



Thursday 17 October, 2024

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Tena koutou katoa,

Welcome back to the final term of the year. We are excited about having a fun filled time with our topics of learning that have been planned. Every second year we have an adventure based camp, with last year's camp being held at El Rancho in Waikanae. This year we are really looking forward to reinstating a tradition that has not been possible over the past 4 years, and that is providing a marae experience for our students. In Week 5 on Tuesday 12 November our team will be travelling by bus to Poutu Marae in Shannon. We will be welcomed on to the marae and spend the morning learning about the whare tipuna (meeting house) and taking part in some practical learning activities. In the afternoon we will be visiting Shannon School and playing some organised sports with their students. More information about this trip will be sent out closer to the time. Much of our inquiry learning this term will be based around 'The Marae' and learning about tikanga and te reo.



Other Information

Sunsmart- Term 4 and Term 1 are times when sun hats are compulsory for all students at school. Please make sure that your child has a named school sun hat ready for this term. We recommend that students leave their sunhat inside their desk at the end of the day so that it doesn't get left at home.

EOTC Week- During Week 8 our students will be enjoying some alternative learning programmes that will mostly be based at school or close to the school grounds. We are also hoping to be part of a learn to sail day at Worser Bay, but these dates are still being confirmed.

Home Learning- Please encourage your child to continue working on the Maths Whizz progressions. It is expected that they spend about 30 mins a week in their own time on Maths Whizz. It would also be great if your child hasn't already completed the Steeple Rock challenges, that you encourage them to complete the tasks by Friday 1st November.

Health- During Week 6 (18-22 November) our team will be learning about Changes at Puberty. For these sessions we will be separating Year 5 students from the Year 6 students, and will be covering different content as outlined below. We encourage the students to talk at home about what they are learning at school. Please contact your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions.

Year 5 Lesson Outline

What we will be covering (in line with National Curriculum expectations.)

- Session 1: Introduction to the idea of change. Understanding how it can be different for different people. Story 'The Cat and the Stars'. Brainstorming changes that can happen to people in their lifetime.
- Session 2: *Developing knowledge about brain function, hormones, and how bodies are diverse and change over time and at different rates.*
- Session 3: Developing knowledge of hygiene and healthy lifestyles throughout the changes experienced in their lifetime. Activity-List for the Moon
- Session 4: Supporting each other through changes. Case studies (Valerie, Coy, Niusha). Share drama - showcasing support strategies.

Year 6 Lesson Outline

What we will be covering (in line with National Curriculum expectations.)

- Session 1: Introduction to the term 'Puberty.' Understanding how it can be different for different people. Also understanding how bodies are diverse and change over time.
- Session 2: Developing knowledge about brain function, hormones, and body parts- both external and internal.
- Session 3: Identifying physical and emotional changes associated with puberty. Hygiene and managing these changes.
- Session 4: Managing pubertal change eg... menstruation, erections, wet dreams. (Dividing into boys and girls for separate lessons)

We want to thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,
Year 5-6 Teaching Team