



Room 5 Newsletter

Term 1, 2013

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

What an exciting year ahead for students in Room 5! We have a term programme full of important learning challenges and a range of extra curricular activities specific to the senior class.

In Room 5 there is a strong focus on self management, cooperation and productive learning habits. In this class newsletter I would like to let you know of the systems we have in our class to encourage students to do their best work and cultivate a positive classroom environment.

Early assessments indicate the direction for students learning and formal reports will be going out at the end of term one this year. Parents/caregivers will be invited to meet with the classroom teachers to discuss their child's results and together with students set academic, physical or social goals for the year. Dates for these will be confirmed in the school newsletter closer to the time.

I would gladly meet with anyone if you have any immediate queries you would like to discuss. Mornings are usually a bit busy, however feel free to come by after school as I am regularly available in Room 5 or you may call the office to make an appointment.

I look forward to a stimulating, successful year with your child in the senior class.

Kindest Regards,
Samantha Telfar

Citizen of the Week

This is a special draw for individuals who have been notably modeling our class treaty and citizenship concept. Students receive a 'citizen slip' to put into the bucket and a draw is made at the start of each week for our 'Citizen of the Week'. This student receives a bevy of rewards to celebrate their model citizenship. The more times an individual is noted and given a slip the more chances they have to be selected from the draw.

MARBLE JAR : Students are working hard together to fill the marble jar and earn a 'free fun day' for the whole class. When every single student is following instructions as asked, we earn a marble in the jar. Once the jar is full, everyone will join in on a fun day full of activities the class have voted for. A notice will go home to let you know when we have achieved this.

STAYING IN THE GAME: In Room 5 we have a field chart with every student's name. When students are not exhibiting appropriate behaviours they are given a verbal warning. If they continue their name is removed from the field and into the yellow card zone. This is their final chance to redeem themselves. When students can not recognise and alter their behaviour their name is moved into the penalty box where they will receive memory training to be completed at lunchtime. Memory training is a consequence sheet relating specifically to the student's actions. Once they have completed this, their name is returned back into the playing field for a fresh start.

Logbooks

Are unique to Room 5 and are given to the students to assist in the development of their self management skills. They are also a useful tool for communication between parents/caregivers and the class teacher. Students are required to have these at school every morning to note reminders, events and school commitments. Please sign your child's logbook every Monday and check the week ahead and any teacher comments. Messages you wish to pass on, can be written in your child's logbook.

Room 5 Marine Camp

This year our camp will be based around the marine environment and will support our continued involvement in the EMR (Experiencing Marine Reserves) programme we started with last year. The camp will be 4 days, 3 nights and we are staying at Whangateau Camping Ground, 10 mins from Leigh. The camp will be from 25th - 28th March. In week 4 a notice will be going home with students with more information and an invitation to parents who are keen and able to attend.



Bits and Bobs

•Congratulations student leaders Harry, Abbi, Cade and Phoenix and house captains for 2013:

PEPE - Jordan and Rhea

PINNACLES - Brody and Tara

PAKU - James and Maddie

POHUTAKAWA - Samuel K and Ahi

•Creative Writing – each term a select group of students from Room 5 will be involved in creative writing sessions held at the public library every Thursday from 2-3pm. Students may leave straight from the library at 3pm. Opportunities for other students to have a go at this will be available during the year. Term 1 participants are: Rhea, Mohini, Tara, Maddie, Denzel, Marlow, Sam K and Brody.

•Thanks to all families, every student is now geared up with all their stationary. Stationary notes will be inserted into individual logbooks if something is needed during the year.

•Room 5 students are invited to enter the Australian Maths Competition again this year. Students who to enter will gain external recognition and prizes for the top achievements. This competition is open to students of all abilities and covers a range of maths problems related to every day life. Entry cost is \$5.00 to Miss Telfar by Wednesday 13th March please.

•Students who wish to participate in the Thames Camera Club competition can get entry forms from Room 5. Students can enter multiple photos. All entries need to be to Miss Telfar by 20th May.

•Students are aware at Tairua School they need to dress appropriately for an active day and are not to wear clothing with inappropriate designs, jewellery or make up. Shoulders must be covered and sunhats are required for Term 1. As it is summer Tairua School encourages students to wear cool, unrestricted clothing for comfort.

•Togs are needed everyday for our swimming programme and waterwise sessions which start up in week 5. Year 7/8 will participate in sailing and kayaking, Year 6 students will be kayaking.

•Extension swimming training will be held on Wednesday lunchtimes with Mr Finn for select senior students to attend. This is instead of the after school sessions held last year. Free remedial lessons will be held by Chloe Hill for small groups, Monday lunchtimes.

Curriculum

Our main focus for the term will be an integrated study on the marine environment linked to our continued involvement in the EMR programme and our camp. This will also tie into sea week as a whole school topic study. Room 5 will look at an extensive inquiry on how we can take action in our local community and improve our marine environment for future generations. The students have already discussed some of their ideas and we will look at putting these into practise once we have accumulated a wealth of scientific knowledge and social awareness from our in-class inquiry and camp experiences.

Other areas of learning this term are:

MATHEMATICS - Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Water wise, Swimming, Ultimate Frisbee.

ART - Personal identity and family koru, 3D textural sea species.

LITERACY - Encouraging positive and consistent personal reading habits, explanation and exposition (persuasive) writing.

I.C.T - using basic formatting for design projects, letter writing, developing and maintaining individual blog page for school website.

TECHNOLOGY- Year 8 Manual = Hard Materials, Year 7 Manual = Food Tech. On Fridays Year 6 students will be working on a beehive inquiry project with Miss Jane and developing a school radio segment with Miss Telfar.

Homework

Every Monday students will receive homework which must be handed in Friday of that week. This is so students can have weekends free for their leisure. Homework will include aspects of literacy, mathematics, spelling, current events and tasks relevant to our topic studies. Students are expected to use good time management to ensure they complete their homework fully, by the due day and seek help early in the week if they are unsure of a task. If students have had a particularly busy week and need the weekend to finish their homework, they know they need a note in their logbook signed by a parent/caregiver. STUDY CLUB continues at the public library on Tuesdays at 3.10pm for students to attend and use the resources there to assist with homework.

Class Routines

SNACKING OK! Room 5 students have the option to snack on healthy food such as fruit, veggies, nuts, meat slices or sandwiches during class time but save any treats for morning tea/lunch time. If eating in class, students know it can not be messy or noisy.

CLASS KITCHEN: Students are learning about healthy food choices during Food Technology at Manual. To support this we have introduced a jug, a toaster and a toasty maker into the senior class on a trial basis. Students who would like to use these appliances (which have been kindly lent by other class members) to increase their lunch options may do so. We have made a 'user checklist' as a class to ensure they are kept clean, hygienic and used safely.

THE SIP OF LIFE: Every day at their desk, all students are required to have a drink bottle with water in it to sip on during class time.

HELPING HANDS: We have a set of classroom duties that students chose and are in charge of for a whole term. This consistency develops a sense of responsibility within the class and around the school. From the first few weeks students have proven themselves to be excellent caretakers of their learning area.