

Ruru Newsletter Term 3 2018



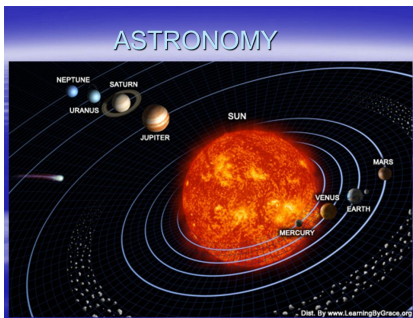
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We have had a great start to the term, with children refreshed and showing great enthusiasm for learning. A special welcome to our new students Gianni and her whanau to Ruru this term.

Teaching and learning:

We are learning to work together and self-direct our learning by:

- ❑ Developing success criteria together to complete tasks successfully (**Key Competencies-*Thinking & Relating to others***)
- ❑ Reflecting and self-assessing our learning; thinking about the 'Next Steps' for our learning; being able to talk about our learning (**Key Competency-*Thinking***)
- ❑ Working independently, with a buddy or in small groups to share learning (**Key Competency-*Participating and contributing***)
- ❑ Focusing on Thinking skills, problem solving and Inquiry (**Key Competencies-*Thinking, Relating to others & Using language, symbols and texts***)
- ❑ Understanding what self-directed learning is and using self-directed learning skills to *Learn with Purpose* (**Key Competency-*Managing Self***)



Inquiry learning this term will continue to focus on the concept of *Relationships*. We will be completing our enquiring into the scientific relationships related to Astronomy such as The Moon and Space and their effect on our daily lives. As we answer our inquiry questions we will focus on developing note taking and note making skills so we can present our research information in our own words.

Maths: Units this term will include:

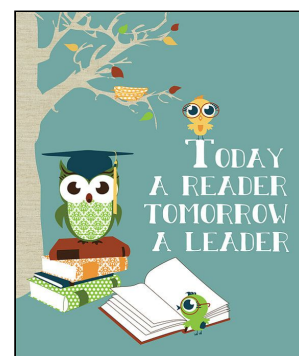
- Number knowledge
- Collaborative problem solving
- Integrated Maths themes relating to our Inquiry Concept-Measurement, Statistics & Geometry

During the term we will continue to conference with students to monitor their Mathletics progress. As a guide, students need to have completed 75% of their Mathletics course by the end of Term 3 if they want to complete their Mathletics course by the end of the year.

Literacy

In Writing this term we will focus on factual writing related to our inquiries and personal writing. The children will be identifying their next steps from their writing and will use their Writing Pathways to set Writing goals for themselves.

In Reading the children will *Dare to Dream* by self-directing their personal reading to complete a Term 3 Reading Challenge. It is essential they read every day for a variety of purposes in their personal reading. We will focus on Inquiry related reading and Guided Reading which requires them to respond to what they have read during Literacy Circle discussions or in Writing.



Did you know...

15 minutes per day of independent reading can expose students to more than one million words of text in one year!

Anderson, Wilson & Fielding 1988

Current research tells us that the more minutes children read per day, the more fluent their reading becomes. From 5 to 15 minutes per night there is around a 200% increase in word exposure over one year! The research shows, that the benefits of regular reading, improve performance in: general knowledge, vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency and spelling. If you can support your child at home to read that would be really helpful for their ongoing progress. Our library day is **Wednesday**. The children can also exchange books at lunchtimes. Please make sure your child has a journal bag to carry their library books in.

In P.E. we will be practising hockey and soccer skills in preparation for the upcoming Rangitaiki Hockey/Soccer Tournament on Friday 17th of August. We also have our Year 5 and 6 Netball Team competing in the EBOP Sevens Tournament next Tuesday 7th of August. A number of Ruru students are *Daring to Dream* as they train for the Tough Guy and Gal Challenge. We will be using Jump Jam for Fitness and also activities that will build fitness for our camp at the end of the term.

Languages

Te Reo

Whaea Poihaere will continue to teach Te Reo in Ruru on Thursdays. Our units of work this term are “Nga Tau” (Counting) and “Hauora” (Health) . We will also be integrating Te Reo into other curriculum areas.

The Arts

Visual Art, Music, Dance and Drama will be integrated into the Relationships Inquiry unit and the Literacy programme.

Ruru Camp

Our Camp Planning is well underway. We have 16 Parents/Caregivers who would like to attend as Camp Parents so we have decided to take everyone. Thank you all for your support. There will be regular Camp Newsletters during the term so keep an eye out for these.

Home Learning

A number of parents/caregivers enquired about Homework at Learning Conversations at the end of Term 2. Just a reminder that Ruru students are expected to self-manage the tasks they do at home. Some children have a daily reading book to read as part of their Home Reading programme. All Ruru students are expected to spend some time on Athletics and Reading Eggspress. Accompanying this newsletter is information about the Ruru Spelling Programme. You can also access information about the Home Learning programme through Google Classroom. There are examples in the Home Learning Classroom of different activities the children may choose from.

Please feel free to contact us with your questions and queries. We welcome your ideas and feedback. It's going to be a very busy but exciting term ahead. You can contact us on anthea@otakiri.school.nz or heather@otakiri.school.nz.

Thank you for your support,
Heather Richmond/Anthea Shattock

