



WADESTOWN SCHOOL

Living to Learn - Learning to Live



February 2019

Pohutukawa Team Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome to Pohutukawa Team parents of children at Weld Street. A special welcome to our lovely new teachers: Sarah Bruce, teaching a Year 1 class in Room 2 and Christine Wrenn who is teaching a Year 2 class in Room 0. We also welcome all the parents of the new 5 year olds who have started school this term: Vidhya Ratnoyake, James Stevenson, Lily-Mae McLellan, Sylvia Lees, Samuel Smith and Eve Laytham we also welcome parents of 6 year olds who have started school at Wadestown this term: Arkie Keni and Rory Curtin.

Term 1 Curriculum Theme

Our theme for 2019 is "**Change**" and each term we have a challenge related to "**Sustainability**". During Term 1 the theme of change and sustainability will be taught in the context of the sea with Pohutukawa Team visiting Island Bay Marine Education Centre on the 20th March. Students will find a lot out about kina (a particular delicacy to Maori) and the important role of The Marine Reserve.

The following whakatauki captures our Term 1 theme:

Toitū te marae a Tāne, Toitū te marae a Tangaroa, Toitū te Tangata

*If we care for the resources of the land and the sea,
we, the people, will survive.*

School Values and Building Resilience

Teachers will unpack the "3 R's" with their students this term and students will develop a shared-understanding for what **Respect**, **Responsibility** and **Resilience** look and sound like in The Pohutukawa Team. Prior to school starting this year teachers were privileged to hear Dr. Chris Bowden (Victoria University) on the hot topic of **Resilience** as it relates to well-being. Dr. Bowden encouraged us to build think about what is developmentally appropriate for our students. It was good to be reminded that all students should be encouraged to:

- learn from their mistakes
- given time to master skills so they become competent and confident
- have opportunities to work with someone new
- help someone that is struggling.

Dr. Chris Bowden reminded us that "best practice" is when teachers and parents partner together in order to build children's resilience.

Weld Street Traffic Protocols

Teachers encourage students to do "**Kiss and Drop**" in the mornings, once they have settled in to school. Please encourage your child to take up the challenge and expect them to go in to class by themselves. Once they have unpacked their belongings they are then expected to go outside and play until the bell goes.

Morning Bell Times

The bell will ring at **8:50am** which signals to the children it is time to go to the toilet and have a drink in preparation for school starting. Once the **8:55am** bell rings then students should be in class and the roll will be taken.

Circle Time

Students will participate in a weekly half hour session where they will problem-solve issues that relate to them (either in the classroom or play-ground).

Discovery Time

Friday morning Discovery Time activities are designed to help develop the key competencies of *Thinking, Managing Self, Relating to Others, Using Language, Symbols and Texts and Participating and Contributing*. Science and Technology is integrated into Discovery Time sessions and so is Art. Rooms 1 and 2 work together and the Year 2 classes will also work together.

Literacy

Literacy forms a significant part of the school day. Reading and writing are supported by plenty of discussion so that the children's vocabulary is developed and they learn to elaborate on their ideas and explain their thinking to others. The children practise their listening and speaking skills: asking and answering questions and they learn how to communicate with an audience. The *Yolanda Soryl* phonics programme supports literacy learning. Children are taught handwriting, spelling, punctuation and grammar too. Parents are encouraged to enjoy reading to their children and listening to their child's guided reader, this should be a fun time together.

Numeracy

We begin the year with a focus on Statistics. This topic is a great one to begin the year with as we learn about each other. We use data to sort information into groups, classify them and then make graphs. We talk about what the information tells us.

Year 1

In number knowledge we work with numbers to 20, adding and subtracting up to 10 (then 20). We count forwards and backwards to 20, 50 and 100, counting from a different number each time. We will learn to say 2 digit numbers correctly and read and write the numbers to 20.

Year 2

Students will work on developing different ways of adding numbers together and subtracting to solve problems e.g. counting on from the largest number $3 + 16$ count from 16:17, 18, 19, using doubles e.g. $5 + 5 = 10$ so $5+6$ is one more which = 11. You can help at home by assisting your child to practise the areas of number knowledge: counting forwards, backwards and skip counting/ordering numbers, knowing number facts and decades.

NZ Maths website www.nzmaths.co.nz has an excellent families section which gives ideas as to how you can help at home. Please look at this.

Science

Each classroom has a caterpillar and swan plant with the emphasis on observations of the caterpillar life cycle. The children will also do fun experiments, building their observation skills and developing engagement with Science.

Te Reo Māori

The children will be learning the names for family members and simple phrases to show family connections.

Visual Art

Students have been invited to send in a piece of floral art to *The 101st Summer Flower Show*, on Saturday 16th February.

P.E.

We will be practising tabloid sports in preparation for the Pohutukawa Team Sports Day.

The children are taught to swim (weather permitting) during February.

Upcoming events

- 15th February Annual School Picnic 5:30 pm Rose St.
- 16th February Wilton Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show at St. Luke's Church
- 18th February Parent Night held at Rose St. 7 pm
- 5th March Parent Conferences 3:30 – 6:00 pm
- 8th March Sports Day at Wilton Park
- 20th March Trip to Island Bay Marine Education Centre
- 27th March Pre-school Info Morning
- 12th April last day for Term 1, 2019

Activity Fees

Activity Fees	Term 1	\$12.00
Sports Day (return bus fare)		\$ 6.00
Island Bay Marine Education Centre (return bus fare)		\$ 6.00

Pohutukawa Team teachers look forward to working in partnership with you and your child this term, on a wonderful journey of learning. If you have any concerns, then please email your classroom teacher to make a suitable time for you to discuss it after school one day.

Kind regards

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