



**Room 1 & 3
Term 2 2017**

**Our Home-School Newsletter
with class learning focus points and ideas to support learning.**

Welcome back to Term 2! Learning is already in full swing in Māhuri. Welcome back to Martin Anscombe who will be teaching in Room 1 on Thursdays, and welcome back to Jamie Hoare who teaches in Room 1 every second Friday. Helen Orange and Maria Bowley will continue to support classroom programmes and students' learning. Home extension continues to be due every Friday and sent home again on Fridays. We will also keep you up to date with other links to learning via the school newsletters and our *Māhuri Mailer* emails.

Reading: The children are encouraged to read independently for at least 20 minutes a day. During this time we are observing reading attitudes and behaviours as well as encouraging the children to choose books they enjoy reading. We are also working on understanding what we read, using a number of different types of comprehension strategies such as asking questions before during and after reading as well as making connections to experiences and other things we have read.

Learning Link: *Encourage the children to read independently every night. Get them to tell you about the part they have just read. Ask "What do you see, hear, smell, taste, feel from reading this?" and "What words or sentences made you feel (taste etc.) this" Ask that they find the evidence in the story to support what they say.*

Writing: We will be starting our focus on persuasion and argument. When we are persuading, we have to have justifications for our reasons. Also integrated into this term's inquiry, students will be exploring non-fictional writing styles as they explain and report on science aspects of our Marine Reserve. This will include explanations of how tidal zones work and scientific reports on creatures, using scientific language.

Learning Link: *Share reports, and explanations you read with your child. Go to the library and read some non-fiction books based on our Inquiry. Have some debates about issues at home and justify your position with evidence or examples. E.g. We should have dessert first before dinner. Students have been inspired to write for pleasure using www.storybird.com and <http://pobble365.com/> - we would like to encourage any writing as practice because this leads to increased confidence and skill, as we do for reading and maths.*

Spelling: We will be concentrating on learning and using the essential spelling lists 1-7. We are working towards these words being spelt correctly every time they are written. There are also spelling programmes running in classes throughout literacy time focused on sounds and spelling patterns.

Learning Link: *Spelling lists are in their Home extension book. In there are different games/strategies to help learn their words. One of these is the 3,3,3 system for learning a word – Look at the word and spell aloud 3 times, cover and spell aloud 3 times, and write 3 times while spelling aloud. Put tricky words on cards and onto a wall or fridge to look at and spell often.*

Mathematics: We have kicked the term off solving a variety of problems and learning some new maths games. We will be learning new multiplication and division strategies, using these to solve problems. Later in the term we will be exploring probability and geometry-shape.

Learning Link: Basic facts practice help us when solving problems. Keep practising! There are many websites that help students become fast and accurate. Use Owhiro Bay Learners – <https://sites.google.com/a/owhiro.school.nz/owhiro-bay-learners/> and www.teachertools.co.nz.

Inquiry: We have begun our transition into Marine Biologists! We are going to be delving further into this area of science as part of our inquiry into the sustainability of our coastal environment. We will be looking at classification of coastal creatures, intertidal zones and what we can do to help keep the Marine Reserve going for years to come.

Learning Link: Go with your family and explore our coastal areas we have in Wellington. What creatures can you find? Where do they live? Why do they live there? Who eats who? Try another coastal area - do you find the same things?

Physical Education: We are busy running in preparation for the school Fun Run and will continue to run after the Fun Run as part of our fitness. We are continuing our skills in cricket and padder tennis, and later in the term we will move into Big Ball skills.

Learning Link: Encourage your child to have some sort of physical activity each night.

Te Reo and Tikanga Māori: We are learning about Tangaroa - The God of the Sea and other Māori Gods. We will also be learning to ask and answer questions. such as 'Where is the...?', "Give/pass me the .../Homai te...", "What is this? This is.... /He aha tēnei? He ____ tēnei." and 'How many..?/E Southern Zone Cross Country Tuesday 30th May (for selected students)hia nga.....?" Mātua Henare will be continuing to lead Māhuri Kapa Haka on a Tuesday afternoon.

Learning Link: Ask them to retell what they have learnt about tikanga and Te Reo at school. Encourage them to use their learning at home with you.

The Arts: This term we will be linking our art with our inquiry into the Marine Reserve. We will be creating art using pastel, focussing on blending and complimentary colours. We will also be creating creatures that we are learning about to produce a 'Māhuri Mural'.

Important Class dates:

Māhuri Marine Education Trip	Friday 26 May
Parentlink Coffee Club 2.15 pm in the staffroom	Friday 26 May
Southern Zone Cross Country	Tuesday 30th May (for selected students)
Queen's Birthday	Monday 5th June
Walk & Wheels Day	Wednesday 7th June
Disco	Friday 23rd June
Staff Training Day (Inquiry Learning)	Thursday 6 July
Last Day of Term 2 at 3.00 pm	Friday 7 July
First Day of Term 3	Monday 24 July

Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries. To contact us please see us before school or make an appointment, alternatively by Email: rowena@owhiro.school.nz or vikki@owhiro.school.nz

Vikki Martin
Rowena Johnstone