

Tui Newsletter

Term 1, 2020



Our class has adopted the beautiful Tui bird. Part of our inquiry this term is to learn about this bird's attributes and strengths. How can Tui's attributes support our growth in all ways?

A wondering: If we 'Dare to Dream', then we must remember that 'Dreams don't work unless we do' (J.C. Maxwell) - with grace, persistence and courage. Just like a Tui!

Upcoming events:

- Swim trials were in week 1. If you are still in the trial team, bring your togs each Tuesday!
- We need a Bike Crew to help teachers at the bike track. Could this be you? See Whaea Lesa!
- Don't forget your sunhat, water and sunscreen!
- Our greetings are Māori, Dutch, German, Spanish and Filipino!

Welcome back to Tui Class!

Kia Ora, Hallo, Hola, Kamusta – Hello!

Greetings and welcome to Tui class for 2020! I am a new addition to the Otakiri School community family and I am excited to be here! During Term 1, I look forward to getting to know students and whānau as we begin our learning journey for the year. Speaking of 'getting to know students and whānau'...a huge Tui welcome to Logan and his family who are also new here.

As we learn about each other and the wonderful contributions we can all make to Tui class, an important goal for this term is to build a positive and supportive classroom culture that encourages student growth in different ways through different learning opportunities.

Teaching and Learning:

During the term, we will be working through different learning contexts:

- **Participating & Contributing:** individually, with a partner, in a small group or as part of the class
- **Managing Self:** Using LEAD expectations to help me work and interact with others in appropriate ways anytime and anywhere
- **Relating to Others:** exploring the ideas/opinions of others and respecting these – It is OK to agree or disagree; I can work alongside and interact with others effectively and respectfully
- **Thinking:** Working through tasks, meeting challenges and problem solving as an individual or with others (Relating to Others, Managing Self)
- **Using language, symbols & texts:** Using sources of information (eg reading books, maps, diagrams, charts) to help me research, analyse, interpret, discuss and share my findings with others

Inquiry:

Our class will revisit learning the 'Otakiri Way' through the LEAD expectations, delving into how students look/feel/sound like as an Otakiri learner/LEADer while exploring their strengths as an Otakiri LEADer/learner through Mana Potential. 'Getting-to-know' each other is high on our learning agenda (eg Pēpeha - Who am I? The area I come from?) and hopefully sharing interesting family treasures and stories (eg my Great-Grandpa went to war), not to mention discovering student aspirations and dreams! Our inquiry may delve into learning more about our local history, landmarks and our school, involving developing research skills, information gathering, analysing and sharing with the class in ways we all understand.

A Quick Joke:

"I like to imagine the guy who invented the umbrella was going to call it the 'brella'...but he hesitated!" by Andy Field (kiwikidsnews.co.nz)

Literacy:

Opportunities to gather information from different resources may include using School Journals, library books, YouTube clips (eg Tui birds), newspapers or school archives (eg photographs and books from earlier years) and the Reading Eggspress or EPIC literacy websites involving students to interpret and discuss information found and used. Writing will include descriptive writing (eg About Me), recount writing (eg exciting holiday moments), problem solving through narrative story writings, completing graphic organizers (eg Tui bird – what it looks like and what it does). Other writing opportunities may arise such as letter writing or report writing (eg the Tui bird; Becoming a robot designer) as our inquiry grows.

Numeracy:

Revisiting Number knowledge and strategies through games and problem solving activities through different contexts (eg topic based and individually, with a buddy or in a small group). Other topic strands may include Measurement - length (eg About Me - How tall I am in metres and centimetres? How long is my handspan/foot?), Measurement - time (eg getting used to our daily routines; What time is reading? How long is our PE session?), Geometry – shapes and patterning (eg Māori repeating patterns, tessellating patterns, symmetry, rotation). Our class will be using Mathletics regularly to help support and reinforce students' understanding of concepts they will be working on in class and this site can be accessed from home.

PE / Fitness:

We 'kick' the year off with our students participating in syndicate rotation sports each Wednesday to practise 'Summer Sports'. Each senior teacher has chosen a sport to practise specific skills (eg ball handling – throw, catch, field, bat), teamwork and problem-solving. Our main Summer PE focus is on swimming and developing strong, confident swimmers able to work towards swimming at least one length (50m) using a variety of different strokes (eg freestyle, backstroke). Student names for a school team to compete in the Interschool sports was collected to trial out last Tuesday 4th of February, so watch this space to see who makes it into the final teams! Daily fitness to develop stamina, movement, coordination, students' general fitness will also occur.

Class Blog and Online Resources:

Students from the Senior School will be using Class Seesaw to collect and record evidence of their learning throughout the year which can be easily referred to and discussed amongst students, with the teacher and whānau. Tui Class also has a class resource Weebly (like an online blog) where Whaea Lesa will load website links or YouTube clips to help support student learning such as students researching and analysing information for Tui bird. Whaea Lesa will also encourage students to work on pieces from time to time (eg students take photographs of our different learning areas around the school) and upload these to our Weebly. Our class Weebly space is:

<https://tui-otakiri2020.weebly.com>

Last Tid-Bits:

Home Learning may be in the form of pre-set tasks based on our Inquiry topics we are learning about (eg A name is a treasure - How did a student get their name? Pēpeha), reading materials, spelling from word lists or taken from their story writing and these will be sent home when needed. Otherwise, homework will not be set unless specifically requested by whānau. Websites that can be used for students to practice reading and numeracy are EPIC and Mathletics, sites we will be using in class regularly. Students will come home with their class email links and passwords when these are made available.

If families need to get in touch with Whaea Lesa for any reason, please email me, contact me at school or arrange an appointment to see me. My email address is:

lesa@otakiri.school.nz

I have had such a wonderful start by meeting families already and I look forward to working with you all over the year!

Ka kite, doei, auf wiedersehen, adiós, paalam – Goodbye (bye)

Nā Whaea Lesa Lafaelle