

Term 1 2023  
Senior Room Newsletter

Kia ora parents and whanau

This year the senior room has been joined by eight wonderful new members, each of whom has fitted in as if they had always been part of our team. A very warm welcome to new senior students, June, Juliet, Monty, Te Ahu, Shylah and Hailey, our new Learning Support assistant, Juliane, and to Mr Hull (who will be teaching on Fridays). It also feels like a huge privilege to have the opportunity to teach my other twelve students for a second year. I love being back with them all!

Our class novel this term is a survival story set in the Amazon Rainforest, so we've begun finding out about this amazing region of the world. Your children have found *South America, Brazil, the Amazon River* and the city of *Manaus* on Google Maps, and have talked about the countries that make up South and Central America. We learned there are two types of rainforest; those near the equator, which are **tropical**, and rainforests far away from the equator, such as ours in New Zealand, which are **temperate**. We have also just begun to find out about some of the more than 3 million species that live in the Amazon.

Survival is also the focus of our Term 1 swimming sessions. Having recently had the opportunity to engage in the "Water Skills For Life" Swim Teacher training provided by Water Safety New Zealand, I am currently working with Mrs Johansson to roll this programme out to all of our senior and middle room students. Linked into the national education curriculum, the programme has been designed to give children the skills and knowledge they need to assess risks and make smart decisions around water (i.e. pools, rivers, lakes, and the sea).

On the theme of survival, our term 4 camp has already been booked. If you are planning to take a family holiday this year, please put a big cross through October 18-20, as your child will not be available! We're off to Camp Makahika, just outside Levin, and can expect three days chock-filled with challenge, great food and fun. All of the activities will be run by trained registered instructors, and the food is the best I've ever had at camp (I've experienced it before).

As you know, camp year is also a fundraising year for the senior room. We've got chocolates on the way shortly, and will need to engage in at least one fundraising activity per term to ensure every senior student can afford to participate. Please do get in touch if you know of fundraising opportunities that we may not be aware of.

I look forward to catching up with you all again very soon!

Julie Small

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