

SENIOR TEAM NEWSLETTER Term 1 2020

A very warm welcome is extended to all parents and caregivers who have children in the Senior Team. We are delighted to have Mrs Tania Davey join the team for Terms 1 & 2 in Room 18 while Ms Black is on leave.

Team organisation:

Room 13. Mr Adam Groen	adamg@mairangibay.school.nz
Room 14. Mr Patterson	seanp@mairangibay.school.nz
Room 15. Mr Fowler (Team co-leader)	johnf@mairangibay.school.nz
Room 18. Mrs Davey/Ms Black	taniad@mairangibay.school.nz
Room 19. Ms Mason (Team co-leader)	melm@mairangibay.school.nz

The division of team leadership in very simple terms is that Mr Fowler will have the key responsibility for curriculum leadership and ensuring high-quality learning outcomes. While Ms Mason has the leadership of the teaching team; 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 Mr Fowler, or if the issue concerns trips, events, student behaviour or welfare please contact Ms Mason.

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 of 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 13th February	- Water Safety Theory (at school)
Wednesday 19th February	- Water Safety Practical (AUT Millennium)
Tuesday 3rd March	- Positive Puberty Parent Evening (6.30 pm at school)
Thursday 5th March	- Positive Puberty Sessions
Monday 9-13th March	- Senior Camp @ MERC Long Bay
Friday 20th March	- Senior swimming sports AUT Millennium

Getting involved:

During the year there are many exciting 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: 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/explanation writing which will be linked to our NZ History topic.

Reading: Each teacher has a reading programme to meet the needs of the class. Where possible we link our reading to other work, particularly 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 “Community” and will focus on how Aotearoa/New Zealand’s history, shapes today.

Physical Education: We have identified four main areas for the term incorporating through small ball sports:

- 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/Drama: On Tuesdays and Wednesdays in weeks 4, 7 and 10, Mrs McCormack (Music) and Mrs Coughlan (Drama) will work with our classes.

Digital Technology: As Digital Technology is now part of the NZ Curriculum, this year classes will have the opportunity to work in our new Matihiko Ruma (Digital Technology Room). We will be building on skills learned over the last year and using hands-on technology to create digital outcomes 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. Students will be required to agree to the terms of our digital agreements which will be sent home shortly.

Garden to Table: We are excited to be able to offer this programme again to our Year 5 & 6 students.

Camp: Planning for Camp is well underway and we are now watching for Year 6 students who could be considered for group leadership responsibilities. Information and forms will be sent home shortly and a camp website will be set up also with all the information related to camp available for you to see. You will be advised of the link by email.

Kind regards

Senior Team Teachers