

ROOM FOUR NEWS LETTER - TERM THREE.



Welcome back to all Room 4 pupils and families. I hope you had an exciting holiday and are ready for another stimulating term. I spent most of my time in Central Otago enjoying the snow and scenery.

The big event of this term is our Camp Wellington trip. All we have to do now is to pack our bags, get on the bus and head off to Wellington for an action packed three days. **Please remember that each student needs to bring a packed lunch and drink bottle from home on Wednesday. Silverstream will provide all meals from then on.**

As part of the whole Wellington experience, we will attend a show performed by the Capital E Theatre group. The play is linked closely to the unit we inquired into in term 1, based on Remembrance. The play is called "An Awfully Big Adventure" which is about one keen enlister in WW1 and one conscientious objector who is shipped off to Flanders Field for further punishment. The two men meet at the front of Flanders Field. The play explores the assumptions and perceptions of what it is to be a Kiwi. The cost of this activity has been included in the Wellington fee but will be seen at the Napier Municipal Theatre. Our preference would have been to see it in Wellington while we were there but there was no time to fit it in our tight schedule.

Our inquiry topic for this term focuses on the core concept of "Innovation" within the context of Climate change. We have done some preparatory work on the idea of innovation, but the National Library activity should clarify student understanding and spark their imaginations. This will set up our unit for finding out how we can innovate to mitigate against Global Warming.

The Spooner Shield is scheduled for Friday 22 August, which is in Week 5 of this term. Coaches have made the selections; practices will begin on Thursday of Week 1. Children will need to wear appropriate sports gear on these days. This is one of the few sporting opportunities where selection is based on merit. The best players for the teams available will be chosen, resulting in some children not being selected at all. This is unfortunate. All students will be involved in a code during our P.E. programmes whether they have been selected for the competition or not. We are only able to enter one team for each code including two reserves per team. Those who don't compete will be catered for at school with an exciting programme for the day of the Spooner Shield Competition.

The Arthur Miller School Cross Country competition has been scheduled for Friday 5 September. We suggest if children are keen to make the inter-school team they need to start and continue training at home after school and in the weekends. The habit of "persistence" and "taking responsibility" for their own training will benefit their fitness and potential to do well. The Interschool event will be held on Tuesday 16 September. Training will take place for Year 3- 6 students on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 9.00. Students will set their own goals for the Tuesday and Thursday sessions. Rankings for the Friday training session will be recorded together with the place gained in the School Cross Country and these combined results will determine selection for the Inter-School Cross Country. **Please understand that the Friday ranking system has to be the main tool for selecting the final 6 students in each age group. A single race such as the AMS school competition, while useful, can only be regarded as an opportunity for students to experience the tension of competition.** Students who are placed in the top 20 of each age group race then go on to compete in a regional cross country at the sports park. This is a new initiative run by Sport Hawkes Bay on Tuesday 23 September. This will provide our students potentially with three levels of competition.

Team 3 are involved in specialist tennis coaching this term, receiving 4 lessons from Luke Donovan who is a tennis coach based at Greendale Tennis club. He is an enthusiastic provider who motivates our students to be active in the game which is always enjoyed by all. We have a substantial kit of nets racquets and balls at school to use. There will be a fee of \$5 for this activity.

All teachers will be involved in the last two Maths professional development sessions for the year on August 14 and September 10. This means teachers are out of their rooms for the afternoon on these days.

It's Digi awards time again where our students enter work into either the photographs, graphic design or animations sections of the competition which involves about 15 local HB schools. We have spent time in class upskilling ourselves and planning work for at least two of the competition sections, so hopefully some of our work will meet the criteria to go through from school selection into the finals from all schools. The competition is very strong but we are happy that everyone in our class has used these programmes and have prepared something of which they are proud.

Number knowledge, decimals, transformations, probability and rich tasks are the topic for maths in term 3. The literacy programme includes a focus on critical thinking, comprehension and inference skills. Narrative writing is the genre for the term which ties in nicely with writing simple animation and play scripts for the Digi awards. Letter writing and expressive writing will be on-going. Children need to maintain their recreational reading and consolidate their well-established reading skills and behaviours.

The year 6 pupils will get the opportunity to go Optimist Yachting from **3 - 7 November** from 9-12.30 each day, which is week 4 of Term 4. I am alerting you to this activity now to enable parents to organise time off work should they want to be involved sometime during that week. We rely heavily upon parents to transport and supervise from 9.00-12.30 each day. Your support in these matters is appreciated. A week of EOTC activities is organised for the Year 5's during this week while the Year 6's are sailing.

Classroom goals have been, and will continue to be centred on taking personal responsibility, respecting the rights and opinions of others and greeting other courteously. Dynamics within the classroom have continued to be positive while most children have developed mature work habits. Disciplined homework habits still need to be developed by a small core of children.

Please check that your child has the correct stationery for the term. One blue and one red biro, 1 ruler and 1 packet of coloured pencils are the main items needed. Having the right equipment means we don't have interruptions to the daily programme which should help to eliminate the frustration element when students have to borrow from others.

Student are all required to wear shoes when playing on the fields this term, to try and mitigate the amount of mud we tend to traipse through the rooms. This decision will be reviewed again in term 4. Students are welcome to wear slippers in class.

Important Dates

- 24 July - 21 August Spooner Shield practices each Thursday
- 30 July - 1 August Camp Wellington
- 22 August Spooner Shield
- 5 September School Cross Country Competition at Tareha Park
- 16 September Interschool Cross Country Competition
- 23 September Regional Cross Country Competition
- 26 September Last day of term
- 3 November Choir rehearsal and performance

I look forward to another term of working with you and your child and encourage you to come in to the classroom at any time to share learning journeys or just for a chat.

Regards

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