

Kia ora whanau

The word is out - the SFS senior class is an exceptional group of young people - so it's not surprising our numbers have begun to swell! Having just welcomed the wonderful and talented Stella to our class, we now eagerly await the arrival of two additional students later this term.



Already deeply immersed in laughter and learning, our senior students have kicked off the term with a challenging new reading comprehension programme, and are all currently writing up a storm in our "writers workshops". In mathematics, we've started with a deep dive into fractions, where we will be playing fraction "war" games, participating in whole class quiz shows, and solving real world problems in small groups.

To increase motivation and engagement, students are often given opportunities to choose the task they wish to work on in our classroom. For instance, this term they are able to choose what they will write. This means we currently have a wide variety of text types and genres under production; plays, short stories, brief descriptive passages, children's picture books, and fictional diaries.



With choice, comes responsibility. Each writers' workshop starts with a 10 minute mini-lesson on one aspect of the craft of writing, followed by a brief "status of the class" discussion in which students tell what they hope to achieve today. At the conclusion of each writing block, they share their actual achievements and reflect on their progress. While the primary objective of these workshops is for children to experience the joy of writing, I confer with each of them regularly throughout the week to track and celebrate their

progress as writers.

I'm very aware that, due to Covid restrictions, I have not had the chance to meet with the parents or caregivers of most of my students. With the traffic light system currently at orange I'm hoping we can now begin to rectify this. If you have a child in the senior class, I would be very grateful if you could email me at julies@sfs.school.nz to arrange a time to meet over the next few weeks. While my preference would be to meet for 15 minutes on a weekday (excluding Thursdays), between 3.30pm and 5.00pm at the school, I am happy to discuss alternatives if needed. I look forward to getting to know you all!

Hei konā mai

Julie Small