



Worser Bay School

MĀHUTONGA

Parent Information Evening
Thursday, 12 February 2009

Welcome to 2009

This year our teaching and learning programme builds on from that of 2008. Our big overarching theme is "Relationships - Cause and Effect". This term we are mainly focused on connections and how these are made. We are looking forward to our Inventors' Workshop near the end of the term.

Many of you will have caught up with us already, either over the phone or at school. We aim to have spoken with all parents before the end of Week 2. Student Led Conferences will take place over Weeks 7 and 8 this term. We have started the year by reviewing your child's goals from their written summary at the end of last year and teaching from the data we collected at the end of 2008, so we are straight back into it!

Continuing with the strategic goal of 'Celebrating Our Place' the new beautifully carved kuaha/gateway and new school website will be welcomed this term. We also have a new karakia, specifically written for Worser Bay with the input of our children. You will be hearing more about these soon.

Key Competencies and Enterprising Attributes

This year we will be working on becoming an Education for Enterprise School. Education for Enterprise (E4E) is about promoting an *approach* to learning – one that is real, relevant, and gives students responsibility for their learning. 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* which we started learning about last year. For example, as the students create their own 'inventions' for the Inventors' Workshop, they will be involved in the 'Thinking' key competency. The enterprising attributes that align with these include:

Key Competency	Enterprising Attributes	What this means for the Student
Thinking	Generating and using creative ideas and processes.	Thinking up new ideas and ways to do things that will work well.
	Identifying, solving and preventing problems.	Looking ahead for things that can go wrong, thinking of ways to solve problems and planning ahead to avoid them.

For more information on the key competencies, visit: <http://www.teamup.co.nz/AllAges/Curriculum/SchoolCurriculum.aspx>

And for information on the enterprising attributes, visit: <http://education-for-enterprise.tki.org.nz/About-E4E/The-NZ-Curriculum-and-E4E/Enterprising-attributes>



Topic Science/Technology

Out topic this term is around the concept of simple machines. We will be exploring what these are and how they work. A visit to the Da Vinci Exhibition will provide students with motivation to learn about other inventions and inventors. The students will be working towards designing and building their own 'invention' or working model demonstrating a simple machine. These will be exhibited at an "Inventors' Workshop" at the end of the term. It is a fantastic context in which to develop creativity and allow students to develop their enterprising attributes.



Mathematics

At the end of last year we carried out the diagnostic survey, which is a one-on-one test that gives us information on progress and informs us of what students' next learning steps are. We have used this data to group students according to what stage they are in addition and subtraction. Most students in Māhutonga are working at stage 5 of the numeracy project; some students are at stage 4 and some at stage 6. 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>.

We will be focusing on developing students' basic fact knowledge this term. This will take the form of regular basic facts testing each week. Basic facts include knowledge of addition and subtraction facts to 20 and multiplication and division facts to 12.

We will be exploring geometry concepts towards the end of the term.

English

Continue to develop specific comprehension strategies.

Reading

At the end of last year the students completed an aSTTLe reading test. This identified the progress at an individual and group level. We have used this data to group students into guided reading groups. Guided reading is when students are guided through the reading of the text, in a small group with the teacher. Through these lessons each group will work on specific comprehension strategies.

Our aim this year is for all students to become aware of the reading strategies that they are using to help them read. Through their guided reading lessons, those students who find reading comprehension a bit of a struggle, will be taught how to make connections and link to their prior knowledge. They will also be given practice in how to self monitor their reading (recognise when they have made mistakes or don't understand what they have read).

Those students who are able to comprehend a wide variety of texts will be involved in creating a more challenging reading environment for themselves. They will be given practise in how to self monitor their reading of difficult texts and how to use clues to work out the meaning of unknown words in their guided reading lessons. These students need opportunities to read widely. As part of this we will start setting up book clubs and literature circles this term. These allow students to engage with the books they are reading and with each other.

Writing

This term we will be focused on recount and narrative writing. We want students to develop an understanding of how to shape their writing for different purposes and audiences. As with reading, students will be in guided writing groups according to their learning needs.

All class areas - Tautoru, Autahi and Mahutonga - will collect a piece of writing from each child in the first couple of weeks of the term. We are learning to use the aSTTLe indicators for writing effectively, as 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.

On the evening of 18 May, Murray Gadd, who is working with the teachers this year and who is an internationally recognised literacy consultant, will facilitate the Parent Information Evening on children's writing. It's a must - so please diary now.

Spelling

Spelling, which is one of the features of writing, is also a focus for us this year. We are implementing the Joy Allcock spelling programme in every class. It's important that we have consistency and minimise confusion for our children. You can find out more at <http://www.spelling.co.nz/>.

Students will be developing strategies for working out words they do not recognise. This involves developing an understanding of different word families and common letter patterns that go together. Depending on their needs, students may be learning words from the essential spelling lists, their own writing or word studies that they are exploring in class. The aim for those students who already have well-developed strategies for recognising and spelling words will be to promote an interest in words - where they come from, how they sound, alternate meanings, and how writers play with them to create meaning.

Homework

Students will be given spelling words as part of their homework.

Homework is given out on a Monday and handed in on a Friday. Students have 2 weeks to complete their homework. Please remember, the emphasis is on self-management and sharing learning and progress with family. We do not wish students (or parents) to get overly concerned about homework.

Library

Marylyn will be working alongside this literacy programme. She will focus on building good models of language and continue to develop our key reading strategies through shared reading. Marylyn will also be developing an appreciation of books with students through reading novels.



Health & PE

Our PE topic this term is called 'Strike it!' We will be learning about throwing and catching, and hitting through various sports, including cricket and tennis. In the last week of term, we will be holding our Worser Bay swimming sports - on Monday 6th April.

Eastern Zones

Eastern Zones Cricket is in Week 3 on Wednesday 18 February. Worser Bay Swimming Sports will be held on Monday 6th April, and Eastern Zones Swimming is on the Wed 8th April. It will be a tight squeeze but we can do it. We will need to organise transport and parents super fast. We thank you in advance for your understanding that it will be short notice.

ICT

ICT will be another key area of focus and exploration this term. The children will be involved in recording their learning using digital cameras and video. We will also be exploring how we can use ICT more effectively in the classroom.

How can you help?

- Do you have any knowledge, experience or want to offer support to a group of students as they learn to manage an event?
- Do you know anyone who can help us with our topic on simple machines and inventions?

We would love to have you come along and share your knowledge or just come along and help. Let either Kath or Matt know if you can help in any of these ways.

See you at the School Picnic at 5.30pm on Thursday 12th February!

