

Year 5-6 Newsletter Term 4 2019

10 October 2019
Newsletter 4



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 Spring break and are all set for Term 4.

Term 4 is going to be an action packed end to the 2019 academic year. Learners will continue to work on their Mathematics and Literacy goals, whilst reflecting on their 2019 progress and learning journey. In addition, learners will be participating in the **Year 5&6 Palm Grove Camp** in Paraparaumu, **Life Education** workshops, Year 6 **Pedal Ready** Programme, **Seatoun's Got Talent** show, **Book Week** and Seatoun **Athletics Day**. If that's not enough, our integrated **Unit of Inquiry - Whakawhanaungatanga**, will explore our learners capacity for establishing relationships, relating to others and developing teamwork skills through the context of games and sports.

Term 3 Reflections and Highlights

Our Term 3 Unit of Inquiry, **An inquiry into... Developing our creativity through language, movement and technological exploration** provided a wide range of opportunities for learners to develop, perform and reflect upon their creativity. Our learners were certainly ready for a well earned break by the end of term. Great learning all!



Throughout the term our learners developed more sophisticated levels of **design thinking skills** as they took part in over **12 BP Technology, EPRO8 and CS Unplugged Challenges**. We hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to be part of the learning process at the **Parent Technology Challenge**. Many thanks for joining in your son / daughter's construction team, or even creating your own team! Our learners also continued to develop their understanding of the new digital Technology strands of the NZ curriculum; participating in coding and binary number workshops. Congratulations to Myles Howlett, Daniel Renouf, Madeleine Tuohy, Amy Noble, Will Davies, Freddie Conn, Gracie Marshall-McCaskey and Holly Shaw who will be representing Seatoun School at the 2019 EPRO8 Technology Challenge on 31 October. Good Luck!

Our Term 3 **Dance Production** was a spectacular success with all classes co-constructing and performing their creative compositions. It was hugely impressive to see our learners exhibit both leadership and agency as they researched, developed dances, selected music and reflected on their performance. The **creativity** and process of improvement throughout the term gave our learners so much fun.

The **Poetry** focus in literacy and subsequent competition formed the third element of our **Creativity** unit of Inquiry. In class we were impressed with our learners' enthusiasm, voice and body language that combined to add meaning and impact to their favourite poems of choice. In addition, learners developed their own poetic writing skills through the use of rich deeper language features. Congratulations to every single learner in Y5&6 who participated in class, team and school finals. A powerful and creative display of learning, writing and presenting was demonstrated by all learners. Congratulations to Lucy Kidd, Lucy Lambie and Erica Beri who were our final winners.

Our Year 5&6 **Mathswell Team** competed against over 30 other schools from the Wellington region at the annual Wellington Mathematics Association problem solving competition. Our team was well prepared from weeks of practise; entering the evening full of confidence. Congratulations to our team members; Nicolas Zahariadis, Myles Howlett, Finn Barker, Lucy Lambie, Grace Shaw and Oskar Blom. Our Y5&6 Seatoun Mathswell team were placed in overall 8th equal position. A fantastic result.

Term 4 Learning Focus

In Term 4 our learners will explore elements of successful **Teamwork and NZ Teams**.

Communication, Collaboration, Humility, Altruism and Thinking are some of the conceptual understandings that will be explored through our Unit of Inquiry:

Whakawhanaungatanga - Establishing relationships and relating to others

Big Question / Idea:

How does understanding of ourselves and others lead to positive teamwork and forming of relationships?

Key Explorations:

Understanding our own personal SMARTS / Strengths and how they can be used as part of a team.

Understanding the essential elements for effective teamwork.

Understanding how formal and informal groups make decisions that impact on communities.

Understanding how people participate individually and collectively in response to community challenges.

As learners, we all have unique strengths and SMARTS / Intelligences that enable us to part of successful teams. We look forward to guiding the Year 5&6 learners through a series of provocations, self reflections, problem solving challenges and games that will give them the opportunity to develop their team mindset.

As part of our continued '**Be Part of the Learning**' series, we invite parents to join us on **Wednesday 23 October (1.30-2.45pm Hall)** You will be participating, with our learners, in the **Diabolical Desert Dilemma** binary decision making exercise. How easy is it to make decisions in a pressured team environment?

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 4 learners will be applying their mathematical conceptual understanding through problem solving tasks. Our strand focus is **Statistics - Probability** and **Measurement - Time / Angles**.

Literacy focus - Learners will be developing their Narrative writing and focussing on their surface and deeper feature goals.

Term 4 Seatoun Athletics / Eastern Zone Athletics

Last term we were already preparing for the school athletics event with quoit, vortex and sprint training during fitness time. On 22nd October (pp 24th October) Year 3-8 will have the opportunity to take part in the Athletics Trial Day. Year 5&6 learners will choose from the following events; Vortex, Quoits, 800m (5&6 only), High Jump, Long Jump and Sprints. Learners are able to choose which events they would like to enter. **We do ask that whatever events they decide to compete in, and they qualify for, they are then committing to represent Seatoun School at the Eastern Zone Athletics (6 November)**

Life Education - Year 6 Positive Puberty programme

Life Education is a charity that educates and empowers children to make healthy choices so they can live full and healthy lives. Every year we teach over 250,000 children about their body, friendships, their identity, food and nutrition and helpful and harmful substances. Our Year 6 learners will be participating in a 5 lesson Positive Puberty programme, starting in Week 2. In addition, from 4-18 November our Y6 learners will be participating in 2 Life Education workshops with Charlotte Klemick from Life Education, who will share her wonderful resources and expertise. The Year 5 students will focus on the bigger picture concept of change, which leads nicely into the following year's programme.

Year 6 Pedal Ready

All Year 6 students will complete Grade 2 in Week 6 (18/11) and 9 (9/12). A Signmee information and consent notice will follow this newsletter to inform you of which group your child is in, and what day they will need to have a bike and helmet at school. This is a fantastic programme that refines our learners' road safety skills and awareness.

Book Week

Book week takes place in Week 3 (28/10) We are very excited that Philippa Werry, a NZ author, will be visiting Seatoun School to talk to all our Y5&6 learners on Wednesday 30 October. She will be sharing her experiences with our learners. Some learners will also have the opportunity to take part in a readers-writers workshop with her in the afternoon. On

Monday 11 November we will be having a 'Dress as your favorite Book Character' Day. Always a fun day that is enjoyed by both learners and teachers.

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. We will be cutting off our Steeple Rock presentations at the beginning of November.

Sunhats

These are required for all outdoor activities and break times. So a wee reminder...and so nice to be mentioning sun hats again.

EOTC Week - Year 5&6 Camp - Palm Grove 25 - 28th November

Thank you to all parents who have completed the consent and health survey that was sent in last term's Signmee. Further information will be sent in the next 2 weeks regarding medications / medical needs. In the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of the Team 5&6 teachers.

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