We have a trip planned to the marae later this term and also a number of sporting and cultural events happening over the term.

The overview below will inform you of what the children will be learning over the term.

Curriculum Focus Areas

This term's Discovery Topic is integrated across curriculum areas.

DISCOVERY TOPIC - KO WAI AU? (WHO AM I?) MAHITAHĪ (WORKING TOGETHER) and TE MARAE

We will be exploring the big question 'Who Am I? The students will understand and unpack this big question and will explore how this connects to the world they live in.

Te Marae Inquiry will explore the big questions; What is a Marae? What do you do on a Marae? How do you introduce yourself on a Marae? We will be visiting Tapu Te Ranga Marae in Week 9.



The Cool Schools Mediation programme is a whole-school proactive programme that teaches essential life skills for peaceful conflict resolution. The skills taught in this programme empower individuals to build positive, caring relationships with others especially in times of conflict.

The Cool Schools Peer Mediation Programme aims to raise awareness of how one's self and others act in conflict situations; teach life-long conflict management skills so that individuals feel empowered to make positive choices towards peaceful conflict resolution; develop leadership in giving service to others and promoting respect for differences and diversity and empower individuals to believe they can make a positive difference in their homes, schools, communities and beyond. The mediator skills will be taught across the school in classes and senior students will continue, as per previous years, to carry out mediation in the breaks.

Classroom Environmental Responsibilities:

As an Enviro-school we will be focusing on our own classroom environmental responsibilities and start preparing our own classroom visual journeys to track our progress with this.

Each class has an environmental responsibility:

Pohutukawa - Worm Farm

Rata - Chickens

Nikau - Rainforest, Planting Trees & Bush Builders

Kowhai - Composting

Karaka - Recycling



LITERACY

Reading and writing will be linked to our Discovery Topics.

Writing Focus

The students will explore how to write recounts about personal experiences and procedural writing structures.

MATHEMATICS

Number Knowledge:

In the early part of the term the students will focus specifically on number knowledge (basic facts, place value, forwards and backwards counting, number identification) revisiting what they know already and building further on this. Number knowledge will continue after this to be a regular component of our numeracy programme.

Focus: Addition and subtraction - solving addition and subtraction number and word problems using a variety of maths strategies.

Statistics – Investigations & Literacy - The students will learn to pose questions for investigations, statistical language, collecting and tallying data, sorting and displaying information on graphs and making statements and conclusions based on this data.

Basic Facts - Your classroom teacher will advise you of how you can support your child/ren. All students must continue to learn the basic facts - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. *Practicing at home every night can help consolidate what is taught at school.*

THE ARTS

Visual Art - Self Portraits & Maori Art - Tukutuku Panels

The students will create an authentic art piece that represents Who Am I? and will learn about and produce Tukutuku panels using a range of media.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

Manipulation of Small Ball Skills

This will focus on the summer sports (Cricket, T-Ball, Tennis). Manipulative skills are the skills we need for moving balls and objects around. They involve handling and controlling object with the hand, the foot or an implement (stick, bat or racquet). Manipulative skills include throwing and catching, striking with the hands, feet and an implement (e.g. kicking, volleying, batting and dribbling). We will focus on supporting the children with developing this further.

Cross Country

The students will start training for the HVS Cross Country in Week 6 of this term. They will learn all the different components of training for an endurance event, such as setting goals and we will support them with this.

We encourage the children to take up the challenge now, and start going for a light run or two in anticipation of cross country. Playing a summer sport is another great complement to cross country training.

The HVS Cross Country will take place in Week 5 of Term 2.

Students need to ensure they have suitable footwear and clothing for cross country and any physical activity at school, a drink bottle filled with water and a sunhat every day.

HOMEWORK and HOMEWORK CHALLENGES

Homework challenges were introduced at HVS in 2015 with the main purpose of connecting with students out-of-school activities. We recognise that they have many different talents and are involved with in a wide variety of activities and homework challenges provide the avenue for this to be shared in the classroom. *The support of parents and caregivers is vital to the success of these challenges.* Students are expected to complete at least 2 homework challenges each term. A homework challenge booklet will be sent home next week.

The challenges are to be completed in addition to other homework given by your teacher. Each teacher will send home a weekly homework sheet which will include compulsory spelling, reading and maths practice. Please support your child to complete their homework every week.

How you can help your child

- Go to the Public Library and help choose topic related books
- Think of people you might know who have knowledge/skills in these areas
- Look on the Internet. Useful internet sites include: **Google, Wikipedia, askquestions.com, manyanswers.com**
- During homework, encourage your child to think for him/herself
- Remember that homework helps build independent study skills



Please remember to send children to school with a drink bottle, a piece of fruit or vegetables for fruit break and a brimmed hat. If they do not have a brimmed hat they will have to sit in the shade during physical activities and during break times.

REMINDER please make sure your child knows if they are catching the bus home or going to After School Care. This ensures they get to where they are supposed to be on time.

Please don't hesitate to come and see us if you need to discuss your child. If a quick chat after school is not enough, feel free to set up a meeting. We can be contacted by e-mail: lara@houghton.school.nz, matt@houghton.school.nz, gabrielle@houghton.school.nz, joe@houghton.school.nz, stephanie@houghton.school.nz or via your child's homework book.

We look forward to meeting you all over the next few weeks. Please let your child's teacher know if you are able to help out in anyway in the classroom.

Regards, The Senior Syndicate Team

Lara, Joe, Matt, Gabrielle and Stephanie