



Worser Bay School

AUTAHI

Parent Information Term 2, 2009

WELCOME TO TERM 2

This year our programme builds on from 2008. Our big theme is "Relationships - Cause and Effect". We also continue our focus on student engagement and how we provide opportunities for our wide range of learners.

Following the success of our science/technology focus on simple machines last term, we will build on the work already covered by introducing a visual art component. Our question for this term is "How do ideas connect?"

We look forward to sharing our progress and learning with you at our 'Arts Expo' at the end of the term. The visit to 'Monet' will provide context for the students as they take their creations to many different levels and are encouraged to take risks to strengthen their skills in visual art.

We had a fantastic response to the Student-Led Conferences (SLCs) last term. You will have all received the written summaries of this discussion. We are excited by the success of the SLCs since their introduction in 2007. The development of our approach to SLCs is guided by the intent of the New Zealand Curriculum and making sure we are providing clear information on students' progress.

This term, school-wide data will be collected in numeracy. Individual students will continue to be monitored in their reading and writing progress. Progressive Achievement Tests (PATs) results are now back for students in Years 4-6. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be sharing this information with the students. Please remember, we look at a range of data before

making a decision as to whether a student is what we consider 'at risk' of achieving. You will be contacted, by us, if we have any concerns and wish to set a home-school plan in place.



On Monday 18 May at 6.30pm, we have a seminar on "Writing and Your Child" presented by Murray Gadd. Murray is a Wellington-based literacy and education consultant who works nationally and internationally on reading and writing projects. This is a great opportunity to learn about your child's writing and also catch up with your teacher.

We continue to seek opportunities to develop Key Competencies and Enterprising Attributes in our students, staff and wider community. A major initiative we have been involved in is Education for Enterprise (E4E). This is about promoting an active and authentic approach to learning – one that is real, relevant, and encourages students to share responsibility in the learning process. The enterprising attributes represent many of the skills that students will need when they leave school. They also align to the key competencies of the *New Zealand Curriculum*. You will have experienced your child talking about their progress in these areas at their conference.



MATHEMATICS

Geometry and Measurement

This term, we are starting with Geometry. This includes reflection, rotation, symmetry and tessellation. Later in the term, we will be focusing on Measurement. Our strategies for addition and subtraction, multiplication and division will be maintained throughout the term.

Where we can make links to other learning at school, we will. If you would like information on how to help your child develop the knowledge and strategies for their stage, please visit:

<http://www.nzmaths.co.nz/families/index.aspx>.

This term, we will be undertaking the GLOSS Maths Assessment to gather more information about where your child is at after one term at school and what their next learning steps are. GLOSS is a maths assessment that provides information about what strategies students are using to problem solve and what their next learning steps will be.

ENGLISH

The children remain in literacy groups for reading and writing based upon their learning needs. We will be learning about how messages and moods are created through pictures and colour. Picture books will provide a great context for learning and this focus on Visual Language links nicely to our topic.

Writing

We will continue with recount writing. This falls under the umbrella of Poetic Writing. We will be placing special emphasis on language features, sentence structures and spelling. We will be using the AsTTLe indicators for writing to determine your child's learning and progress. This also forms part of our teacher professional learning this year. If you would like to know more about the AsTTLe tool, please go to http://www.tki.org.nz/r/asttle/index_e.php.

Reading

The children will be focusing on strengthening comprehension reading strategies and processes through guided and shared reading. We will be looking at making meaning from what we are reading. We value the importance of being "read to" so this is also a regular part of our school week. Many of you already read to your child at home, if not, please try and find some time.

Library Learning

Library learning will be based around our classroom literacy programmes. Links will be made between words and pictures. Marylyn will be introducing books that reinforce what we are learning in reading and writing.

PE/HEALTH

Our PE unit is about Co-operative Games and it focuses on working together as a team. This links to our Key Competency/Enterprising Attribute development - how we can relate to others in a games context.

PE leadership roles will be introduced throughout the school. In preparation for Eastern Zones Cross Country, we will be doing some long distance running to build up our fitness.

Dates to Diary:

Eastern Zones Netball - 13 May

Eastern Zones Cross Country - 9 June.

More information will be given closer to the time. Watch the newsletter!

We will continue with 'Circle Time' which was introduced last term as part of the health curriculum. 'Circle Time' offers a safe and supportive environment for students to share ideas and feelings. It is an opportunity to raise their self esteem and encourages positive attitude and behaviour.

MUSIC

Nicole will be working with us this term to compose a piece of music that creates a mood for our art work.

TOPIC

In Autahi, we will be developing an understanding of the Visual Art Elements of line/contour, texture, colour and shape. The students will be identifying and describing how these connect to each other. The students will have a week to explore photography, collage, print-making and painting. They will have an opportunity to create a piece of artwork for the Art Expo. We will also be using our trip to Monet as inspiration.

We will be exploring ways to express and represent *feelings and ideas* in different ways – through visual art, music, poetic writing, circle time. Part of our Literacy Programme will be learning about visual language features (use of colour, style of fonts, layout) and how these relate to the author's purpose (create a message or feeling) through a picture book context. We will be exploring how writers paint pictures with words and how they can evoke feeling through pictures.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US OUT?

Thank you to all those parents who helped us in many different ways last term.

This term we need parents who could help by:

- Putting away Readers and Journals in our Autahi cupboard.
- Reading with individual children or small groups.
- Helping with art, photography, printing, collage, painting which will be starting from Week 2, every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Suzanne and Hamish