

Room 2 Newsletter

Term 3 2013

It's great to be back after a refreshing break and the opportunities to experience a wonderful trip overseas and undertake some interesting professional development. Your kind words welcoming me back were much appreciated.

In order to effectively build upon the progress made during Terms 1 and 2 I have spent the last week re-establishing relationships with the children to discover what excites them, how they prefer to learn and work, and how they interact with each other. It was wonderful to see how many of the children worked cooperatively on projects inspired by what they had read, or interests they had. They are demonstrating how, as they mature and develop more literacy skills, they are able to work independently. It's going to be an exciting term ahead and sure to be full of surprises. We've already discussed, how we learn and the skills required to be an effective observer of the world around us. When a huge wasp nest was brought in from Room 4 we took the opportunity to practice these skills. Zek brought a remote controlled helicopter to show us and this initiated a discussion and research on remote controls and how they work. Soli brought along an old remote for us to open up and discover what was inside. Taking advantage of learning opportunities such as these, as they arise, is an important aspect of the classroom curriculum and reflects the expectations set out in the Tairua Citizen Learner Profile. These opportunities provide motivation for discussion, different kinds of writing, reading, research, encouraging and teaching thinking skills and creative activities.



Literacy

A love of reading will be fostered in Room 2 so shared reading will be an important part of the programme. We will share stories, poems, non-fiction books and examples of writing excellence.

Reading for many in the class is changing from learning to read to reading to learn so comprehension strategies are the focus. The students who continue to require support with decoding skills will have guided reading sessions daily. All students will take a book home to read and share with you Monday to Thursday. Discussing stories, asking your child to retell the story after silently reading it, discussing

characters, words and pictures are all ways in which you can help your child at home.



Writing will be motivated by experiences, research, stories read and observation always after a lot of discussion and often after some form of creative expression. Already the children have written about their experiences during the

school holidays, choosing a key sentence to caption their pictures. Skills teaching will occur as the needs arise and may be on an individual needs, group needs or whole class needs basis. Spelling words the children need to learn will come from their writing and may be given to your child as homework.

Mathematics

Maths is very much a part of our daily lives and will be integrated into our learning on a daily basis. Numeracy teaching will focus on developing number knowledge to support the teaching of the strategies. The children will be grouped according to learning needs.

What's happening this term?

The school cross country and Jump Rope for Heart are two things happening in Week 4 so we will be training daily to build up stamina and skipping skills.

A visit to the marina building site will take place in week 3, on the 15th August at 9.00 am. The focus will be on forces and movement by the heavy machinery involved in the excavation and safety. The power of water and the tides may also be of interest.



We would appreciate any books, pulleys, plastic syringes without needles, plastic tubing, any old equipment like car jacks that we can pull apart, boxes and any items that may be useful for making models.

If you have any expertise that you are willing to share please let me know.

Drink bottles.

The children are welcome to put named drink bottles with water on the back bench to use when in class.

Please feel free to visit our classroom and if you have any concerns or queries regarding your child or the programme do not hesitate to discuss these with me.

Kind regards,

Nel Bracegirdle.

