



Kārearea Term 2, 2018

Kia ora koutou,

It is great to see everybody returning safely after the two week break! Another full on term of learning awaits us in Kārearea and excitement for our Year 7/8s who have begun their Technology program at Edgumbe College. The Kārearea Year 6 students will be working through a separate program in Ruru, which will include Maths in the morning, working on their literacy skills during the middle block and developing their inquiry skills in the afternoon. With the Year 6 students working in Ruru, it will allow me to also develop my own teaching and learning both at school and by visiting other schools to build upon my own classroom program and to discover fresh and exciting ideas from other Year 6/7 & 8 teachers, to share with the students in Kārearea!

We also welcome a new Year 7 student to Kārearea, Bonnie Harris, who has moved up from Gisborne with her whānau, we hope you feel welcomed Bonnie and look forward to getting to know you throughout the term :)

This term we will continue our conceptual focus of **Relationships** however, we will be branching out from relationships between people, to some of the relationships between the world we live in and us! Our Inquiry learning will be based around Astronomy, which ties in nicely with Matariki which will take place later in the term. There will also be many opportunities for students to follow their passions and interests through Passion Projects, where students will explore an issue, interest or topic of their choice and apply and build upon their skills and understanding of these interests.

Term 1 Celebrations

Once again a huge congratulations goes to Oliver Handley-Elder for his selfless, kind and inspiring act and effort for Shave for a Cure 2018 at the end of Term 1! Continue to **LEAD** the way Olly!



Special mention must also go to everybody who participated in the Senior Swimming sports, particularly the students who competed in Term 1 swimming races, all of the students who were a part of the Rangitaiki Swimming Sports team and Jorja and Mya for making it all of the way to the EBOP Swimming Champs!

We also have some celebrations from within the classroom, with Jordan van der Vegte entering into the New Zealand Warriors "League in Libraries" Writing Competition for 2018. She wrote a fantastic story and I look forward to hearing the results!

Lastly to all of the students who **Dared to Dream** by running for student council, ka pai tō mahi koutou! Outstanding courage and leadership shown by all of you, if you missed out on a spot remember there is still the House Captain Election and many other opportunities throughout the year so Kia Kaha! Back on the horse and continue to strive to be your best selves :)

Teaching and Learning

We are learning to collaborate and be self-directed by...

- Working in a range of learning contexts; *individually, in small groups and as a whole class*. **Participating and Contributing**
- Using LEAD to develop self-management, and interpersonal skills both inside and outside of the classroom. **Managing Self and Relating to Others**

Literacy

Kārearea will keep building relationships with our Pen Pals from Kaitaia through letter writing in Term 2. Students will also be provided with a range of learning opportunities in both Reading and Writing through our Inquiry learning and Passion Projects to run alongside a differentiated literacy program to cater to all students learning needs. This will include regular literacy workshops with Mr Brown, to more self-directed learning opportunities such as novel studies, reading responses, building research skills such as note taking or even exploring writing song lyrics.

Online learning tools such as Reading Eggspress, Kiwi Kids News and Epic! will continue to be used to reinforce and support literacy learning.

The Elsie Locke writing competition for 2018 is also now open so will provide another exciting opportunity for our keen writers to **Dare to Dream**. The topic for this year's competition is 'Life in a Changed Environment. What might it be like to live in New Zealand 100 years from now?'

Mathematics

Our strand foci for Term 2 will be Geometry and Measurement which fits in nicely with our conceptual focus of *Relationships*. Students will be provided with a number of learning opportunities to explore a number of geometrical shapes, use measurement tools and skills based around Astronomy, look at mapping based around early voyages to Aotearoa and how the stars were used to navigate around the world, as well as exploring these skills and understanding in a number of other real world and relevant contexts such as money and cooking, to ensure students can find relevance and make connections between what they are learning and their own life experiences.

Mathletics will be used as one of the online learning tools to support and reinforce learning in Mathematics.

Inquiry and Science

Kārearea have worked hard throughout Term One in their inquiries into ANZAC. This was a great opportunity for students to develop their inquiry skills based around our Inquiry Cycle. This term will provide them with a number of opportunities to continue to develop these inquiry and research skills in both supported and independent learning contexts. Our whole class inquiry will be based around Astronomy and the relationships that can be found within this theme however, as outlined at the beginning of the newsletter, students will be given one block per week to begin with, to explore, research and develop understanding around a interest, issue or topic that they find exciting or have a passion for. These 'Passion Projects' will provide rich, real and relevant learning experiences for the students while being able to practise and extend their skills and understanding when using the Inquiry Cycle which will be very valuable as they move towards high school in the coming years!

Camp 2018

I appreciate your patience in regards to camp. I have been researching some different options and have decided on a trip up north to the Bay of Islands. Camp this year will be based around our conceptual focus of *Relationships* and will feature a trip to Kaitaia to meet up with our pen pals from Pukenui School! As well as a visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, an exploration to 'The hole in the rock' and our accommodation being situated just outside of the beautiful town of Russell. This will be a camp for all Kārearea students. More information will be provided within the next couple of weeks in regard to costs and dates and Kārearea will be doing a number of fundraisers to cut the costs of camp!



I look forward to working alongside you all in what will be a productive, positive and exciting Term Two at Otakiri School. If you have any queries please feel free to either email me at matt@otakiri.school.nz or pop in before or after school for a kōrero!

Ngā mihi Koutou,

Matt Brown