

## Year 5-6 Newsletter Term 3 2019

22 July 2019  
Newsletter 3



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back everyone, and a special welcome to all our new students and their families to Seatoun School and the Year 5/6 team. We hope you have all had a refreshing July break and are all set for Term 3.

Our teaching team is passionate about authentic, inquiry driven, sustained learning. As we progress through the academic year, the Term 1 conceptual understandings of **Action**, **Responsibility** and **Sustainability**, and Term 2 conceptual understandings of **Wellbeing**, **Social Entrepreneurship** and **Financial Literacy** will continue to be developed and revisited through our teaching programmes.

Our Term 1 Unit of Inquiry, '**Mountains to Sea**' is the learning that keeps on giving. Our learner-led inquiries were a huge success in terms of learner engagement. In Term 2, our vertical Y5-8 action groups continued to meet every 2 weeks, planning their sustainable and meaningful actions that will be showcased today at the **Community Action Day**. 12 Learner Led Environmental action projects have been supported by 10 experts from Predator Free, Enviroschools, DOC, GWRC, Wellington City Council, Motu Kairangi Ecology group and Mountains to Sea. This is just the start of our special 'So What' action. Creating sustained action will transform the biodiversity of Seatoun School and the surrounding reserve.

### Community Action Day - Parent Participation

We would like to thank all parents who attended our **Community Action Day** this morning. Our learners were very excited that you were able to experience first hand the environmental actions that they had actively planned and initiated. In addition, the opportunity that every learner in the school got to plant a native species on the surrounding reserve will provide a strong future connection to the school.

### Term 2 Reflections

Our Term 2 Unit of Inquiry, **Seatoun Young Entrepreneurs**, continued to build our learners' conceptual understanding of **sustainability**. The **Seatoun Entrepreneurs** inquiry was a huge success in terms of learner engagement and developing learner understanding of Social Enterprise. The Seatoun Young Entrepreneurs unit of inquiry provided a fantastic opportunity to integrate our literacy and mathematics in a purposeful and authentic manner. Our writing focus of Persuasion was used alongside visual arts to persuade our target markets and customers. In addition, our focus on data handling and statistics supported learners to explore their market needs.



We hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to be part of the learning process through the **Dragon's Den**, **Parent led workshops** and **Market Days**. Many thanks for investing in your son / daughter's business. The two Market Days raised over \$2000. This money will be used to support our many learner led Environmental Community Action Day projects. However, should you wish, your initial investment is available for collection from reception.

### Term 3 Learning Focus

Term 3 has a strong creative focus. **Creativity** is the major conceptual focus, that will be explored through 3 themes and representations of thinking.

#### **An inquiry into... Developing our creativity through language, movement and technological exploration**

As learners, we all have unique strengths and SMARTS / Intelligences. Term 3 learning experiences will give our Year 5&6 learners the opportunity to develop their creativity through 3 different lenses.

**Through Language** - Learners will be exploring poetic language, both through the passive (*Listening, Reading and Viewing*) and active (*Speaking, Writing and Presenting*) literacy strands. Our learners will be both creators and critics of poetry as we explore a range of poetic writing features and famous authors. The learning will culminate in our exciting class and team's **Poetry and Speech competition evening (Tuesday 27 August - 7.00-9.00pm)**. Our Year 7&8 learners will also be presenting their speeches at the same evening. This is a fantastic opportunity for our learners to see what their future learning looks like at Seatoun School.

**Through Movement** - Learners will be creating, choreographing and performing their class dance performance at our **Seatoun Dance Production**. There will be 3 performances in the final week of term (**23-25 September 6.00-7.15pm - School Hall**). Our classes have already started their creative dance development in Term 2, when they participated in a series of energetic and fun dance workshops with Michelle Elsmore.

**Through Technological Exploration** - Learners will explore the design thinking process and further develop their collaboration and communication skills through a series of technology problem solving challenges. The challenges presented will be drawn from **BP Technology Challenges, Epro8** challenges and **CS Unplugged** challenges (University of Canterbury Digital Technology workshops). Our learners will be grouped both within and across classes as we develop their key competencies of Relating to Others and Thinking. The challenges presented have no binary 'correct or incorrect' responses. We look forward to seeing the creativity that our learners develop and present as they explore a range of possible solutions to the challenges. The challenges will also provide an authentic context for the integration of Mathematics (Measurement) learning.

**Numeracy focus** - Learners will continue to develop their **Addition / Subtraction** and **Multiplication / Division** skills through the focus on **Fractions, proportions and Ratios**. In addition our focus on Number Knowledge and Basic Facts will continue as we further practise and reinforce our Multiplication and Addition/Subtraction facts. In Term 3&4 learners will be applying their mathematical conceptual understanding through problem solving tasks. Our strand focus is **Measurement**. Learners will be exploring length, perimeter, area and volume, as well as shape and space.

#### **Term 3 Seatoun Swimming Gala / Eastern Zone Swimming**

Following on from our Term 2 Swimming focus, our **Seatoun Swimming Gala** will take place on Wednesday 7 August (note this is a change) at Kilbirnie Aquatic Centre. We look forward to seeing their participation, passion and swimming skills being showcased at this fun event. The Eastern Zone Swimming competition will take place the following week on Wednesday 14 August.

#### **Steeple Rock Challenge**

Thank you for talking to, and encouraging your children to undertake new and exciting opportunities. It was great to see such a variety of quality challenges shared with classmates last term. This term's Steeple Rock Challenges are being continually shared by learners in class. It has been fantastic to see the confidence that learners demonstrate when presenting.

#### **Future dates to note in your diaries:**

#### **Term 3**

The on-line ICAS tests (International Competitions and Assessment for Schools), run by Educational Assessment Australia, provide an opportunity for Year 4-8 students to experience and measure their efforts in an external test. These tests are optional and incur a cost. Students can visit the ICAS website to familiarise themselves with content and layout. Please note that there is also a cost for past papers or online practice sessions. **The close-off date for all entries is Thursday 25 July (Week 1 Term 3).**

**Cost, Subject and Dates**

All tests cost \$17.25 each

All tests take place in September 2019

- Tuesday 3rd Sept Digital Technologies
- Thursday 5th Sept Science,
- Tuesday 10th Sept Writing
- Thursday 12th Sept Spelling Bee
- Tuesday 17th Sept English
- Thursday 19th Sept Mathematics

If you would like your child to sit any tests, please fill in the details below by **Thursday 25th July** AND click on the online shop link to make the payment. EFTPOS payments can be made at the school office.

<https://shop.tgcl.co.nz/shop/index.html>

**Term 4**

EOTC Week - Year 5&6 Camp - Palm Grove 25 - 28th Nov (2 nights per group of 2 classes). A Parent Information session for the camp will be held on Tuesday, September 17, at 6pm!

We look forward to seeing you all back at school. If you have any questions regarding our programmes please don't hesitate to contact us directly or by email.

Best regards

The Year 5&6 Team