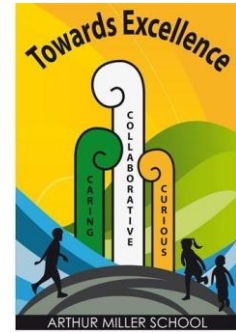


# ROOM ELEVEN

## CLASS NEWSLETTER - TERM TWO



Welcome to Term Two. I hope you had a rewarding and relaxing break and are ready for a busy second term. This is a standard 10 week term but we have a lot of work to squeeze into this time frame, so we appreciate your support. Our school-wide Habits of Mind programme will continue to focus on the specific qualities we want to reinforce in the classroom and the wider community. Chief among these qualities are independence, initiative and self-reliance. Senior students are encouraged to take on more responsibility for their learning and look for opportunities to apply their new skills and knowledge in a variety of situations.

### **Sport & Culture**

A number of sporting and cultural activities are available this term. These include Rippa rugby, netball, hockey, ukulele, kapahaka and guitar. Practice days and times will be advertised in the school newsletter.

In Week 4 we will be attending the Kiwi Sports field day at Park Island. This event gives students the chance to compete in fun games of football, t-ball and hockey. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June we return to Park Island to take part in the annual Soccer field day.

### **Inquiry**

Our new inquiry for this term will examine World War One, especially Gallipoli, and how we commemorate these events of national significance. This will highlight the importance of identity and communication, both traditional and contemporary. Many of our discoveries and ideas about World War One will be posted on the class blog for the world to see, <http://mrmaloney.edublogs.org> You are welcome to leave a comment or add your own ideas or understanding about the war to the blog.

### **Curriculum studies**

Other units of work include:-

- Report writing
- striking and hitting of large and small balls for PE
- continued focus on comprehension, fluency and reading for pleasure.
- Time and Temperature, Symmetry and Transformation, Statistical Literacy and Algebra are part of this term's Maths focus

### **Camp Wellington**

Our focus for this term is the preparation and lead up to Camp Wellington. All permission forms and gear checklists have been sent home and we are currently working on finalizing our activity timetable and room plans. Our World War 1 inquiry ties directly into most of our Camp Wellington activities, plus we will be assigning roles and practising our parts for our Capital E TV show.

### **Home Learning and Class Blog**

Home learning has been running smoothly for most students. Every week it includes reading and spelling, plus maths homework from your child's maths teacher. Home learning is expected to be completed for marking before Friday morning. I would appreciate your continued support in this area. If for some reason your child is unable to complete any or all assigned home learning please notify me personally. Tasks may become more involved as the term goes on. On some occasions, children will be given research work to complete in association with our inquiry. Students are encouraged to make comments and post their ideas and information as often as they can. If your child is unable to use a computer at home to complete set work, or conduct inquiry related research, they will be given priority computer access in class before school.

### **Timetable Change**

As a result of our staff professional development discussions in literacy, we have decided to alter the timing of our interval which has traditionally been between 10.25 and 10.45. So that we can better integrate the literacy strands (oral, and visual language, reading and writing), the morning interval break will now be scheduled between 11.00 a.m. and 11.20.a.m. This change will allow an uninterrupted 2 hour time period where teachers and learners can focus on maximising the links between the literacy strands and which also allows for increasing self-direction by learners.

This will mean learners may need a "five minute healthy snack break" sometime during those two hours which will help them re-energise for learning until their morning interval at 11.00.a.m when they may have their full morning tea.

We do insist that the food provided for the healthy snack break is a small quantity, packaged in a way that is easily accessed by children and is able to be eaten easily while in class. We suggest items such as a small piece of fruit, a few nuts, apple slices, peeled mandarins, a banana or popcorn perhaps. We do promote children drinking water as and when they need it so always send a drink bottle as they can refill anytime. We discourage any form of sugary drinks.

### **Health**

With winter approaching I am keen to halt the spread of bugs and infections, especially with the threat of influenza. In the classroom this is achieved by providing the students with ready access to disposable tissues and hand sanitizer. If you are able to donate some tissues, to help with Room 11's hygiene, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to call into the classroom at any time, either for a chat, or if you have any concerns. I look forward to our continued contact and hope you have a great term also.

Regards,

Terry Maloney

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