



DISCOVERY LEARNING COMMUNITY



TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

Tuesday 16 May, 2017

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 2. It seems to be flying by, and unbelievably we are already in Week 3! The winter term always brings its challenges, with illness and wet days meaning children spending break times inside. It is important that parents remember to send jackets to school, even if it is not raining, and slippers for wearing in classrooms is also recommended.

COLLABORATION IN OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY

This term, our primary school focus continues to be 'Consistency and Collaboration'. For the students and teachers of the Discovery Learning Community, this means there is sometimes opportunity for teachers to plan and teach together, and therefore opportunity for the students to work with other teachers and students who are in the Discovery Learning Community. This term the Discovery Learning Community have already worked together on a mini unit, 'Firewise' with a focus on what to do, and how to keep safe in the event of a fire. Last Wednesday, the 3 classes visited the Hawarden Fire Station, and along with some volunteer firemen were given the experience of what it would be like to be in a fire, and what to do to keep safe. They also had fun looking around the fire engine and the clothing the firemen wear. This term we are continuing to share the teaching and learning of our daily Fitness Programme, Phonics, Kapahaka and Discovery Time. Discovery Time takes place on a Friday and this gives the students opportunity to choose selected activities and focus on improving their key competencies of relating to others, managing self, thinking, and participating and contributing.

INTEGRATED LEARNING INQUIRY

Along with giving students the opportunity to investigate items of interest as they arise, we will also continue our focus on our Integrated Learning Inquiry, 'Our World', which is our overarching theme for the year for the entire Primary School. We are currently working with the topic 'New Zealand Rocks', with learning experiences to help answer our inquiry questions of: "How is the earth made up?" "What are the features of the earth?" "How has the land changed over time?" "What natural processes cause these features to change?" "What makes New Zealand great?"

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In week 4, on Wednesday 24 May, (ppd Thursday 25 May), we have our Hurunui College Cross Country, starting at 2.00pm. The children are already training for this event. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend, and join in if possible. We also have Turbo Touch running for all primary classes every Tuesday, from Week 3 to Week 8. Touch Canterbury are coming out weekly to work with each class for half hour intervals. Thank you to Miss Jackson for organising this.

KEEPING IN TOUCH (K.I.T.)

The school diary is used for home/school communication (K.I.T. – Keeping in Touch). Each week you can expect a small weekly K.I.T. note from your child's teacher which will be pasted into the diary. This will include the class goal for the week, home learning suggestions, values focus and any other note or reminder relevant to the class.

Please feel free to write in the diary any comments including transport arrangements or health/emotional issues etc. If your child is not travelling home on the bus it is important that you contact the office directly, and also let the class teacher know via the KIT book. Please check for teacher comments particular to your child **daily**, and sign so that we know the message has been read, and also return the K.I.T. book to school each day.

NAMED CLOTHING

We are astounded with the amount of lost property of unnamed items of clothing and we would really like to reduce this. Please ensure all clothing is named, including hats, jackets, polar fleeces and socks.

HOME LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

It is an expectation that all children in the Discovery Learning Community will have reading, basic facts or number knowledge, and spelling or high frequency reading words to learn each night. Brain research tells us that things are learned and remembered better if they are gone over again in the evening. It is important to make home learning a habit as well as a fun time, so please support your child with their home learning. Please take note of the suggestions individual teachers have given in their weekly K.I.T. notice.

KEY DATES FOR DISCOVERY LEARNING COMMUNITY IN TERM 2

Monday 22 May – SCHOOL PHOTOS

Wednesday 24 May – Hurunui College Cross Country

Thursday 25 May – ppd Hurunui College Cross Country

Friday 26 May – Primary Assembly

Monday 5 June – QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

Tuesday 6 June – TEACHER ONLY DAY

Friday 23 June – Primary Assembly

Tuesday 4 July – Discovery Learning Conferences – only for parents and students of those who received reports in Term 2

Friday 7 July – End of Term 2

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting us. Keep an eye on the school calendar on our new website, as once dates are confirmed they are transferred to this calendar, along with additional information that you may need.

We are looking forward to a busy but fun term ahead.

Kind regards

The Discovery Team

Jane Marsh, Jen Banks, Jenny Jackson, Chris Toki

