

Discovery School: Exploration Syndicate

Newsletter for Term 2, 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

A big welcome back to a busy term for everyone. This newsletter is to inform you of what's happening during this term in our syndicate.

KioKio Visit: During next week 34 Year 7 and 8 children from KioKio School will be here as billets of children from our syndicate. There is a busy programme lined up for them, and we wish all host families well in meeting these children, and the contact with their families in Otorohonga. We will return the visit later in the year, taking approximately 30 (volunteer) children from our syndicate to billeted stays on farms in their area.

Disco next Wednesday 7 - 9pm : For ALL Year 7 and 8's, and including the Y7 and Y8s here from KioKio.

Reading: Children will be focusing on personal reading and comprehension:

- in the integrated context of our syndicate Inquiry Learning "Careers" focus.
- in the context of a Novel Study in each class.

Our Lexile (individualized) reading programme will continue, providing a computer-quiz linked programme to motivate children and reinforce targeted reading skills. We continue to provide a daily silent reading time for mileage practice, and also expect that your child will read (or be read to) at home as part of our homework focus. Library skills continue as a learning feature throughout the year.

Writing: As with **reading, listening** and **speaking**, writing will be integrated into our class Novel Study with a focus on plot and characterization. Later in the term we will be covering some aspects of the World Cup Football.

Viewing and Presenting: Activities based around novels and "Careers" will be the basis for viewing and presenting of information this term.

International Languages: We are beginning this week with **Spanish** (Carl McManaway), **French** (Sarah Jenner), and **Japanese** (Kylie Foot), following the syllabus in each of these languages at Levels 1 and 2 (the Year 7 and 8 levels).

Maths: This term we focus on **Multiplication and Division**, and will also cover **Geometry: Shape**. We will continue using the **Maths Mate** resource to maintain both previous and new learning.

ICT (Information Technology): Our focus this term is on enhancing skills to support our Inquiry topic "Careers". This will be supported by class sessions in our Computer Suite, in-class activities, and homework activities.

Visual Art: We have Art Workshops next week, which the children are looking forward to. Visual Art is also a module for the children at Technicraft this year, with a specialist teacher. We are looking forward to our contribution to the Discovery School Art Exhibition 27th June.

Science: A Science Award will be a component of homework as usual this term as the children work towards their Science Award Certificate at this level.

PE: Cross Country our first topic. The associated activities will prepare the children well for our School Cross Country 25th May (Week 6). Winter Games then become the focus, incorporating Basketball, Netball, and Soccer.

- **Please ensure** that your child's footwear and clothing is suitable for daily exercise, and the Sports/PE programme. A change of clothes is recommended, but not compulsory.
- **Deodorant is encouraged**, but SPRAY deodorants are BANNED, and will be confiscated, because of the effect on children in class - particularly asthmatics and those with allergies.

Technicraft: We will continue to travel by bus to Brandon Intermediate in Driver Crescent, Porirua each Wednesday, with classes running from 9am till 12.30.

Reminder: Please remind both sons **and** daughters that, for health and safety reasons:

- Wearing jewellery is not permitted at school (for safety reasons) unless it is the agreed stud earring/s. Other jewellery will be confiscated until a parent can pick it up from Mrs Francis.
- Makeup is not permitted.
- Spray deodorants are banned.
- Inappropriate belongings such as Ipods are not permitted.

Please feel free to visit or contact any one of us at school if you have any concerns about your child - or any great things about them to share!

Regards,

Natalie Francis
Carl McManaway
Sarah Jenner
Kylie Foot