

Year 3 and 4 Newsletter Term 3 2023

20 July 2023
Newsletter 3



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back everyone, and a special welcome to our new student and family. We hope you have all had a refreshing July break and are all set for Term 3. Term 2 was busy with, among other things, three-way conferences and our Matariki evening. We are looking forward to an equally exciting and busy programme in Term 3, with the work culminating in our school production in Week 10.

Conference Goals

Thank you for the valuable three-way conferences held at the end of last term. We will be supporting the children to achieve their goals that were set in the conferences, and know that you will also support your child with these at home.

Term 3 Learning Plan is also attached to Steeple Rock.

Integrated Studies:

Our major focus in the term will be on the “Seussical, the Musical” Production. We will be considering the question “Why and how do different cultural groups use the performing arts?” All children will have a part to play in the production and will learn the songs and movement required to perform. We will also be learning about the many aspects required to produce a musical- from rehearsing songs and choreography to make-up, costume design, set design and lighting.

Alongside this, we will be doing a Health Unit based around Self-Esteem and Building Resilience. This links into the work we do about the Zones of Regulation. There may be some activities sent home to work on as part of this unit.

Numeracy

We continue to reinforce our Number Knowledge (including Basic Facts), develop addition/subtraction and multiplication/division strategies, and to build mathematical understanding through a range of problem-solving tasks.

English:

We will be integrating our literacy programme with our integrated studies topic. The children will be exploring many of the Dr Seuss stories. We will look particularly at the language features incorporated in Dr Seuss stories (such as rhyme, rhythm, repetition, personification, alliteration, onomatopoeia), and attempt to write our own stories in a “Seussical” style!

Oral language will focus on listening to and following instructions. Being a good listener, and being able to follow instructions, links well to several of our school values (respect, responsibility, self-control), and plays a very big role in our learning, so we are working hard to ensure that the children use the skills of a good listener. It would be great to reinforce this at home.

This term we are also having a strong focus on building skills in spelling, through our twice-weekly phonics rotations)

Enrichment Programme:

This term, Wendy Bamber, our wonderful librarian, will be running an enrichment programme on Monday afternoons, with each child having a session where they develop their literacy and information skills, using Kahoot.

Home Learning and Steeple Rock Challenges

Each week, when the children bring home their Home Learning Books, there is a list of reminders (for parents AND children) on the bottom of the Home Learning sheet. We are attempting to make the children more independent with this, but please help your child with a routine to ensure that they practise Basic Facts and Spelling, fill in the Reading Log daily, and bring their Home Learning book to school each Thursday. Please also read the reminders on the bottom of the sheet, with your child, about things that are coming up at school, or things they need to remember on a regular basis.

Thank you for encouraging your children to undertake new and exciting opportunities, through the Steeple Rock Challenges. It has been great to see such a variety of quality challenges shared with classmates so far. We all enjoy being able to see and hear about what the children have been doing at home and it is fantastic to see the confidence that learners demonstrate when presenting. All challenges need to be completed by the beginning of Term 4.

Required Items for school

Clothing- We try to get the children outside whenever we can, even in cold weather, so please ensure that your child has a warm top and a waterproof jacket each day.

Drink bottles: Please ensure your child has a named drink bottle

Stationery: A number of students are missing stationery items. This makes teaching and learning difficult. Please check with your child if they are missing anything.

Dates for your diary:

This term, we have some special events happening:

- Tuesday 1st August- Year 3-8 Swimming Sports (check Hero Posts for more details)
- Thursday 10th August- Year 4 students attending Books Alive event, featuring a selection of the [finalists in the 2023 New Zealand Book Awards for Children & Young Adults](#) (more details to follow)
- Week 10.- Seussical the Musical Production (ongoing information to follow)

We are looking forward to a wonderful term and thank you, in advance, for your support.

Ngā mihi

Catherine Miller, Louise Noble, Jayne Carey, Marion Hair, Gill Billingsley.