



Newsletter Term 1, 2020

Tena koutou katoa,

Mihi atu ki a Hari Tau Hou! Nau mai, hoki mai! We hope you have had a wonderful holiday break. We have had a fantastic first couple of days back at school and we have been enjoying getting to know each other. We are excited about the year ahead!

Meet the Team!

There are three classes in the senior syndicate this year. The teachers are:

Karaka - Room 4: Fiona Crossett

Rata - Room 9: Miriam Gaynor

Rimu - Room 10: Lauren Sims



Fiona Crossett

Kia ora whanau, My name is Fiona Crossett and I am thrilled to be at Te Kura o Haewai again this year. I am currently based in Lyall bay. I really enjoy living and working on this side of Wellington. I love going to the gym and on long walks with my friends. I am a huge drama queen and I love going to see live musicals and singing! I am involved in running the choir and performance assemblies here at Te Kura o Haewai. You may even see me getting up and singing every now and then!



Miriam Gaynor

Kia ora whānau, My name is Miriam and I am thrilled to be at Te Kura o Haewai again this year. I have lived most of my life in Wellington and currently live in Island Bay with my dog Lulu. I love gardening and reading, and I really enjoy living in the Arts Capital and enjoying all the interesting things it has to offer! My role as Team Leader will look slightly different this year as I will be also acting as Deputy Principal while Whaea Monnie is away.



Lauren Sims

Kia ora, my name is Lauren and I'm very excited to be teaching at Houghton Valley School this year. I have lived in many places over the years, but have been in Wellington for the last six years and it truly feels like home! It's a beautiful city, with an amazing mix of cultures and arts. I currently live in Wilton, and enjoy bushwalks, knitting and dancing. I am teaching in Room 10 this year, and look forward to meeting everyone.

Focus for the Year

Our focus for 2020 is Ō tātou tangata, Ō tātou wahi (Our people our place). This focus will be strongly connected to themes of sustainability, guardianship and community. We will be exploring this focus through social sciences, technology, science, Te Ao Māori, and the arts throughout the year. Our literacy programme will be linked to our inquiry themes. Please see our Term 1 plan attached.

Reminders

Please remind your child to bring a drink bottle, a piece of fruit or some vegetables for fruit break, and a brimmed hat to school every day. Also, we will be starting each morning with a great fitness rotation as a syndicate. We ask that you please support your child to arrive at school between 8:30 and 8:50 to settle in for the day.

Road Patrol

Year 6 students will run the Road Patrol service this year. If your child has offered to help out this term, a roster has been sent home with them. All trained Year 6 students will have a chance to be Road Patrol Officers over the course of the year.

Homework

Homework this year will consist of three main parts:

- Firstly we will set a weekly writing task. We write daily in the classroom as part of our formal literacy programme. The aim of setting writing as a homework task is to support students in their writing mileage, and to support the writing lessons being done daily at school
- Secondly, students are expected to read each day. They will bring home a reading log to record their daily reading in.
- Thirdly, we are starting an online programme called MathsWhizz to support our learning in mathematics. Information about this will be shared at the Meet the Teacher evening next Thursday. Students are encouraged to spend some time on this programme during the week.

If you need to contact us via email, please see the addresses below, or pop in before or after school.

miriam@houghton.school.nz

fiona@houghton.school.nz

laurens@houghton.school.nz

We are looking forward to the year ahead!

Kind regards,
Miriam, Lauren and Fiona