

# SENIOR TEAM NEWSLETTER Term 1 2019

A very warm welcome is extended to all parents and caregivers who have children in the Senior Team. We are delighted to have Mr Sean Patterson join us in the team this year. We are all looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

## Team organisation:

Room 1. Mr Stuart Dean (Team co-leader)	stuard@mairangibay.school.nz
Room 2. Ms Nikki Black	nikkib@mairangibay.school.nz
Room 3. Ms Mel Mason (Team co-leader)	melm@mairangibay.school.nz
Room 14. Mr Sean Patterson	seanp@mairangibay.school.nz
Room 15. Mr John Fowler	johnf@mairangibay.school.nz

The division of Team leadership in very simple terms is that Ms Mason will have the key responsibility for curriculum, sports and digital technology and Mr Dean will have a more administrative role taking the lead with event organisation, communications student leadership and welfare. Both leaders are members of the curriculum and assessment teams

## Home - school contacts:

Teachers may be contacted using the email addresses above. If you have questions or concerns, your first contact should be the classroom teacher. After that if you need further information about curriculum matters please contact Ms Mason, or if the issue concerns trips, events, student behaviour or welfare please contact Mr Dean.

## Homework:

Each teacher will advise you of homework expectations for their class. When homework is received it is a good idea to discuss this with your child and together plan how this is best managed. We are very aware that many of our children and families have very busy lives outside school. Across the team, it is expected that all children will be reading regularly at home, learning essential spelling list words and improving recall of all basic facts at speed. If your child is confused or frustrated by the homework please do not allow this to cause conflict at home, simply seek clarification from the classroom teacher, but of course don't leave it until the last minute.

## Important dates for Term 1.

Thursday February 21. Parent Meeting for Camp 6.30pm Library

Wednesday February 27. Meet the Teacher Interviews 3.30pm until 6.50pm

Thursday February 28. Meet the Teacher Interviews 3.30pm until 5.50pm

Tuesday 5 March. Puberty Information evening for parents. Information to follow shortly.

Thursday 7 March. Puberty Talks.

Thursday 21 March. Senior Team swimming sports at the National Aquatic Centre

Thursday 21 March. 6.30pm Camp meeting for parents who are staying over.

Wednesday 27 March to Friday 29 March Senior Camp at Carey Park, Henderson.

Tuesday 2 April. Inter school swimming sports

Some children may be involved in representing the school in cricket and tennis. Parents of these children will be advised accordingly.

### **Getting involved:**

During the year there are many opportunities for children to get involved in a variety of sporting, cultural, music and performing arts activities. Children need to take some personal responsibility for making sure they listen to the daily notices and follow up with attending meetings.

### **Learning for Term 1**

**Mathematics:** Homeroom maths has been successfully introduced into the senior team. We focus on a problem solving and inquiry maths approach. We encourage children to explain and share their strategies for solving problems as a way of enhancing their understanding of mathematical processes and ideas. As well as looking at statistical investigations this term, we will be focussing on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division strategies, and number knowledge.

**Writing:** The focus for the first part of the term will be “memoirs” before moving on to informative writing and then finishing with brochures.

**Reading:** Each teacher has a reading programme to meet the needs of the class. Where possible we link our reading to other work, particularly the topic or inquiry work, we are doing in class. The LEAP programme will again assist those children who need a short intensive reading boost. This programme is run by Mrs Maloney.

**Inquiry:** Our topic this term is “Identity and Community” and will focus on defining who we are before moving on to community issues and looking at “new communities.”

**Physical Education:** We have identified four main areas for the term:

- Strike, throw, bowl, catch and field a ball with correct technique.
- Work individually and with others to develop a skill.
- Develop movement skills in challenging situations
- Identify risks and their causes and describe safe practices to manage these.

**Music and Environmental Studies:** On Tuesdays and Wednesdays in weeks 4, 7 and 10, Mrs McCormack (Music) and Mrs Cooper (Enviro Studies) will work with our classes

**e-Learning:** We will be building on skills learnt over the last year and using chromebooks for new learning experiences. We will be stressing the need for students to be responsible citizens as they work and learn in the digital world. We are currently updating our Users agreement. This will be shared with you once it has been completed.

**Garden to Table:** We are excited to be able to offer this programme to year five and six this year. We are currently working with the Garden to Table Trust and will notify you when the programme is ready to commence.

**Camp:** Planning for Camp is well underway and we are now watching for Year 6 students who could be considered for Group leadership responsibilities. The Camp Information evening is now **Thursday 21 February** at 6.30 in the Library. The previously advertised date has had to change as it clashed with a parent meeting at Murrays Bay Intermediate School

that some of our parents may also need to attend. A camp website will be set up shortly and all information related to camp will be available. You will be advised of the link by email. All camp forms are due back to you child's teacher by Friday 15th February.

Kind regards  
Senior Team Teachers