



Houghton Valley School

110 Houghton Bay Road, Houghton Bay, Wellington.

14th February 2019

Year 3/4 team newsletter

We would like to welcome you all back to school. We hope you all enjoyed the summer break and managed to enjoy the beautiful weather. We've had a great first week back, with lots of time spent getting to know each other and time spent setting up our classrooms together. We have 3 classes that make up the year 3/4 team this year, Pohutukawa, Kowhai and Nikau.

Stephanie Bosch (Team Leader)

Pohutukawa

Room 1

stephanie@houghton.school.nz

Kia ora koutou. My name is Stephanie and I teach in Pohutukawa. I've been teaching at Houghton Valley since 2016 and I am the team leader for the Year 3/4 team. Houghton Valley is a great community to be part of. We're lucky to have such a great green space for the children to use in their learning and play. When I'm not teaching I enjoy relaxing with a good book and cup of tea, cooking, baking and spending time with my friends and family. Jenny Cossey will teach in Pohutukawa on alternate Tuesdays to provide release for my team leader duties.

Ben Gittos

Kowhai

Room 2

ben@houghton.school.nz

Kia ora koutou. My name is Ben and I teach in Kowhai. I am an experienced teacher and have spent the majority of my career teaching in Wellington. I have taught at most levels including primary, intermediate and secondary. I enjoy working with Year 3 and 4 students and am looking forward to being part of the middle syndicate.

Michelle Pontifex & Jill Holmstead

Nikau

Room 3

michelle@houghton.school.nz

Kia ora koutou. My name is Michelle and I teach in Nikau, Monday - Thursday. I am an experienced teacher, with the majority of my experience being with years 1-4. I have two little girls, Addison who is in Harakeke and Esme who attends Adelaide Early Childcare. Houghton Valley School is a terrific place to teach and I feel lucky that I am not only a teacher here, but also a parent.

Jill Holmstead

Nikau

Room 3 - Fridays

jill@houghton.school.nz

Tena koutou. This year I teach Reading Recovery students Monday to Thursday from 9-11am. My Sustainability Leadership role includes teaching in each class throughout the school and supporting classes with their Enviro' responsibilities. Each Friday I teach in Nikau.

My teacher training was in Wellington, followed by a number of years teaching in Wellington, Auckland and London with a variety of student age groups and needs. My big OE extended to a love of travel, the great outdoors, skiing, gardening and singing which I share with my family.

Please get in touch with your classroom teacher if you have any questions, concerns or comments about your child or their learning. We are always happy to organise a time to meet with you. Pop in before or after school for a quick chat, teachers are in their classrooms from 8:30. If you'd like more time, please get in touch to organise a meeting.

Our new school vision ***Caring, Exploring and Inspiring Together*** will be the overarching theme of our teaching and learning this year. To start the year off we'll be doing lots of work around how we work together as a class and a team.

- Sustainability is a big topic for us this year. Jill will come into our class every couple of weeks and to focus on sustainability learning. She'll start the term off reviewing our class responsibilities.
- The year 3/4s will explore the science curriculum in a number of ways this year. In term one we are going to be finding out more about the living world, focusing on waste and compost.
- Our literacy programmes will be tied into our big topics wherever possible.
- Our maths programme in term one will cover statistics as well as problem solving strategies.
- Life Education will be at school in Week 8 this term. Our sessions with Harold and Charlotte will focus on being a good digital citizen.
- Our P.E programme consists of daily fitness, bike riding sessions as well as structured lessons. This term our focus for P.E lessons will be on co-operative games, including t-ball, non-stop cricket and long ball. Please ensure your child has appropriate shoes to run in each day. In week 5 of term 2 we will have our school cross country event, so we'll begin to build up stamina and fitness through lots of fun activities this term.
- We will explain more about our class programme at the Meet the Teacher Presentations next Tuesday.

Homelearning

Information about home learning will come home in the next week or so. At year 3/4 level we expect daily reading and weekly basic facts and spelling practice.

Reminders:

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.

We're happy to have the library back this year and will be encouraging children to issue books on our weekly class visits. You are welcome to join the library to and see Joanna afterschool to issue books.

Kind regards,

Stephanie, Ben, Michelle and Jill